Environment Audit Rules, 2025

Prelims – *Current events of National and International importance| General issues on Environmental ecology| Governance.*

Why in News?

Recently, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced the Environment Audit Rules, 2025.

- **Environment Audit Rules –** It establish a formal and structured framework for environmental auditing across India.
- The framework introduces a structured system for certifying and registering Environment Auditors, also establishing a Designated agency to oversee the entire audit ecosystem.
- Under the new rules, ***private agencies*** can get themselves accredited as auditors.
- **Objective –** To bridge the manpower and infrastructure deficits faced by regulatory authorities.
- To strengthen the effective implementation of environmental compliance mechanisms.
- **Key Features –**
- **Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA) –**Notified by the ***Central Government*** from time to time, responsible for overall management of the Environment Audit.
    - **Responsibilities of EADA -** Certification, registration, and oversight of auditors.
    - Monitoring performance and providing training.
    - Taking disciplinary action when required.
- **Certified Environment Auditors –** The certification of environment auditors shall be carried out by the EADA through the following two modes
    - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
    - National Certification Examination (NCE)
- **Registered Environment Auditor (REAs) –**Auditing is undertaken only by REAs, certified by the Environment Audit Designated Agency.
    - **Roles of REAs –** Conduct audit of emissions, effluents, and waste.
    - Assess the performance of pollution control systems.
    - Report non-compliance and compute environmental compensation
    - Verify self-compliance reports
    - Undertake assignments from Central pollution Control Boards, State Pollution control Boards, or project proponents
- **Two-Tiered System of Compliance** -

    - **Tier-1 -** Government regulators (CPCB, SPCBs, MoEFCC regional offices) will review compliance.
    - **Tier-2** - Audits will be conducted by REAs for third-party verification.
- **Oversight and Monitoring –** The implementation is overseen a Steering Committee, led by an Additional Secretary from MoEFCC.
- **Green approvals –** Any approval, clearance, authorisation, licence, or permission granted under
    - Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
    - Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
    - Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
    - Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980,
    - Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

References

1. The Hindu| Environment Audit Rules 2025.
2. The Gazette of India| Roles of Environment Audits.

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