

THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT 2020: A VISCERAL PROPOSAL?

Written by *Prabhbir Singh Mann*

Advocate, High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh, India

ABSTRACT

In the last decade India has been quaking with protests against the various laws and drafts that the legislature has or is in process to get implemented. One such draft notification that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change proposed was that of amendments to the Environment Impact Assessment 2006. The Central Government has vouchsafed Environment Impact Assessment 2020 to be more transparent, expedient and rationalized. But quite contrary to the statement by the Government, it has caused an outrage amongst general public, environment activists, tribals amongst other strata of society including environment lawyers, who worrying for the environment, have sent approximately 17 lakhs emails to the Ministry. The draft has been accused to accelerate the 'ease of doing business' for the industries and to use Environment Impact Assessment against the environment itself. At the first glance the draft does not look far from what it is being accused of. Clauses and amendments in the new EIA Draft Notification of 2020 do seem to limit public participation and consultation, increase post clearance compliance and post-facto clearance and also make it a regular norm for industries to violate the environment. The Government at the same time asserted denial to all insinuations against the draft that they have proposed and states otherwise. The Environment Impact Assessment 2020 draft did not come into the eyes of public and did not gain much recognition by people as much as other Acts and Bills did, but this is an equally important issue. In this research work, we would trace the existential journey of EIA in India, assess the allegations of public outcry, and analyse the comparison between the EIA 2016 and EIA 2020 Draft Notification. The research used the data from the EIA 2020 Draft Notification, official reports of the Government and the Ministry, news reports, interviews of the ministry to media, press release by the World Bank and case laws regarding environment and industries, and present an

unbiased and true to understanding report. At the end the question endures that are we really at the tail end of the Environment Impact Assessment in India?

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Impact Assessment or EIA, are policy tools for planning and management for assessing and evaluating the implication of industrial projects on the environment before the development of the project takes place. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines EIA as a tool to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision making.ⁱIn simpler terms, EIA lays down policies to reduce the damaging impact of industrial and other projects for development and therefore enables the decision makers to analyze the effect of developmental and industrial activities on the environment before it is implemented. The EIA makes sure that the development plan does not harm the environment and shall not affect the environment beyond its capacity of restoration. The idea of EIA arose in the United States of America during the latter half of the 20th Century, where they adopted policies and passed laws by encompassing two crucial systems for environmental decision, which are of scientific assessment and public participation. Today almost every country uses EIA to determine and predict the environmental impacts of a project in the pre-planning stage so that decisions can be taken which shall reduce any adverse impact that those projects might have on the environment, which forms a crucial aspect of sustainable development.

In India, EIA are policies under the parent act of Environment (Protection) Act of 1986, which debars industrial and development projects from being authorized without inspecting them for their destructive impact on the environment and makes sure that every such project shall go through the inspecting process of EIA to procure prior environmental clearance. EIA in India includes projects such as mining of mineral, coals, cement, paint and rubber manufacturing thermal power, nuclear power, hydropower, industrial projects, and infrastructural development projects, amongst others. All the projects are assessed based on their effects on the environment and upon assessment, they are granted or rejected environmental clearance by an expert panel. But the first EIA notification was not put into effect before 1994, which was later amended in 2006 and classified the developmental project into two categories, Category

A and Category B, where Category B was further classified into Category B1 and Category B2. Category A includes the projects which are appraised by Impact Assessment Agency and Expert Appraisal Committee and Category B includes the projects to which State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee provide the clearance to such projects.

In the year 2020, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India proposed yet another draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification which intends to replace the previous notification which had been implemented since 2006. Proposal of the new draft notification by the Union Government as that of Environment Impact Assessment 2020 is seen as an aggressive retreat from the former Environment Impact Assessment of 2006. The EIA 2020 Draft Notification is being inculcated for weakening the EIA and also to stifle affected section of society by means of reducing public consultation. The draft is being seen as favoring industries and accused of negligence for not maintaining the equilibrium between sustainable environment and protection of environment. Contrary to these accusations, the Government has maintained that the new EIA 2020 will bring transparency and accelerate the process, which earlier was present only on paper but never enforced. As seen, the most important purpose of the Environment Impact Assessment is to protect the environment. But the outcry against the EIA 2020 suggests that the new draft notifications are against the environment itself and that it goes against its parent act of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Government has vouchsafed that the EIA 2020 will maintain the balance between environment and development and at the same time will consider and take care of the perspective and benefit of multiple stakeholders in an equipoise manner. Before any conclusion, an in-depth study of the issues and arguments raised is a must, in relation to the amendments in the new draft notification of 2020.

ISSUES REGARDING AMENDMENTS

Changing of Categorization of Projects and Reduction of Scrutinyⁱⁱ

Under clause 5 sub-clause (1) all projects have been divided into three categories, Category A, Category B1 and Category B2. The categorization is based on the probable environmental impacts and as well as social impacts. Category A faces maximum audit. Clause 5 sub-clauses

(2)-(6), describes that the projects under Category A and B1 require compulsory environmental clearance, whereas, Category B2 projects do not require compulsory clearance.

But under the new draft notification of EIA 2020, projects from certain categories have been re-categorized. Many projects from Category A have been either shifted to Category B1 or to Category B2. The re-categorized projects includes both onshore and offshore oil, coal mining, small to medium sized cement plants, bulk drugs, synthetic rubber, medium sized paint units, hydroelectric projects up to 25 MW, highway expansion between 25 km to 100 km, etc. This re-categorization has made sure that certain levels of assessment and audit have been removed, which, therefore is bound to lead to easy environmental clearances for these projects.

Clause 5 sub-clause (7) of the new draft also proposes that projects related to national defence and security or strategic consideration will be assessed and decided by the Government. Such projects have been exempted from public hearing too. Projects under this sub-clause also includes all linear projects, highways and pipelines in border areas which fall within 100 km aerial distance from LAC. This gives a chance to the industries and developmental projects to get clearance from the Government and unlike earlier, this time Government will not need to explain to why. This is bound to lead to cutting of forests and clearing of the beds of major rivers.

Public Consultation

Earlier, there was wide scope for public consultation as there were various projects requiring to go through the process of EIA. But now approximately 40 industries have been re-categorized to Category B2, therefore they now do not require to go through the process of public consultation.ⁱⁱⁱ Projects like expansion of highway between 25 km to 100km, hydroelectric projects of up to 25 MW, paper manufacturing, oil and gas exploration, etc., have now all been exempted from public consultation.

Strategic projects such as those related to national defence and security have too been exempted from public consultation, as was in EIA 2006 too. But what is of grave concern in EIA 2020 Draft is that the Government gets to decide that what comes under the category of “strategic”. What also is concerning that the EIA Draft of 2020 says that no information on such projects shall be placed in the public domain. This might lead to an opening of a nasty Pandora’s Box

where industries and developmental project will be gaining summary clearance from the Government without having to explain why to the public.

The new EIA Draft has excluded a long list of projects from public consultation. The border area which is defined as an area within 100 km aerial distance from the LAC, would cover much of Northeast, which contains the richest biodiversity in our country, and that too is excluded from public consultation.^{iv}

Post Clearance Compliance, Post-Facto Clearance and Public Hearing Regarding Project Modernization and Expansion

Various projects have been listed in the Draft of EIA 2020 which do not require prior environmental clearance.

Earlier, construction projects having land less than 20,000 sq. m. and built-up area was less than 150,000 sq. m. did not require prior environmental clearance. But now construction projects having land up to 150,000 sq. m. are exempted from the assessment.^v And Environmental clearance may be granted after assessment by state level expert appraisal committee alone.

Post-clearance compliance means that if a project gets approved, the project then is required to follow the rules as laid down in the EIA, so as to make sure that in future no further damage takes place to the environment than what already has. There are many cases where such projects have considerably failed to follow the rules post-clearance too.

Earlier, in the EIA 2006, it was mandatory to submit the compliance report every six months, but the EIA 2020 proposes that now, instead of reports every six month, annual reports will be needed. This change is of grave concern as by allowing longer period to submit the compliance report will give these industries and projects a chance to conceal their non-compliance to the rules laid by the EIA. In furtherance, the compliance reports will be prepared by the projects proponents themselves which will result in inaccurate reports being submitted if there is no oversight and assessment of such reports being submitted.^{vi}

In 2016, the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Environmental Clearance and Post Clearance Monitoring has mentioned various shortcomings in the following and compliance of the rules of environmental clearance. One of the findings of the report was

that the lack of semi-annual compliance reports ranged from 43% to 78%. Further it was also found that the failure to follow the conditions and rules as laid down by the EIA ranged from 5% to 57%.^{vii} Failure to follow such rules included not gaining permission to cut down trees, irregular use of ground water, changing the scope for what they had actually gained environmental clearance for, less to no relief and rehabilitation, violating the norms for handling hazardous waste materials, not development green belts, amongst much larger list of violations.

A bench headed by Justice Adarsh K. Goel, NGT Chairperson, in July 2020, in the case of Sandeep Mittal v. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ors., observed that the existing mechanism for monitoring environmental norms was inadequate and therefore required the Ministry to assess environmental clearance conditions on periodical basis, at least once a quarter.^{viii} What EIA 2020 has laid down is totally contrary to what was observed in the judgment.

In April 2020, in the case of Alembic Pharmaceutical v. Rohit Prajapati, it was held that the environment law cannot countenance the notion of an ex post-facto clearance.^{ix} It was also observed by the High Court of Jharkhand, in the case of Electrosteel Steels Limited v. Jharkhand State Pollution Board Control and Ors., that “the concept of ex post-facto environmental clearance is in derogation of the fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence and is an anathema to the EIA notification dated 27 January 1994. It is, as the judgment in Common Cause holds, detrimental to the environment and could lead to irreparable degradation.”^x Once again, contrary to the judgment, EIA 2020 Draft has widened the scope for post-facto clearance to the projects that have been working without gaining environmental clearance to be regularized and apply for environmental clearance.

In May 2020 itself, an incident was reported where because of poor environmental rules and checks, the gas of Oil India Ltd. In Tinsukia, Assam caught fire and therefore, severely damaging the livelihood of people and as well as the environment, in the region which is rich in biodiversity. The State Pollution Board of Assam has reported that the oil plant was being in operation for over a period of 15 years without actually obtaining prior environmental clearance.

It is being argued that the widened scope of post-facto clearance will lead to the industries and developmental projects to start operating without gaining environmental clearance because

now they know that they will anyways get regularized and will only have to pay the fine out of a larger profit that they would have made by then, thus opening a Pandora's box of violations.

Procedures Related to Public Consultation and Hearing

Public consultation and its procedures have been explained under clause 14 of the EIA 2020 Draft. Under sub-clause (2) of clause 14, it is mentioned that projects under Category A and B1 for new or expansion proposals or modernization with capacity increase of more than 50% shall go through public consultation. Earlier, notice period for public hearing use to be of 30 days and was completed in 45 days. But now under Appendix-I clause (7) (referring to clause 14 of the EIA 2020 Draft) timelines have been reduced to- notice period of 20 days and completion of process to be done within 40 days.^{xi}

But the Government has tried to pacify the outcry by explaining that the shorter timeline for public hearing was "in tune with times" and that there has been a growth of technology related to mobile telephony and internet.^{xii} Contrarily, Manohar Chawhan, a tribal rights activist has been quoted saying, in relevance to the new EIA 2020 that "The new draft will strengthen discretionary power of government while restraining public engagement in safeguarding the environment."^{xiii}

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has also come under fire from the courts for negligence, as they had failed to publish the EIA 2020 Draft Notification in Indian languages other than English and Hindi. It was Supreme Court who had rejected the Government's petition which challenged the judgment of Delhi High Court in which the Government was ordered to print the EIA 2020 Draft Notification in 22 languages. It is regrettable that in such a diverse society, the Government challenged the order to print in 22 languages and rather wanted to only print the Drat Notification only in 2 languages.^{xiv}

Complaints by Public

Earlier public complaints were allowed, but now there will be no reporting of violation or non-compliance by the public. Instead, the Government will assess the reports by the violator-promoter, Government authorities and committees. These projects will then be approved with conditions and penalties, which once again will not be assessed by any unconnected agency but the violators themselves.

The Supreme Court has upheld that economic development shall never supersede the protection of environment and that any rules and regulations should not be made against environment or even public interest. The public which tried to complaint about the EIA 2020 and had reservation regarding the Draft were charged under UAPA and IT Act^{xv} and their websites were blocked, although later it was said that the notices regarding such cases remain withdrawn and that it was an error. This resulted in outcry and that EIA 2020 no longer remained an issue of environment but also of free speech and right to participate too.

CONCLUSION

As of May 2021, there have been over 33 changes with 9 amendments out of which 5 changes were related to process, 6 changes for ease on regulations, and 4 changes on environmental and post-facto clearance.

India is a signatory to the Stockholm Declaration of 1972 on Environment. India has also been an active participant of the Rio Summit 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Climate Accord, which added to India's governance and policies on environment.

Under international law obligations, India is required to fulfill the necessities of protection of environment and to maintain the bridge between sustenance of environment and expansion of development, but what can be assessed from the reports as discussed above is that the EIA 2020 might not possibly address the concerns and necessities required for the preservation of environment until the issues are addressed and amendments are made to the changes in accordance with the public view. If it is not done, the EIA 2020 shall be much like a toothless hound chasing a stag. All bark and no bite.

What we also must understand is that such non-compliance towards international law and to what India is signatory to, might have an adverse effect on the loan agreements. For example, in 2019, the World Bank has taken a step back on the promised \$300 million loan for the development of the new capital of Andhra Pradesh and other developmental projects under Amravati Sustainable Infrastructure and Institutional Developmental Project in Andhra Pradesh, after they received complaint from farmers.^{xvi} But as seen, public complaints are not

allowed under the new EIA Draft. But the Government still maintains its stance that it will work to maintain a balance between environment and development.

The Paragraph 2 of the EIA 2020 Draft Notification mentions that “the Central Government seeks to make the process more transparent and expedient through implementation of online system, further delegations, rationalization, standardization of the process, etc.”^{xvii} But the later clauses goes against the Paragraph 2 because as for process being more “transparent”, they have broadened the scope of “strategic” projects for which no information is to be given to the public, and as for “further delegations” more projects have been exempted from public consultation and hearing and public complaints have not been allowed.

In an interview with Jayashree Nandi of Hindustan Times, RP Gupta, Secretary to the MOEFCC, has said that the outcry by the activists, tribals and the public “has nothing to do with environment agenda but more to do with political agenda.” When he was asked that if the person heading EIA committee already heads a committee dealing with the projects violations i.e. post-facto clearances in the MOEFCC, the Secretary to same Ministry replied that he is not sure to who heads it and that the public should let the committee perform the duties first. When asked that why so many projects have been exempted from public hearing, he replied that every project or industry need not come for public hearing for environmental clearance. He also mentioned that is no requirement for discussions.^{xviii} So from the statements of the Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, we can assess that the Government meant to exempt various projects from public hearing and also from environment clearance and also that there is no room for further discussions.

But not everyone is criticizing or opposing the EIA 2020, Government has many supporters who favour the new draft, one such being the Federation of Indian Mining Industries (FIMI) Secretary General, RK Sharma. Supporting the Government in a letter to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, he said that they believe that the draft notification is a welcoming step towards the rationalization of the environmental clearance process and that it will improve objectivity and transparency along with the participation of various stakeholders. FIMI further said that it is a welcoming step for the mining sector and that the process which has been streamlined in the draft EIA Notification 2020 will attract major investments, reduce imports and create opportunities of livelihood, along with required environment protection and effective monitoring mechanism. It also said that it was about time

that when the country has a simple and consolidated environment clearance process and that the draft EIA notification 2020 is praise worthy effort by the MOEFCC towards this purpose. In furtherance, they mentioned that the draft notification is also focusing on the reduction of delays and processing time without compromising on the quality of the process of EIA. FIMI justified the reduction of the minimum notice period for public hearing from 30 to 20 days because there have been improvements in technology to access the information regarding EIA as compared to earlier years.^{xix}

At the same time, it is interesting to note that there is no evidence to support that such laws will help achieve economic growth, as is being told and argued by the Government, because even under the EIA 2006, no project was ever rejected. And if something is already at 100%, then you cannot improve it further.

And as for post-facto clearance, we must understand that even if such projects are rejected from being environmental clearance, the damage done to the environment will be irreversible. Project which scheme to use any land illegally or by fraud and operate while violating the environmental safeguards, will benefit from post-facto clearance. Issues related to post-facto did not come with the EIA 2020 but existed before that too. A report submitted by Chennai Solidarity Group, it was found that IIT Madras had constructed buildings over 52 acres, between years 2001 to 2013 which was all engraved out of the Quondam Deer Park. But it had not obtained any environmental clearance for cutting of trees and using forest. The regulatory authorities gave them environmental clearance after they had already built illegal building and cut down trees from the forest, after merely accepting an apology and an undertaking that the institution will not repeat such offences.^{xx}

'Grow now, sustain later' should never be the motto, as this concept indubitably goes against the concept of sustainable development and jeopardizes the environment massively, sometimes in ways that are veiled or trivial at the surface level, but in the long run manifest into grave macro concerns. Considering the intricate and dynamic relationship human beings share with the environment, it is of paramount importance to recognize the real stakeholders when an endeavor is under the radar of Environment Impact Assessment. Thus, one of the most effective ways to make assessing and monitoring efficacious and thereby, empowering the compliance system is by allowing the affected communities to participate in such processes.

Sustenance and growth should, therefore, indisputably, be aimed for in consonance, never in isolation.

SOURCES

1. Abhijit Mohanty, Why draft EIA 2020 needs a revaluation, Down To Earth (July 06, 2020) <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/environment/why-draft-eia-2020-needs-a-revaluation-72148>
2. Anubhuti Vishnoi, Draft EIA in line with green rules, court rulings: Prakash Javedkar, Environment Minister, The Economic Times (Aug. 17, 2020 9:34 AM IST), <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/draft-eia-in-line-with-green-rules-court-rulings-prakash-javadekar-environment-minister/articleshow/77578695.cms>
3. Asmita Bakshi, EIA Draft 2020: “Violation of environment law is seen as development”, Live Mint (Aug 17 2020 10:00 AM IST), <https://www.livemint.com/mint-lounge/features/eia-draft-2020-violation-of-environmental-law-is-seen-as-development-11597593043757.html>
4. BTS Legal, India: Draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2020-Key Highlights, Mondaq (Nov. 20, 2020), <https://www.mondaq.com/india/climate-change/1007950>
5. Civil Appeal No. 1526 of 2016, https://main.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2016/2562/2562_2016_0_1501_21582_Judgement_01-Apr-2020.pdf
6. Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Environmental Clearance and post clearance monitoring, Government of India Report No. 39 of 2016 (March 10, 2017), https://cag.gov.in/cag_old/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Union_Government_Report_39_of_2016_PA.pdf
7. Draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 Notification, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (March 12, 2020), http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Draft_EIA_2020.pdf

8. Draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 Notification, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (March 12, 2020), http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Draft_EIA_2020.pdf
9. Draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 Notification, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (March 12, 2020), http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Draft_EIA_2020.pdf
10. Draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 Notification, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (March 12, 2020), http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Draft_EIA_2020.pdf
11. Impact Assessment, What is Impact Assessment?, Convention on Biological Diversity, (April 27, 2010), <https://www.cbd.int/impact/whatis.shtml>
12. Jay Mazoomdaar, Explained: Reading the draft Environment Impact Assessment norms, and finding the red flags, Indian Express (Aug. 10, 2020 10:14 AM IST), <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/draft-environment-impact-assessment-norms-explained-6482324/>
13. Jayashree Nandi, 'Nothing disturbing in the clauses of draft EIA 2020', says RP Gupta, Hindustan Times (Aug 17, 2020), <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/story-FclDTDbTKIeIMB73tAD10H.html>
14. Opangmeren Jamir, India's Environment Impact Assessment Draft 2020: Issues and Challenges, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (Feb. 08, 2021), <https://idsa.in/issuebrief/indias-environment-impact-assessment-ojamir-080221>
15. Original Application No. 837/2018 (M. A. No. 1549/2018), https://greentribunal.gov.in/sites/default/files/news_updates/REPORT%20BY%20CP%20IN%20OA%20NO.%20837%20of%20208%20Sandeep%20Mittal%20Vs.%20MoEF%20&CC.pdf
16. Press Release, World Bank Statement on Amravati and its ongoing partnership with Andhra Pradesh, World Bank (July 21, 2019), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/07/21/world-bank-andhra-pradesh-amaravati>
17. Press trust of India, Draft EIA notification to streamline environmental clearance process: FIMI, Business Standard (Sept. 21, 2020 17:41 IST), https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/120092100834_1.html

18. Sara Suresh, Explained: The Curious case of India's Draft EIA Notification 2020, The Quint (Aug. 11, 2020 10:35 AM IST)
<https://www.thequint.com/explainers/explained-the-curious-case-of-india-draft-environment-impact-assessment-notification-2020#read-more>
19. Scroll Staff, Police use UAPA to block website campaigning against draft environment rules, later claim error, Scroll (July 23, 2020 08:56 PM IST),
<https://scroll.in/latest/968367/>
20. W.P. (C) No. 1873 of 2018,
https://jharkhandhighcourt.nic.in/def/orders/view_pdf.php?token=1aab872fd8606cfbc9a3e8957a504611&id=MjA1MDAwMDE4NzMyMDE4XzI2LWRqaGM=

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Impact Assessment, What is Impact Assessment?, Convention on Biological Diversity, (April 27, 2010), <https://www.cbd.int/impact/whatis.shtml>

ⁱⁱ Draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 Notification, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (March 12, 2020), http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Draft_EIA_2020.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ BTS Legal, India: Draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2020-Key Highlights, Mondaq (Nov. 20, 2020), <https://www.mondaq.com/india/climate-change/1007950>

^{iv} Jay Mazoomdaar, Explained: Reading the draft Environment Impact Assessment norms, and finding the red flags, Indian Express (Aug. 10, 2020 10:14 AM IST), <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/draft-environment-impact-assessment-norms-explained-6482324/>

^v Draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 Notification, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (March 12, 2020), http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Draft_EIA_2020.pdf

^{vi} Opangmeren Jamir, India's Environment Impact Assessment Draft 2020: Issues and Challenges, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (Feb. 08, 2021), <https://idsa.in/issuebrief/indias-environment-impact-assessment-ojamir-080221>

^{vii} Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Environmental Clearance and post clearance monitoring, Government of India Report No. 39 of 2016 (March 10, 2017), https://cag.gov.in/cag_old/sites/default/files/audit_report_files/Union_Government_Report_39_of_2016_PA.pdf

^{viii} Original Application No. 837/2018 (M. A. No. 1549/2018), https://greentribunal.gov.in/sites/default/files/news_updates/REPORT%20BY%20CPCB%20IN%20OA%20NO.%20837%20of%202018%20Sandeep%20Mittal%20Vs.%20MoEF%20&CC.pdf

^{ix}Civil Appeal No. 1526 of 2016,
https://main.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2016/2562/2562_2016_0_1501_21582_Judgement_01-Apr-2020.pdf

^xW.P. (C) No. 1873 of 2018,
https://jharkhandhighcourt.nic.in/def/orders/view_pdf.php?token=1aab872fd8606cfbc9a3e8957a504611&id=MjA1MDAwMDE4NzMyMDE4XzI2LWRqaGM=

^{xi}Draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 Notification, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (March 12, 2020), http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Draft_EIA_2020.pdf

^{xii}Anubhuti Vishnoi, Draft EIA in line with green rules, court rulings: Prakash Javedkar, Environment Minister, The Economic Times (Aug. 17, 2020 9:34 AM IST), <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/draft-eia-in-line-with-green-rules-court-rulings-prakash-javedkar-environment-minister/articleshow/77578695.cms>

^{xiii}Abhijit Mohanty, Why draft EIA 2020 needs a revaluation, Down To Earth (July 06, 2020)
<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/environment/why-draft-eia-2020-needs-a-revaluation-72148>

^{xiv}Asmita Bakshi, EIA Draft 2020: “Violation of environment law is seen as development”, Live Mint (Aug 17 2020 10:00 AM IST), <https://www.livemint.com/mint-lounge/features/eia-draft-2020-violation-of-environmental-law-is-seen-as-development-11597593043757.html>

^{xv}Scroll Staff, Police use UAPA to block website campaigning against draft environment rules, later claim error, Scroll (July 23, 2020 08:56 PM IST), <https://scroll.in/latest/968367/>

^{xvi}Press Release, World Bank Statement on Amravati and its ongoing partnership with Andhra Pradesh, World Bank (July 21, 2019), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/07/21/world-bank-andhra-pradesh-amaravati>

^{xvii}Draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 Notification, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (March 12, 2020), http://environmentclearance.nic.in/writereaddata/Draft_EIA_2020.pdf

^{xviii}Jayashree Nandi, ‘Nothing disturbing in the clauses of draft EIA 2020’, says RP Gupta, Hindustan Times (Aug 17, 2020), <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/story-FclDTDbTKIeIMB73tAD10H.html>

^{xix}Press trust of India, Draft EIA notification to streamline environmental clearance process: FIMI, Business Standard (Sept. 21, 2020 17:41 IST), https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/120092100834_1.html

^{xx}Sara Suresh, Explained: The Curious case of India’s Draft EIA Notification 2020, The Quint (Aug. 11, 2020 10:35 AM IST) <https://www.thequint.com/explainers/explained-the-curious-case-of-india-draft-environment-impact-assessment-notification-2020#read-more>