INDIALAW

Environmental Approvals & Permissions

Environmental Approvals Law Firm in India for EIA, CRZ, and Forest Clearances

PRACTICE PROFILE • OCTOBER 2026

Overview

Our Environmental Approvals & Permitting practice specializes in securing necessary environmental clearances, consents, and authorizations for development projects and industrial operations. We provide comprehensive legal support throughout the entire permitting process, from initial application preparation to post-approval compliance. Our team navigates regulatory frameworks to obtain timely approvals while minimizing conditions that could impact operational flexibility, ensuring projects proceed with appropriate environmental safeguards and full regulatory compliance.

Our Services

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process management and strategic guidance
- Obtaining Environmental Clearances from central and state authorities
- Securing Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from Pollution Control Boards
- Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearances and wetland permissions
- Forest clearances and wildlife permissions for project development
- Hazardous substance handling and storage authorizations
- Air and water pollution control approvals and emissions permits
- Groundwater extraction permissions and water usage authorizations
- Advisory on zoning and land use conversion for environmental purposes
- Management of public hearings and stakeholder consultations
- Representation in Expert Appraisal Committee meetings and presentations
- Post-approval compliance management and condition fulfillment

Key Professionals



Shiju P V
Managing Partner



Rahul Sundaram
Partner

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 **What does an environmental approvals and permissions practice cover in India?**

It covers obtaining Environmental Clearances under the EIA Notification, Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from State Pollution Control Boards, CRZ permissions, forest and wildlife clearances, and hazardous substance authorizations required before and during project operations.

Q2 **When should a company engage environmental approvals counsel for a new project?**

Ideally at the site selection stage itself. Many clearances, such as forest diversion or CRZ permissions, can take 12 to 18 months. Early engagement allows the project timeline, land use strategy, and capital expenditure planning to account for regulatory lead times and conditions.

Q3 **Which laws and regulators govern environmental clearances in India?**

The Environment Protection Act 1986, EIA Notification 2006, Water Act 1974, Air Act 1981, Forest Conservation Act 1980, and CRZ Notification 2019 are the primary frameworks. MoEFCC at the central level and SEIAAs and State Pollution Control Boards at the state level are the key regulators.

Q4 How long does the Environmental Clearance process typically take in India?

Category A projects requiring central MoEFCC clearance generally take 10 to 18 months, including EIA preparation, public hearing, and Expert Appraisal Committee review. Category B projects at the state level may take 6 to 12 months. Delays often stem from incomplete EIA reports or unresolved public hearing objections.

Q5 What documents are needed to begin the environmental clearance application?

Key documents include the project feasibility report, site survey and land ownership records, Form 1 and pre-feasibility report for EIA screening, a draft EIA report from an accredited consultant, water and power requirement estimates, and a pollution load assessment. Requirements vary by project category and sector.

Q6 What common mistakes lead to delays or rejection of environmental approvals?

Frequent pitfalls include filing under the wrong EIA category, submitting incomplete baseline data, underestimating the project's zone of influence, and poor management of public hearings. Post-clearance, non-compliance with stipulated conditions can trigger suspension or revocation by regulators.

Related Practice Areas

Environmental Law | ESG and Sustainability Compliance | Extended Producer Responsibility & Product Liability | NGT Litigation & Environmental Dispute Resolution | Circular Economy & 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) | Sustainable Manufacturing & Industrial Operations