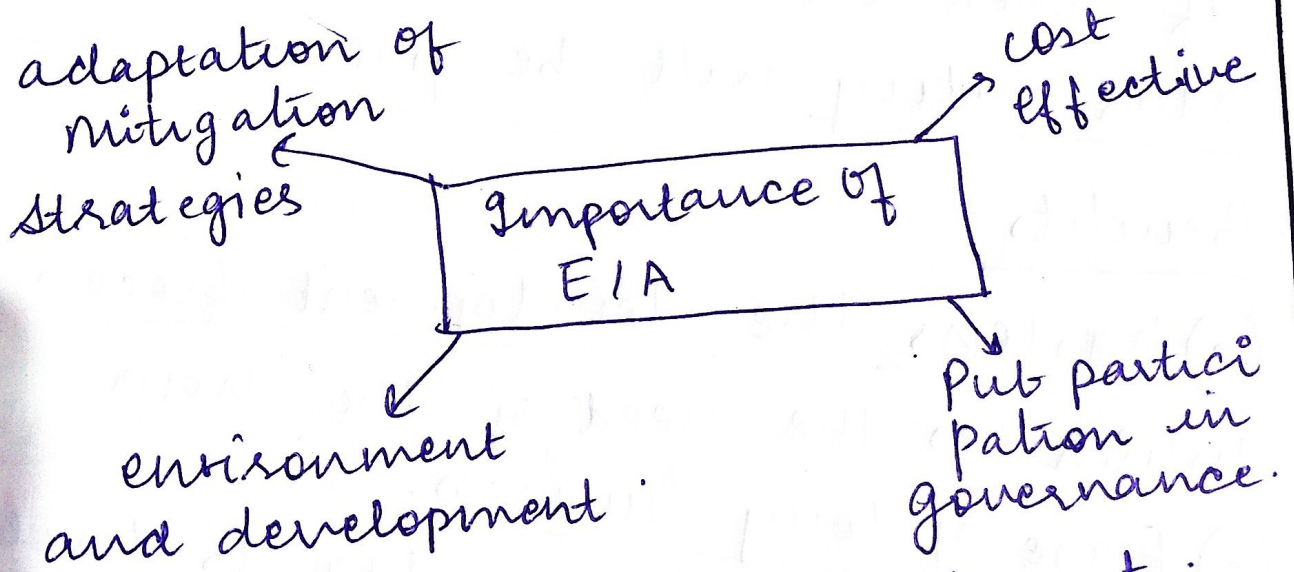


Q. Discuss the concept of environmental impact assessment and its significance. In this regard, examine the recent government move of "star rating system" for environmental clearances. (250 W).

As per UNEP, Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a tool to understand environmental, social and economical impact of a project at a pre decision stage. It aims to conserve the environment qualitatively. It is done under Environment Protection Act 1986



EIA, 2006 categories projects into parts: level (B)

level (A)
done by at National
level by Impact
Assessment Agency (I

at state level
by state environ
ment Impact
- Assessment Agency
(SEIAA).

Ras Star-Ranking system proposed by government envisages that SEIAA will be rated on the basis of

transparency, efficiency and accountability

(.) It will be judged how quickly the project has been cleared. for eg:-
7 or more points will be given if it is cleared within 80 days, less points if done in 105 days and no points if done in more days.

(.) If there are 7 or more points, 5 star rating will be given.

Benefits:-

(.) hastens the development process which is the need of the hour

(.) Ease of doing business.

(.) Spillover effect if infra. is developed

Concerns

(.) EIA's main concern is conservation

of environment not speedily wrapping up of project

(o) More power to generalised Bureaucrats since they are more in number

(o) less autonomy to independent experts.

way forward :- (o) Just building between-the parties so that neither state nor business or people will feel looser.

(o) Primacy to independent specialists

(o) Collaborative effort rather than

confrontationist approach.

Under DPSP, (Art 48) It is state's duty to protect the environment.

Grow now, sustain later philosophy must be left for survival of humankind.