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22 July 2024

National and International News

National Clean Air Programme

Why in the news?

- A study by the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** revealed that road dust mitigation efforts are consuming a significant portion—64%—of the funds allocated under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** to reduce **particulate matter 10 (PM10) pollution**.

About National Clean Air Programme:

- **Launch Date:** January 2019
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
- **Objective:**
  - **Implement mitigation measures** to prevent, control, and abate air pollution.
  - **Strengthen the air quality monitoring network** across the country.
  - Increase public awareness and capacity-building measures.
- **Targets:**
  - **Reduce PM10 concentration by 20-30%** over baseline levels of 2017 by **2024**.
  - **Revised target:** Reduce PM10 levels by up to 40% or achieve national standards ( $60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) by 2025-26.
- **Implementation:**
  - Executed by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
  - 131 non-attainment cities identified for implementation.



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<p><b>National Mineral Portal</b></p> <p><b>District Mineral Foundation</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Union Minister of Coal and Mines</b> recently launched the <b>Mineral Exploration Hackathon</b> and the <b>National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Portal</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About National District Mineral Foundation Portal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Aim:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Facilitate access to DMF data.</li><li>○ <b>Track developments and utilization of funds.</b></li><li>○ Enhance transparency and centralized visibility of activities.</li><li>○ <b>Provide project oversight</b> and dynamic analytics.</li><li>○ <b>Serve as a repository of best practices</b> for effective implementation.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Establishment:</b> Set up as a <b>non-profit trust</b> under the <b>Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act 2015</b>.</li><li>• <b>Funding:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Funded through contributions from holders of major or minor mineral concessions in the district.</li><li>○ Contributions prescribed by the Central or State Government.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Jurisdiction and Governance:</b></li><li>• Operates under the <b>jurisdiction of the relevant State Government</b>.</li><li>• Composition and functions prescribed by the State Government.</li><li>• <b>Funds collected at the district level.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Bhusanket Portal</b></p> <p><b>Web</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Union Minister of Coal and Mines</b> recently inaugurated the <b>National Landslide Forecasting Centre</b> at the <b>Geological Survey of India (GSI)</b> in Kolkata.</li><li>• The minister launched the <b>Bhusanket Web Portal</b> and the <b>Bhooskhalan Mobile App</b>.</li></ul>



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	<p><b>About Bhusanket Web Portal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The web portal <b>aims to disseminate relevant data and information on landslide hazards.</b></li><li>• It will <b>initiate short-range and medium-range landslide forecasting</b> in the country.</li><li>• The <b>Bhooskhalan Mobile App, integrated with the Bhusanket Web Portal,</b> is user-friendly and <b>facilitates quick dissemination of daily landslide forecasts.</b></li><li>• The app <b>allows stakeholders to share and update spatial and temporal information on landslide occurrences.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>tea industry</b> has <b>requested higher rates under the RoDTEP scheme to enhance the competitiveness of its exports</b> in international markets.</li></ul> <p><b>About RoDTEP Scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ministry:</b> Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry</li><li>• <b>WTO-Compliant:</b> Refunds embedded central, state, and local duties and taxes not previously refunded.</li><li>• <b>Objective:</b> <b>Enhance competitiveness of export sectors,</b> create employment, and contribute to economic growth under Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.</li><li>• <b>Eligibility:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Open to both <b>manufacturers and merchant exporters.</b></li><li>○ No threshold of turnover required.</li><li>○ <b>Goods must be directly exported by the claimant.</b></li></ul></li><li>• <b>Scope:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Covers <b>physical exports</b> and outbound shipments of services from India.</li><li>○ <b>Service providers can claim refunds on applicable hidden levies.</b></li></ul></li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Rebate Mechanism:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Claimed as a percentage of the Freight On Board value of exports.</li><li>○ <b>Implemented by Customs via a simplified IT System.</b></li><li>○ Rebates issued as transferable duty <b>credit/electronic scrip (e-scrip)</b>.</li><li>○ E-scrip maintained in an electronic ledger by the <b>Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)</b>.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Modified Interest Subvention Scheme</b>	<p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The Centre plans to <b>raise the upper limit of short-term crop loans</b> under the <b>Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)</b> from <b>Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>About Modified Interest Subvention Scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Funding:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>100% funded</b> by the Government of India.</li><li>○ Launched in <b>2006-07</b>.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Objective:</b> To <b>provide short-term agri-loans to farmers</b> through <b>Kisan Credit Card (KCC)</b> for <b>working capital requirements at concessional interest rates</b>.</li><li>● <b>Financial Institutions Involved:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)</li><li>○ Small Finance Banks (SFBs)</li><li>○ Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)</li><li>○ Cooperatives</li><li>○ Computerized Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) ceded with SCBs</li></ul></li></ul>



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- **Loan Details:**

- Farmers can acquire Kisan Credit Card **loans up to Rs 3 lakh.**
- Benchmark interest rate: 9%
- **Centre provides 2% interest subvention, reducing the effective rate to 7%.**
- Additional 3% concession for prompt and timely repayment, further reducing it to 4% per year.

- **Implementing Agencies:**

- Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**)
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**)

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