



22 July 2024

National and International News

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| <p><b>National Clean Air Programme</b></p>                | <p><b>Why in the news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A study by the <b>Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)</b> revealed that road dust mitigation efforts are consuming a significant portion—64%—of the funds allocated under the <b>National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)</b> to reduce <b>particulate matter 10 (PM10)</b> pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>About National Clean Air Programme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launch Date:</b> January 2019</li> <li>• <b>Ministry:</b> Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Implement mitigation measures</b> to prevent, control, and abate air pollution.</li> <li>○ <b>Strengthen the air quality monitoring network</b> across the country.</li> <li>○ Increase public awareness and capacity-building measures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Targets:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Reduce PM10 concentration by 20-30%</b> over baseline levels of 2017 by <b>2024</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Revised target:</b> Reduce PM10 levels by up to 40% or achieve national standards (60 µg/m³) by 2025-26.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Implementation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Executed by the <b>Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)</b> under the <b>Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981</b>.</li> <li>○ 131 non-attainment cities identified for implementation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p><b>National District Mineral Foundation Portal</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</b></li> </ul>  |



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|  | <p>2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 Web Portal</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> <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> <li>● <b>Rebate Mechanism:</b></li> </ul> |



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|   | <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>   |
| <p><b>Modified Interest Subvention Scheme</b></p> | <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> <li>● <b>Loan Details:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Farmers can acquire Kisan Credit Card <b>loans up to Rs 3 lakh.</b></li> <li>○ Benchmark interest rate: 9%</li> <li>○ <b>Centre provides 2% interest subvention, reducing the effective rate to 7%.</b></li> <li>○ Additional 3% concession for prompt and timely repayment, further reducing it to 4% per year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Implementing Agencies:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reserve Bank of India (<b>RBI</b>)</li> <li>○ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (<b>NABARD</b>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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