



22 July 2024

National and International News

<p>National Clean Air Programme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>About National Clean Air Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Date: January 2019 Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 µg/m³) by 2025-26. Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<p>National District Mineral Foundation Portal</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union Minister of Coal and Mines recently launched the Mineral Exploration Hackathon and the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Portal. <p>About National District Mineral Foundation Portal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate access to DMF data. Track developments and utilization of funds. Enhance transparency and centralized visibility of activities. Provide project oversight and dynamic analytics. Serve as a repository of best practices for effective implementation. Establishment: Set up as a non-profit trust under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act 2015. Funding:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funded through contributions from holders of major or minor mineral concessions in the district. ○ Contributions prescribed by the Central or State Government. ● Jurisdiction and Governance: ● Operates under the jurisdiction of the relevant State Government. ● Composition and functions prescribed by the State Government. ● Funds collected at the district level.
<p>Bhusanket Web Portal</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Union Minister of Coal and Mines recently inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre at the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Kolkata. ● The minister launched the Bhusanket Web Portal and the Bhooskhalan Mobile App. <p>About Bhusanket Web Portal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The web portal aims to disseminate relevant data and information on landslide hazards. ● It will initiate short-range and medium-range landslide forecasting in the country. ● The Bhooskhalan Mobile App, integrated with the Bhusanket Web Portal, is user-friendly and facilitates quick dissemination of daily landslide forecasts. ● The app allows stakeholders to share and update spatial and temporal information on landslide occurrences.
<p>Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The tea industry has requested higher rates under the RoDTEP scheme to enhance the competitiveness of its exports in international markets. <p>About RoDTEP Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministry: Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry ● WTO-Compliant: Refunds embedded central, state, and local duties and taxes not previously refunded. ● Objective: Enhance competitiveness of export sectors, create employment, and contribute to economic growth under Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision. ● Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open to both manufacturers and merchant exporters. ○ No threshold of turnover required. ○ Goods must be directly exported by the claimant. ● Scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Covers physical exports and outbound shipments of services from India. ○ Service providers can claim refunds on applicable hidden levies. ● Rebate Mechanism:



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



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