

CSE transparency index

August 17, 2021

In news- The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released the report 'Transparency Index – Rating of Pollution Control Boards on Public Disclosure'.

About CSE Transparency Index-

- **To assess the level of transparency maintained by the state pollution control boards (SPCB) and pollution control committees (PCC), CSE has conducted a study, and assessed the data disclosure performance of 29 state pollution control boards (PCBs) and 6 pollution control committees in the country.**
- This report **critically evaluates the information shared by SPCBs/PCCs during the last four-five years (2016–21)** and uses several indicators that provide a broader indication on the type and amount of information shared.
- This **report provides the status of the information shared by SPCBs/PCCs** on their websites and annual reports.

Key findings-

- **Around 60 per cent of the bodies scored less than 50 per cent** on the information disclosure parameters studied.
- Only 14 boards scored above 50 per cent in the index.
- They are Odisha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The index's analysis cited that **most agencies are not transparent enough** with information in the public domain.
- **Information on functioning, actions taken by boards**

against polluting industries, public hearing data on new projects etc are rarely disclosed, or are not even available on public websites.

- The pollution control boards of **Odisha and Telangana were the top performers** and had scored 67 per cent in transparency.
- **Tamil Nadu ranked a close second with 65.5 percent transparency**, Madhya Pradesh ranked third (64 per cent), West Bengal ranked fourth (62 per cent) and Goa ranked fifth (60.6 per cent).
- Only five boards including Haryana have shared minutes of their board meetings on their websites.
- Only five SPCBs including Himachal Pradesh have shared information on inspections conducted by the boards.

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

- It is a **public interest research and advocacy organisation** based in **New Delhi**.
- CSE researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable.
- Its efforts are specifically designed to create awareness about problems and propose sustainable solutions.
- Research at CSE often consists of in-depth learning about an environmental problem and then finding answers in accordance with CSE's core values.

CSE's efforts are built around five broad programmes:

1. Communication for Awareness.
2. Research and Advocacy.
3. Education and Training.
4. Knowledge Portal.
5. Pollution Monitoring