

National clean air programme

April 2, 2020

Why in news?

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) has been launched.

What is NCAP?

- This is the first ever national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.
- The programme will not be notified under any Act.
- **Salient features:**
 - To achieve a **national-level target of 20-30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration between 2017 and 2024.**
 - **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** will execute the programme in consonance with **Air Act, 1981.**
 - The plan **includes 102 non-attainment cities**, across 23 states and Union territories, which were identified by CPCB on the **basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015.**
 - Non-attainment cities are those which have been consistently showing poorer air quality than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) like Delhi, Varanasi, Bhopal, Kolkata, Noida, Muzaffarpur, and Mumbai.
 - The plan proposes a **three-tier system**, including real-time physical data collection, data archiving and an action trigger system in all 102 cities.
 - The national plan has **proposed setting up an apex committee headed by Minister of Environment and forests**, a **steering committee undersecretary (environment)** and a **monitoring committee under a joint secretary.**
 - There would be **project monitoring committees at**

the state-level with scientists and trained personnel.

▪ **It proposes**

- Extensive plantation plans,
- Research on clean-technologies,
- Landscaping of major arterial roads,
- Stringent industrial standards,
- State-level plans of e-mobility in the two-wheeler sector,
- Rapid augmentation of charging infrastructure,
- Stringent implementation of BS-VI norms,
- Boosting public transportation system,
- Adoption of third-party audits for polluting industries