



Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award 2024

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Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Chief Minister of Rajasthan presented the [Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award 2024](#), on the occasion of the **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (Swachh Vayu Diwas)** at Jaipur.

Note:

- Every year, **the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies** is celebrated on **7th September** to raise awareness and facilitate actions to improve air quality.
- It was **declared so by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in 2019.

What is the Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award 2024?

▪ About Award:

- The Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award, 2024, was **presented to the best performing [National Clean Air Campaign \(NCAP\)](#) cities** in three categories based on population. The winning cities are
 - **Category-1 (population over 10 Lakhs):** Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra.
 - **Category-2 (population between 3-10 Lakhs):** Firozabad, Amravati, and Jhansi.
 - **Category-3 (population under 3 Lakhs):** Raebareli, Nalgonda, and Nalagarh.
- The Municipal Commissioners of the winning cities were awarded with cash prizes, trophies, and certificates.

▪ Swachh Vayu Survekshan (SVS):

- **About:**
 - [SVS](#) is a new initiative by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** to rank cities on the basis of air quality and implementation of activities approved under the **city action plan (NCAP) in 131 non-attainment cities.**
 - Cities are declared non-attainment if **over a 5-year period they consistently do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** for PM10 or NO2.
 - The categorisation of cities has been based on **the [2011 population census](#).**

▪ Criteria: The cities were assessed on eight major points:

- Control of biomass
- Municipal solid waste burning
- Road dust
- Dust from construction and demolition waste
- Vehicular emissions
- Industrial emissions
- Public awareness

- improvement in PM10 concentration

National Clean Air Campaign (NCAP)

- **About:** The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aims to systematically address air pollution by engaging all stakeholders and ensuring necessary action.
 - **131 cities have been identified** for the implementation of the city specific action plans under NCAP.
- **Target:** It is the **first-ever effort in the country** to frame a national framework for air quality management with a **time-bound reduction target**.
 - It seeks to cut the concentration of **coarse (PM10)** and **fine particles (PM2.5)** by at least **20% in the next five years** (base year for comparison-2017).
- **Monitoring:** The **“PRANA” portal** has also been launched by MoEFCC for
 - Monitoring implementation of NCAP.
 - Monitoring the action plans and implementation status of cities.
 - Sharing best practices adopted by cities for others to emulate

What are the Government Initiatives Regarding Clean Air?

- [Vehicle Scrap Policy](#)
- [Waste to Wealth campaign](#)
- ["Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" program](#)
- [the Mission LiFE](#)
- [Ideas4LiFE campaign](#)

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Air Pollutants

Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)



It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.

Impact: Causes respiratory problems.

Ozone (O₃)



Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NO_x and VOC) under the action of the sun.

Impact: Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)



Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.

Impact: Chronic lung disease.

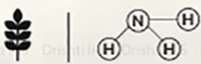
Carbon Monoxide (CO)



It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.

Impact: Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.

Ammonia (NH₃)



Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.

Impact: Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.

Lead (Pb)



Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.

Impact: Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.

Particulate Matter (PM)



PM10: Inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.

PM2.5: Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

Source: Emitted from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, fires.

Impact: Irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function.

Note: These major air pollutants are included in the Air quality index for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. How is the National Green Tribunal (NGT) different from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)? (2018)

1. The NGT has been established by an Act whereas the CPCB has been created by an executive order of the Government.
2. The NGT provides environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts whereas the CPCB promotes cleanliness of streams and wells, and aims to improve the quality of air in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/swachh-vayu-survekshan-award-2024>