

Haryana Cabinet Approves Clean Air Project

Why in News?

The Haryana Cabinet has approved the <u>Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development</u> (<u>HCAPSD</u>), a ₹3,647 crore initiative aimed at improving <u>air quality</u> and reducing emissions across the <u>Indo-Gangetic Plain</u>.

Key Points

- Haryana Clean Air Project (HCAPSD):
 - The project is supported by the <u>World Bank</u> to improve air quality and reduce emissions in **Haryana** and the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**.
 - It aims to implement <u>air pollution control technologies</u> and coordinate efforts with other states to reduce **cross-border emissions**.
 - The project will also work on enhancing the **ease of living** for citizens through cleaner air.
- Project Implementation and Governance:
 - The project will be led by the Haryana Department of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, in collaboration with several other departments, including <u>agriculture, transport</u>, and <u>industries</u>.
 - A three-tier governing structure will oversee progress, with the **chief secretary** chairing the top-tier committee.
- Clean Air Ambassadors Program:
 - A state-wide fellowship program will be launched, including **24** "clean air ambassadors" at the district level to drive implementation.
- Other Steps Taken by the State Government:
 - Women's Empowerment Scheme Lado Lakshmi Yojana:
 - Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that a framework for the Lado
 Lakshmi Yojana for women will be presented in the upcoming state budget.
 - The Haryana government has launched the Lado Lakshmi Yojana to support economically disadvantaged women in the state. Through this program, women living below the poverty line will receive ₹2,100 per month.

Civil Judges' Departmental Exams:

- The Cabinet amended the rules for civil judges' departmental exams, now to be
- conducted by the high court or a nominated authority.
- Relief for Ex-Employees:
 - The state government has waived recoverable amounts from ex-employees of Haryana Minerals Limited (HML), and Handloom and Export Corporation.
 - A fixed monthly honorarium, ranging from ₹36,000 to ₹20,000, will be provided to these ex-employees, effective from October 2020.





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.

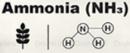
Impact: Causes respiratory problems.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)



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

Impact: Chronic lung disease.



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.

Ozone (O₃)



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

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

Carbon Monoxide (CO)





Tision

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.



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.



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