

1. Phase-out of coal in Delhi-NCR by January 1, 2023

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has ordered the phasing out of coal from across Delhi and the National Capital from January 1, 2023.



More on the Topic:

- Emissions from heavily polluting fuels like coal for various industrial, domestic and miscellaneous purposes contribute significantly to the degradation of air quality in the NCR and adjoining areas.
- According to current estimates, **1.7 million tonnes of coal is used annually by industries in the NCR**, and the fuel contributes significantly to the region's air pollution levels.
- As the phasing out of coal cannot practically happen at one stretch in thermal power plants, **the ban excludes the usage of low-sulphur coal** — a less harmful alternative with comparatively lower sulphur dioxide emissions.

Is the ban likely to have an impact on air quality in the NCR?

- The impact of the coal ban will be a boon for the regions outside NCT as they are bearing the brunt of the emissions, which locally worsen air quality.
- The move will lead to reduced pollutants including **particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxide (NO_x), CO₂ and CO**.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM):

- The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated on April 13, 2021.
- The Ordinance provides for the constitution of a Commission for **better co-ordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality** in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas.
- Adjoining areas have been defined as areas in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh adjoining the NCR where any source of pollution may cause adverse impact on air quality in the NCR.

Powers of the Commission:

- Powers of the Commission include:
 - (i) **restricting activities** influencing air quality,
 - (ii) **investigating and conducting research** related to environmental pollution impacting air quality,
 - (iii) **preparing codes and guidelines** to prevent and control air pollution, and

- (iv) issuing directions on matters including **inspections, or regulation** which will be binding on the concerned person or authority.
- Further, **the Commission may impose and collect environment compensation from farmers causing pollution by stubble burning.** This compensation will be prescribed by the central government.

Source: Indian Express

2. 'CiSS app' to help rehabilitation of children in street situations

Topic: e-Governance

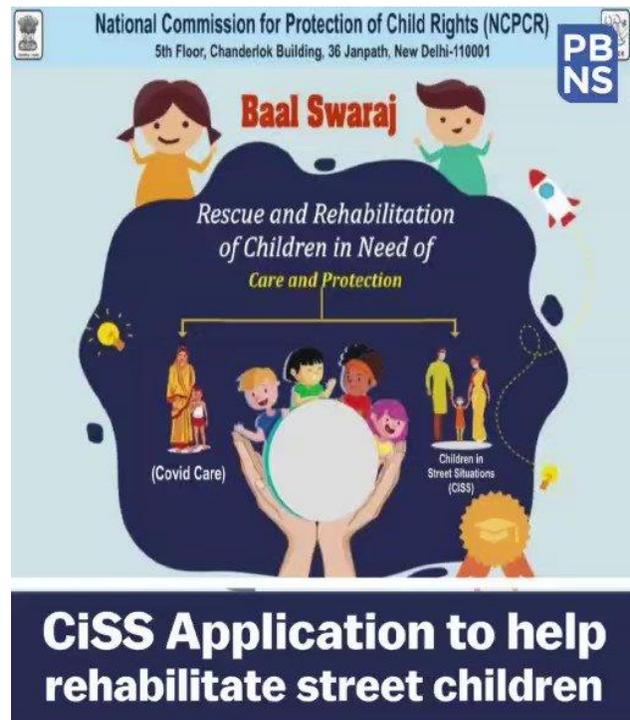
In News: In order to help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations (CiSS), the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights has launched a 'CiSS application' under the Baal Swaraj portal.

More on the Topic:

- Baal Swaraj is a portal launched by NCPCR for online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children in need of care and protection. The portal has two functions - COVID care and CiSS.
- COVID Care link caters to the children who have lost either or both parents due to COVID-19 or otherwise post March 2020. It follows six stages framework for the rehabilitation of children.
- The standard operating procedure for care and protection of children in street situations 2.0 categorises any child under 'Children in Street Situation' if the child is living on the streets alone, living on the streets during the day, or living on the streets with the family.
- The root cause of this phenomenon is the migration of families from rural to urban areas in search of a better standard of living,
- This portal, developed by, NCPCR is a first-of-its-kind initiative in India to help children in street situations.

About the CiSS Application:

- The CiSS application is **used for receiving data of children in street situations** from all the states and union territories, tracking their rescue and rehabilitation process.
- The initiative is taken under the direction of the Supreme Court.



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- The program embodies **Article 51 (A) of the Constitution of India**, as it provides a platform to the public and organizations catering to the welfare of the children to report any child in need of assistance.
- The platform serves to collect data and report to the District Child Protection Officer for them to take necessary action.

How the CiSS application works?

- To report a child under 'Children in Street Situations', visit <https://ncpcr.gov.in/baalswaraj/login>, click on 'Citizen Portal', then go to 'Report a CiSS to help a child'.
- It will lead to a form that will ask for the child's and the informant's details.
- Once registered, a registration ID is generated along with the contact information of the concerned DCPO for further follow up.
- **The DCPO will get information of the child on the dashboard** for further action that is, rescue and rehabilitation.

Source: Indian Express

3. The Green Energy Open Access Rules

Topic: Economy

In News: The Green Open Access Rules, 2022 have been notified recently.

More on the Topic:

- Highlights of the Notification:
- The Green Open access is allowed to any consumer and the limit of Open Access Transaction has been **reduced from 1 MW to 100 kW for green energy, to enable small consumers also to purchase renewable power through open access.**
- **Approval to be granted in 15 days** or else it will be deemed to have been approved subject to fulfilment of technical requirements. It will be through a national portal.
- **Consumers will be given the green certificates** if they consume green power.

Objectives of the New rule:

- These rules are notified for **promoting generation, purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy from Waste-to-Energy plants.**
- The notified Rules **enable simplified procedure for the open access to green power.**
- It will enable faster approval of Green OA, Uniform Banking, Voluntary purchase of RE power by commercial & industrial consumers, Applicability of OA charges etc.



- Commercial and Industrial consumers are allowed to purchase green power on voluntarily basis.
- Captive Consumers can take power under Green Open Access with no minimum limitation.
- Discom Consumers can demand for supply of Green power to them.

Source: Hindu

4. EASE 5.0 'Common reforms agenda' for PSBs

Topic: Economy



In News: EASE 5.0 'Common reforms agenda' of EASE Next program has been developed for Public Sector Banks and was launched through video-conferencing by the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs recently.

More on the Topic:

- **EASENext is well-positioned to channel reforms** with a specific focus on **customer-centric initiatives**.
- FM emphasised on customer-first strategy and focus on employee development.
- Under EASE 5.0, PSBs will continue to invest in **new-age capabilities and deepen the ongoing reforms to respond to evolving customer needs, changing competition and the technology environment**.
- EASE 5.0 will focus on **digital customer experience, and integrated & inclusive banking**, with emphasis on **supporting small businesses and agriculture**.

- Simultaneously, all PSBs will also create a bank-specific 3-year strategic roadmap.
- It will entail strategic initiatives beyond EASE 5.0. The initiatives will be across diverse themes - business growth, profitability, risk, customer service, operations, and capability building.

About EASE Agenda:

- It was launched in January 2018 **jointly by the government and PSBs.**
- It was commissioned through **Indian Banks’ Association and authored by Boston Consulting Group.**
- **EASE Reforms Index:** The Index measures performance of each PSB on 120+ objective metrics. The goal is to continue driving change by encouraging healthy competition among PSBs.

Source: Indian Express

5. Dibang Valley Ecological Concerns

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Wildlife scientists and conservationists in Arunachal Pradesh flagged threats to local biodiversity from the proposed Etalin hydroelectric project in the Dibang valley.

More on the Topic:

- Forest Advisory Committee, in its own deliberations had highlighted that the land in which the project is proposed covers two pristine forests with riverine growth that once cut cannot be replaced.
- The Etalin HEP is proposed on the Tangon and Dri Rivers.
- Anonpani small HEP and Athunli HEP are other HEP on the Tangon River.

About Dibang Valley:

- Dibang Valley is a district of Arunachal Pradesh named after the Dibang River.

- The district is rich in wildlife. Rare mammals such as **Mishmi takin, Red goral and Gongshan muntjac** occurs while among **birds there is the rare Sclater's Monal**.
- A flying squirrel has been recently discovered from this district.
- It has been named as Mishmi Hills Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista mishmiensis*.

Source: Business Standard

6. Blue Duke Butterfly

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Sikkim has declared Blue Duke as the state butterfly.

More on the Topic:

- Of the 720 butterfly species in Sikkim, Blue Duke was selected as the state butterfly securing majority of the votes in a recent online poll.
- Blue Duke, also called *Bassarona durga durga*, is **unique to Sikkim and Eastern Himalayas, first discovered in the state in 1858**.
- Blue Duke falls in **Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** and is a highly protected butterfly species in the Himalayas.
- Blue Duke is found at an altitude below 1500 metres in the Himalayas.



Source: Hindu

7. Technology Development Fund

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: The funding under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme has been increased from Rs 10 crore per project to Rs 50 crore.

More on the Topic:

- TDF is executed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It intends to back **the indigenous development of components, products, systems and technologies by MSMEs and startups**.
- DRDO has partnered with **Invest India, as supporting agency, to assist in scheme**





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Implementation.

- The scheme facilitates up to 90 per cent of the total project cost and allows industries to work in consortium with one another.

Source: Hindu
