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News: National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- Recently, the Climate Trends and Respiration Living Sciences have conducted a study, revealing that the majority of cities are far from the clean air targets of the India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is a **5 year action plan** with main objective to reduce concentration of **PM 2.5 & PM 10 by 20-30%** starting from 2019.
- **2017** is taken as the Base year for the purpose of calculation.
- **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** will be the implementing agency of this programme.
- Programme has been launched with an initial budget of 300 crores for the first two years.
- The plan includes **102 non-attainment cities across 23 states & UT's which were identified by CPCB** on the basis of their Ambient Air Quality data between 2011 & 2015.

- Non-attainment cities are those cities which have been consistently showing poorer air quality than National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Centre also plans to scale up the Air Quality Monitoring network across India.
- The plan proposes a three-tier system, including real-time physical data collection, data archiving, and an action trigger system in all 102 cities, besides extensive plantation plans, research on clean-technologies, landscaping of major arterial roads, and stringent industrial standards.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act empowers the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to set the standards for the quality of air.
- Current standards are set by CPCB in 2009. These standards are very much lower compared to WHO set global standards.
- Pollutants covered include: Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Particulate Matter 10 (PM 10), Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM 2.5), Ozone (O₃), Lead (Pb), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ammonia (NH₃), Benzene (C₆H₆), Benzo (a) Pyrene (BaP), Arsenic (As) and Nickel (Ni).