

# NEWS TODAY

## CARBON PRICING WORKS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS

- A study, that examined 142 countries, **found that CO2 emissions fell 2% (2007-2017) in countries with a carbon price**, while they increased by 3% in countries that did not have such pricing.
  - Report found a statistically significant **link between the adoption of a carbon price and reduced growth in carbon emissions.**
- **Carbon pricing** is an instrument that captures the external costs of emission and ties them to their sources through a price, usually in the form of a price on the CO2 emitted.
  - **Costs of emission includes** damage to crops, health care costs from heat waves and droughts etc.
- **Types of Carbon pricing being adopted**
  - **Carbon tax** directly sets a price on carbon by defining an explicit tax rate on greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).
  - **Emissions trading system (ETS):** It caps the total level of GHG and allows those industries with low emissions to sell their extra allowances to larger emitters.
  - **Internal carbon pricing (ICP):** It is a tool an organization uses internally to guide its decision-making process in relation to climate change impacts, risks and opportunities.
    - Recently, Indian companies have voluntarily started implementing ICP.

### • Pricing on carbon helps in:

- shifting the burden back to those who are responsible for it, and who can reduce it;
- stimulates clean technology and market innovation
- Meeting Paris climate agreement target

### • Initiatives under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- International Emissions Trading (IET);
- Joint Implementation (JI)
- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM);
- New approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

## CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 2019 (CPA) COMES INTO FORCE

- It replaces CPA 1986 and aims **to protect the rights of consumers by establishing authorities for timely and effective administration** and settlement of consumer's dispute.
- **Key features of the Act:**
  - Defines **consumer as a person who buys any good or avails a service** for a consideration, not for resale or commercial purpose.
  - **It defines consumer rights such as,** right to:
    - be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property;
    - seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices etc.
  - **New bodies**
    - **Central Consumer Protection Authority:** To promote, protect and enforce rights of consumers. It will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, misleading advertisements etc.
    - **Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (CDRC):** At the district, state, and national levels for adjudicating consumer complaints.
  - **Provisions for product liability (PL):** PL means liability of a product manufacturer, service provider or seller to compensate a consumer for any harm or injury caused by a defective good or deficient service.
  - **Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanism of Mediation** to simplify the adjudication process.
- **Benefits to consumers:** Ease of approaching CDRCs, provisions for new age issues like e-commerce, direct selling etc.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (SwD) STRUGGLE WITH ONLINE CLASSES

- A report '**Digital education in India: Will students with disabilities miss the bus?**' has highlighted lacunae in access to online classes for SwD:
  - SwD not knowing how to use technology.
  - Not having accessible educational material.
  - No sign language interpreters were present in the webinars.
- **Report has recommended** material in alternative formats, recognising that all children with disabilities cannot be clubbed into one group as they are persons with different needs.
- Also, MHRD recently released **PRAGYATA guidelines for digital education** which provides support for children with special needs- use of audio books, sign language programs (NIOS TV channel), etc.
- This report assumes significance with **increasing role of online education amid COVID-19 pandemic** which has impacted learning of over 240 million children, particularly from vulnerable sections like Students with disabilities, girls etc.
- **Other challenges in equitable access to digital education:**
  - **Rural urban digital divide:** While 66% of India's population lives in villages, only a little over 15% of rural households have access to internet services.
  - **Gender digital divide** in India is far more than world average. In 2019, 67% men had access to internet, compared to 33% women.

## CENTRE ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR FINANCING UNDER ₹1-LAKH CRORE AGRICULTURE INFRA FUND SCHEME (AIF)

- AIF was announced recently, that seeks to mobilize a **medium - long term debt financing facility** for investment in projects relating to **post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets.**
- **Key highlights of guidelines**
  - Scheme will be **operational from 2020-21 to 2029-30**
  - **Loans will be provided** to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations, Self Help Group, Farmers etc.
    - Credit guarantee coverage and **interest subvention of 3% per annum** will be available for eligible projects.
    - All assets created under this financing facility shall be **geo tagged.**
  - **Eligible lenders:** All scheduled commercial banks, scheduled cooperative banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, NBFCs and National Cooperative Development Corporation.
  - **National, State and District Level Monitoring Committees will be set up** to ensure real-time monitoring and effective feed-back.
    - Also, **online platform** will be made available in collaboration with participating lending institutions to provide information and loan sanctioning facility.
  - 24% of total grants in aid under the scheme should be **utilized for SC/ST entrepreneurs.**
    - Lending institutions will ensure adequate coverage of entrepreneurs belonging to women and other weaker segments of society.

# CCRGA ISSUES NOTICE TO GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

- Supreme Court (SC) mandated **Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA)** has issued a notice on an advertisement of the Delhi Government in newspapers.
- CCRGA was setup in 2016 by Centre on direction of SC **to look into Content Regulation of Government funded advertisements** in all media platforms.
  - It is **empowered to address complaints from the general public and can take suo-moto cognizance** on violation of the Supreme Court guidelines on 'Content Regulation of Government Advertising' and make recommendations.
- SC, in 2015 judgement held that "content of government advertisements should be relevant to the **governments' constitutional and legal obligations as well as the citizens' rights and entitlements**".
  - SC **also gave guiding principles**, which include, objective manner of advertisement, cost effectiveness, should not promote political interests, comply with legal requirements (election laws and ownership rights) and financial regulations and procedures etc.
- Recently, government also issued draft guidelines for **government advertisements on social media platforms** for empanelment of social media platforms for Centre's paid outreach campaigns.

## ALSO IN NEWS

<p><b>Zoram Mega Food Park (MFP) in Mizoram</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been recently set up by <b>Ministry of Food Processing Industries</b>. This is the first MFP operationalized in Mizoram.</li> <li>• <b>MFP</b> aims at providing a <b>mechanism to link agricultural production to the market</b> by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It ensures maximizing value addition, minimizing wastage, increasing farmers income and creating employment opportunities particularly in rural sector.</li> <li>➤ It is based on <b>Cluster approach</b>.</li> <li>➤ It consists of supply chain infrastructure including collection centers, primary processing centers, central processing centers, cold chain etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Initiatives for energy efficiency &amp; promoting e-mobility launched</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It <b>focuses on improving indoor air quality</b>, thermal comfort, and energy efficiency in air conditioning system.</li> <li>➤ It is a joint initiative of <b>Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and USAID</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ EESL in collaboration with NDMC has established this plaza in New Delhi.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Southern African Customs Union (SACU)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India and SACU revived discussion for Preferential Trade Agreement between two.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In 2019-20, trade between India and Africa as a whole stood at \$ 66.7 billion, of which the India-SACU trade was \$ 10.9 billion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SACU is a customs union comprising <b>Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa &amp; Eswatini (Swaziland)</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Customs union</b> is an agreement between two or more neighboring countries to remove trade barriers, reduce or abolish customs duty.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is <b>world's oldest customs union</b>, whose formation dates back to 1910.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Manodarpan initiative</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was launched by <b>Ministry of Human Resource Development</b> under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.</li> <li>• It will <b>provide psycho-social support to students</b>, teachers and parents and address their issues related to mental health and emotional wellbeing.</li> <li>• Under this, a <b>helpline number</b> was launched to <b>provide the consultation</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>YuWaah</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YuWaah is a multi-stakeholder platform that aims to <b>prepare young people to transition from education and learning to productive work</b> and active citizenship.</li> <li>• Recently, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India) together signed on a partnership <b>to empower young people</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is being done in <b>collaboration with UN in India</b> (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UNEP, UNHCR and ILO), aims to develop the potential of young people through meaningful engagement and participation in social, civic and community initiatives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Passage Exercise (PASSEX)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian Naval ships conducted a PASSEX with <b>U.S. Navy's USS Nimitz carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar islands</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ USS Nimitz is the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier.</li> <li>➤ Exercise comes amid a high alert by Navy in the Indian Ocean Region due to the stand-off with China along the border in Ladakh.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>UAE successfully launches Mars Mission</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hope Mars Mission/ Al Amal probe</b> is the UAE's fourth space mission and Arab world's first interplanetary mission.</li> <li>• It <b>contains orbiter</b> which is expected to reach the planet by early 2021.</li> <li>• It has specific scientific mission of taking <b>measurements from Mars' atmosphere</b>, with the intent of helping scientists better understand how Mars went from being a warmer world with liquid surface water to becoming the incredibly cold, rocky and dry planet we know it as today.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NASA issues warning for "Asteroid 2020 ND" moving past Earth on July 24</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is about 170 metres-long, will be as close as <b>0.034 astronomical units (AU)</b> to Earth.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ AU is mean distance from centre of the earth to centre of sun.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is classified as <b>Near-Earth Object (NEO) and Potentially Hazardous Asteroid (PHA) by NASA</b>.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NEOs are comets and asteroids nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits which allows them to enter the Earth's neighbourhood.</li> <li>➤ <b>All asteroids with a minimum orbit intersection distance of 0.05 au or less are considered PHAs.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>