



Reducing SO2 emissions

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Why in News

The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has sent show cause notices to 14 thermal power plants for **not complying with the 31st December, 2019 deadline to limit sulphur dioxide emissions.**

The CPCB has the **power to impose steep fines or shut a unit** under the provisions of **the Environment Protection Act, 1986.**

Key Points

- To limit **Particulate Matter (PM), sulphur dioxide** and nitrous oxide emission from thermal plants, **India has put in place a phased-approach** that directs coal-fired units to put in place measures to limit pollution by December 2022.
 - As per Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) estimates, these norms can help reduce PM emissions by about 35%, NOx emission by about 70%, and SO2 emissions by more than 85% by 2026-27 against a business-as-usual scenario with no pollution control technologies.
- However plants in a 300 km radius of Delhi were to comply by 31st December, 2019 because of the poor air quality in the city as well as the surrounding Gangetic plain.
 - Few units have set in place the process for acquiring flue-gas desulphurisation technology.
 - **Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD)** is a set of technologies used to remove sulphur dioxide (SO2) from exhaust flue gases of fossil-fuel power plants. Flue gas is a mixture of gases produced by the burning of fuel or other materials in power stations and industrial plants and extracted via ducts.

Central Pollution Control Board

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a **statutory organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

- It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- The CPCB is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Source: TH