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CPCB Notifies Contaminated Sites

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Why in News

- According to the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, there are 128 sites in India contaminated by **toxic and hazardous substances**.
- **West Bengal led the list** with 27 sites followed by Odisha at 23.

Incidents of Contamination

- **Oil contamination** due to leakage of underground oil pipelines of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in Tamil Nadu.
- **Pesticide and heavy metal contamination** in creeks at Eloor, Kerala.
- **Chromium contamination** at Rania, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu, and Lohianagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- Improperly disposed **electronic waste** lying on the banks of river Ramganga, Moradabad.
- **Mercury contamination** of the soil at Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, and Ganjam, Odisha.

The Central Pollution Control Board

- CPCB is a **statutory organisation** which was constituted in September, 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- It was entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

- Principal Functions of the CPCB, as spelt out in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
 - to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.
 - to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.

India's Record

- Independent organisations have warned that **India has a poor track record** in dealing with chemical accidents.
- According to **ToxicsLink**, an organisation that deals with hazardous waste disposal, there have been four major chemical accidents recorded, on average, every month between 2016-2019 and several accidents are not duly recorded.
- A committee constituted by the NGT in a report on the state of the management of hazardous waste (HW) in India noted that the **inventory was not very comprehensive**.

Source : TH