"Blue Category" for Industries

Source: HT

The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has introduced a revised classification system for industries, which includes a new **"Blue Category"** for essential environmental services, aiming to incentivize sectors like waste management and biomining.

- **Classification Methodology:** The classification is based on the **Pollution Index (PI) by CPCB,** which classifies industries based on their pollution potential, considering air, water, and waste pollutants. The categories include **Red (PI > 80), Orange (55 ≤ PI < 80), Green (PI < 25),** and Blue (for essential environmental services).
- **Blue Category:** Covers industries like landfill maintenance, biomining, and waste-to-energy plants. They will receive a **two-year extension for their consent** to operate as an incentive for environmental management.
    - Despite a **high PI (97.6), waste-to-energy plants** are categorized as Blue due to the essential environmental service they provide.
    - CBG (Compressed Biogas) plants, depending on their feedstock, are also eligible for Blue Category status.
- **CPCB:** It is a statutory organisation, constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
    - It provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Pollution Index (PI)	Category of industrial sector
PI ≥ 80	Red
55 ≤ PI < 80	Orange
25 ≤ PI < 55	Green
PI < 25	White

Read more: CPCB's New Guidelines for India's Stone Crusher Sector

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