Delhi’s Green Budget

Why in news?

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Delhi released its first Green budget to improve quality of air in the National Capital Region.

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What is the significance of the green budget?

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- Under the green budget Delhi has announced many new programmes under four Departments namely Environment, Power, Transport and PWD.
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- Some of the initiatives includes 1,000 new fully electric buses, subsidies for electric vehicles, LED street lamps and incentives for residential and agricultural users who install solar panels.
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- The government has proposed to give incentive to industries to switch over to piped natural gas and subsidies to firms to switch over to clean fuel-based power generators.
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- Apart from these, first comprehensive city-wide inventory of greenhouse gas emissions will also be carried out.
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- Dedicated information system showing levels of pollution will be set up inside all government buildings.
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- Government has also planned for an innovative scheme named Agriculture-cum-Solar Farm scheme.
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What are the challenges in implementing these programmes?

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- The Delhi Transport Corporation has 6,000 buses, but it needs to maintain a fleet size of 11,000 buses.
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- An addition of 1,000 new electric buses may mean lesser emissions, but it does little to address the overall supply gap.
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- This means more private vehicles on the street and consequently a greater dose of pollution.
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- The primary sources of pollution vary seasonally like in winter, it is the crop burning in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana that affects Delhi's air quality.
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- And in summer, it is dust from construction, storms, roads, etc.
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What measures needs to be taken in this regard?

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- Tackling the existing problems needs coordination between different states bordering the national capital, and also with the Union government.
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- Thus synchronizing with the efforts of neighbouring governments is needed to tackle these issues effectively.
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Source: Financial Express

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