Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Repeated emergency restrictions have limited effectiveness in addressing Delhi-NCR's air pollution. Examine the structural causes of the problem and suggest a long-term, coordinated strategy for improving air quality.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 06/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Air pollution, particulate matter, vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, stubble burning, construction dust, regional airshed approach, CAQM, GRAP, clean energy, public transport, institutional coordination

Model Answer

Introduction

Delhi-NCR experiences severe air pollution due to multiple sources, including vehicular emissions, industrial activities, construction dust, waste burning and seasonal agricultural fires.

Structural Causes and Limitations

Pollution originates across administrative boundaries, making isolated city-level interventions insufficient. Meteorological conditions, particularly low wind speed and temperature inversion during winter, further aggravate pollution.

Temporary restrictions under GRAP can provide emergency relief but cannot independently address persistent emission sources.

Long-Term Strategy

A regional airshed-based approach should coordinate pollution-control measures across Delhi and neighbouring States. Public transport, electric mobility, cleaner industrial fuels and strict emission standards can reduce vehicular and industrial pollution.

Scientific management of agricultural residue, construction-dust control and improved waste management are equally important. CAQM should strengthen inter-State coordination, monitoring and enforcement through reliable data.

Conclusion

Delhi-NCR requires a shift from temporary restrictions towards preventive, science-based and regionally coordinated pollution management. Sustained institutional accountability is essential for achieving cleaner air and protecting public health.

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