Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Air pollution in Delhi is a recurring public-health and governance challenge that requires coordinated institutional action. Examine the role of judicial intervention, regulatory agencies and citizens in addressing the problem.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~ 150 words

Answer Hint

Air pollution; Article 21; CAQM; CPCB and DPCC; judicial intervention; firecracker regulation; inter-state coordination; public health; sustainable transport

Model Answer

Introduction

Delhi's recurring air pollution reflects the combined effects of transport emissions, industrial activity, construction dust, waste burning, seasonal agricultural fires and meteorological conditions. It threatens public health and requires sustained, coordinated action.

Role of Institutions

1. Judicial Intervention

The Supreme Court can enforce constitutional and statutory obligations, scrutinise regulatory failures and issue directions to protect public health. However, durable improvement requires consistent implementation beyond court hearings.

2. Regulatory Coordination

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi Pollution Control Committee and state agencies must coordinate emission control, monitoring and enforcement across administrative boundaries.

3. Public Participation

Citizens can support public transport, reduce open burning, comply with construction and waste rules, and report violations. Authorities should provide accessible air-quality information and health advisories.

Way Forward

India needs cleaner transport, stronger industrial emission standards, dust management, reliable waste processing and alternatives to crop-residue burning. Firecracker regulation should be evidence-based, enforceable and consistent with applicable judicial directions.

Conclusion

Judicial oversight can strengthen accountability, but effective air-pollution control depends on scientific policy, inter-agency coordination, sustained enforcement and public participation.

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