Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the environmental and public health implications of firecracker use during festivals. Discuss the role of regulatory measures in balancing cultural celebrations with environmental protection.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Air pollution; noise pollution; respiratory health; Environment Protection Act 1986; Noise Pollution Rules 2000; Supreme Court directions; green crackers; public awareness; regulatory enforcement

Model Answer

Introduction

Firecrackers are traditionally used during festivals such as Diwali and Kali Puja. However, their excessive use can increase air and noise pollution, creating significant public health and environmental concerns.

Environmental and Health Impacts

1. Air Pollution: Firecrackers release particulate matter and gases, worsening air quality and aggravating respiratory conditions.

2. Noise Pollution: Excessive noise can disturb children, elderly persons, patients and animals.

3. Environmental Damage: Chemical residues and particulate deposition can affect soil, water and urban ecosystems.

Regulatory Framework

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 provides a broad framework for environmental regulation. The Noise Pollution Rules, 2000 prescribe permissible noise levels. Supreme Court directions have also regulated the timing

and use of firecrackers. The reported West Bengal restriction of 8 PM to 10 PM reflects an effort to enforce such controls.

Way Forward

Authorities should promote certified green crackers, public awareness, effective monitoring and strict action against violations. Community participation can help preserve cultural practices while reducing environmental harm.

Conclusion

Environmental regulation need not oppose cultural traditions. Responsible celebrations, scientific alternatives and effective enforcement can protect both public health and cultural practices.

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