Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the role of regulatory and emergency measures in controlling air pollution in Delhi-NCR. Discuss the limitations of seasonal construction bans as a pollution-control strategy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 31/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Urban air pollution; CAQM; GRAP; construction dust; particulate matter; inter-state coordination; source-based pollution control; sustainable urban development

Model Answer

Introduction

Delhi-NCR faces severe air pollution, particularly during winter due to meteorological conditions, vehicular emissions, industrial activities, construction dust and stubble burning.

Role of Regulatory Measures

1. **CAQM:** Coordinates air-quality management across Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas through regulatory directions and monitoring.
2. **GRAP:** Introduces graded restrictions according to pollution severity, including construction curbs and restrictions on polluting activities.
3. **Construction restrictions:** Temporary bans on dust-generating activities can reduce particulate emissions during critical pollution episodes.
4. **Inter-state coordination:** Joint action is necessary because air pollution crosses administrative boundaries.

Limitations

Seasonal bans provide temporary relief but do not address year-round sources. They may also disrupt infrastructure projects and livelihoods. Weak enforcement and inadequate monitoring further reduce effectiveness.

Way Forward

India needs continuous dust suppression, cleaner public transport, industrial emission controls, crop-residue management, real-time monitoring and coordinated regional planning.

Conclusion

Emergency restrictions are useful during severe pollution episodes, but sustained improvement requires a comprehensive, year-round and regionally coordinated clean-air strategy.

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