Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the role of vehicular emission checks, border enforcement and environmental compensation in controlling winter air pollution in Delhi.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Vehicular emissions; PUCC compliance; inter-state coordination; construction dust; enforcement challenges; public transport; long-term pollution control

Model Answer

Introduction

Delhi experiences severe winter air pollution due to a combination of vehicular emissions, construction dust, industrial activities, biomass burning and unfavourable meteorological conditions. Enforcement drives seek to reduce controllable sources of pollution.

Role of Enforcement Measures

1. Vehicular Emission Checks

Valid Pollution Under Control Certificates help identify vehicles that fail prescribed emission standards. Penalties and restrictions can encourage regular maintenance and compliance.

2. Border Enforcement

Checking non-compliant vehicles entering Delhi can reduce the movement of high-emitting vehicles. Effective implementation requires coordination among Delhi, neighbouring states and transport authorities.

3. Environmental Compensation

Penalties for construction-site dust-control violations can encourage compliance with covering, water sprinkling, debris management and other dust-mitigation measures.

Challenges

Short-term drives may have limited impact without continuous monitoring, transparent enforcement and adequate alternatives to private vehicles. Pollution also originates from sources beyond vehicle exhaust and construction activities.

Way Forward

Authorities should strengthen public transport, vehicle inspection systems, dust monitoring, clean-fuel adoption and regional coordination. Enforcement must be consistent and supported by reliable air-quality data.

Conclusion

Fines and vehicle checks are useful immediate interventions, but sustained improvement in Delhi’s air quality requires coordinated, year-round action across multiple pollution sources.

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