Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the significance and limitations of the Graded Response Action Plan in controlling air pollution in Delhi-NCR. Suggest measures for sustainable air-quality management.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

GRAP framework; CAQM; particulate matter; vehicular emissions; construction dust; inter-state coordination; seasonal pollution; long-term pollution control

Model Answer

Introduction

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) provides a framework for implementing progressively stronger pollution-control measures in Delhi-NCR as air quality deteriorates.

Significance of GRAP

1. Emergency Response

Measures such as restrictions on selected diesel generator operations, control of construction dust, mechanised road sweeping and water sprinkling can reduce pollution from specific sources.

2. Institutional Coordination

The Commission for Air Quality Management coordinates action across multiple jurisdictions, recognising that pollution does not follow administrative boundaries.

Limitations

GRAP is primarily a response mechanism triggered by deteriorating air quality. Its effectiveness is constrained by delayed enforcement, diverse pollution sources, weather conditions and emissions originating outside individual city boundaries. Temporary restrictions cannot substitute for structural reforms.

Way Forward

Delhi-NCR requires cleaner public transport, stronger industrial emission standards, effective waste management, dust-control enforcement, cleaner household fuels and coordinated action on agricultural residue burning. Continuous monitoring, transparent data and public participation should support implementation.

Conclusion

GRAP is important for immediate pollution mitigation, but lasting improvement requires year-round emission reduction, inter-state cooperation and accountable enforcement.

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