Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the role of emergency measures such as GRAP in controlling urban air pollution. Discuss their limitations and suggest long-term solutions.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Graded Response Action Plan; particulate matter; construction dust; vehicular emissions; emergency restrictions; inter-state coordination; structural pollution control

Model Answer

Introduction

Urban air pollution poses serious risks to public health, productivity and environmental quality. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) provides a framework for introducing progressively stricter measures as air quality deteriorates.

Role of Emergency Measures

Restrictions on construction and demolition activities help reduce dust emissions. Work-from-home directions may lower commuting-related vehicular pollution. Additional restrictions under severe pollution conditions can provide short-term relief by limiting selected sources of emissions.

Limitations

Emergency measures are largely reactive and may offer only temporary improvements. Their effectiveness depends on monitoring, enforcement and coordination among neighbouring jurisdictions. Pollution arising from transport, industries, waste burning and regional sources cannot be addressed through temporary restrictions

alone.

Way Forward

Authorities should strengthen public transport, promote cleaner fuels and electric mobility, control industrial emissions, prevent waste burning and adopt dust-control practices. Continuous air-quality monitoring and coordinated regional action are essential. Compliance should be assessed through transparent data and measurable outcomes.

Conclusion

GRAP is an important emergency response mechanism, but sustained improvement requires year-round pollution prevention, effective enforcement and coordinated action across urban and regional sources.

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