Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Air pollution in Indian cities is intensified by seasonal factors and human activities. Examine the causes of post-Diwali air pollution in Delhi and suggest an integrated strategy to address the problem.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 09/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Firecracker emissions, PM2.5, vehicular pollution, stubble burning, construction dust, temperature inversion, low wind speed, public health, GRAP, regional coordination, sustainable alternatives.

Model Answer

Introduction

Post-Diwali air pollution in Delhi reflects the combined impact of human activities and unfavourable meteorological conditions. High particulate concentrations create serious public health concerns.

Major Causes

- **Firecrackers:** Release particulate matter and harmful gases into the atmosphere.
- **Vehicular emissions:** Contribute nitrogen oxides and particulate pollution.
- **Stubble burning:** Adds seasonal smoke transported from neighbouring states.
- **Construction dust:** Increases suspended particulate matter.
- **Weather conditions:** Temperature inversion and low wind speed restrict pollutant dispersion.

Integrated Measures

- Enforce restrictions on highly polluting activities and improve public transport.

- Promote cleaner alternatives to firecrackers.
- Strengthen crop-residue management and provide farmers with viable alternatives.
- Control construction dust and industrial emissions.
- Improve regional coordination, air-quality monitoring and public health advisories.

Conclusion

Delhi's air pollution requires year-round, regionally coordinated action rather than temporary emergency measures. Sustainable urban planning and effective enforcement are essential for cleaner air.

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