Environment & Ecology · GS - III

“Vehicular electrification alone cannot solve Delhi-NCR’s air pollution crisis.” Critically examine the proposed restrictions on new petrol and diesel vehicle registrations from 2031, highlighting their potential benefits, implementation challenges and complementary measures required. (150 words)

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 09/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Discuss vehicular emissions, electrification, affordability, charging infrastructure, electricity mix, public transport, industrial pollution, enforcement and just transition.

Model Answer

Delhi-NCR’s severe air pollution results from multiple sources, including vehicular emissions, industrial activities, construction dust, road dust, waste burning and seasonal agricultural fires. The CAQM panel’s proposal to restrict new petrol and diesel vehicle registrations from 2031 seeks to accelerate the transition towards cleaner mobility.

Potential benefits: The measure could reduce urban tailpipe emissions, encourage electric-vehicle adoption, stimulate charging infrastructure and promote cleaner transport technologies.

Challenges: High upfront costs, inadequate charging facilities, battery-related environmental concerns and unequal access to electric vehicles may disproportionately affect lower-income households. Existing petrol and diesel

vehicles would continue emitting pollutants, while coal-based electricity could shift some emissions beyond city limits.

Way forward: The transition should combine phased restrictions with affordable electric public transport, reliable charging networks, vehicle scrappage incentives, stricter emission testing and cleaner electricity. Authorities must simultaneously control construction dust, industrial emissions, waste burning and crop-residue burning through coordinated regional action.

Conclusion: Vehicle electrification is necessary but insufficient. Sustainable improvement requires an integrated, equitable and science-based airshed management strategy.

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