Environment & Ecology · GS - III

“The right to a clean and healthy environment is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21.” Discuss the role of the judiciary in addressing air and noise pollution, with reference to environmental jurisprudence in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 21, right to clean environment, air pollution, noise pollution, Bombay High Court, judicial activism, environmental jurisprudence, precautionary principle, sustainable development, enforcement challenges.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. The Supreme Court has interpreted this right to include the right to a clean and healthy environment, making environmental protection a constitutional concern.

2. Role of Judiciary in Environmental Protection

A. Air Pollution

1. Courts have directed authorities to implement pollution-control measures and enforce environmental standards.
2. Judicial intervention promotes accountability among governments and polluting industries.

B. Noise Pollution

1. Courts have addressed excessive noise from loudspeakers, public events and other sources to protect health and peaceful living.
2. The Bombay High Court has contributed to environmental jurisprudence through interventions concerning pollution and noise regulation.

C. Constitutional Significance

1. Article 21 protects environmental quality as part of human dignity.
2. Judicial review strengthens enforcement of environmental laws and citizens' rights.

3. Challenges and Way Forward

Weak enforcement, inadequate monitoring and competing public interests remain concerns. Scientific monitoring, stricter compliance and public participation are essential.

4. Conclusion

Judicial intervention complements legislative and executive action in ensuring environmental justice and protecting the right to a healthy life.

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