Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Discuss the major causes of urban air pollution in India, its impact on public health, and the role of pollution control measures and environmental governance. How can sustainable urbanisation help address this challenge?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Urban Air Pollution, Pollution Control Measures, Environmental Governance, Public Health, Sustainable Urbanisation

Model Answer

Introduction

Urban air pollution is one of the major environmental challenges in India. Vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, construction dust and waste burning are its key causes.

Main Body

1. Causes and impacts of urban air pollution

- Public Health: Increases the risk of asthma, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular problems and premature deaths.

- Environment: Reduces visibility and adversely affects ecosystems.
- Economy: Increases healthcare costs and reduces labour productivity.
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2. Pollution control measures

- Promote public transport, electric vehicles and clean energy.
- Control construction dust and prohibit open waste burning.
- Strengthen air quality monitoring and implement measures such as the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).
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3. Environmental governance and sustainable urbanisation

- Improve coordination among central, state and local authorities.
- Develop green spaces, pedestrian pathways and cycling tracks.
- Enforce environmental regulations and encourage public participation.
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Conclusion

Controlling urban air pollution requires both emergency measures and long-term planning. Effective environmental governance and sustainable urbanisation can make Indian cities cleaner, healthier and more liveable.

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