Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the role of vehicle emission standards and traffic restrictions in controlling winter air pollution in Delhi-NCR. Discuss their limitations and suggest complementary measures.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Vehicle emissions; Bharat Stage standards; CAQM; winter pollution; public transport; clean mobility

Model Answer

Introduction

Delhi-NCR experiences severe winter air pollution due to a combination of transport emissions, industrial activity, construction dust, biomass burning and unfavourable meteorological conditions.

Role of Vehicle Restrictions

Restrictions on older, higher-emission vehicles can reduce vehicular pollution during critical periods. Bharat Stage standards progressively tighten permissible emissions, while electric and cleaner-fuel vehicles can reduce local pollution.

The reported Delhi entry restrictions from November 2026 aim to limit the movement of specified non-BS-VI vehicles registered outside the capital, subject to stated exemptions.

Limitations

Vehicle restrictions alone cannot eliminate pollution because emissions originate from multiple sectors. Enforcement difficulties, inadequate public transport and the financial burden on commuters may also affect implementation.

Way Forward

Authorities should strengthen public transport, improve last-mile connectivity, expand clean vehicle infrastructure and enforce industrial and construction dust standards. Regional coordination through CAQM, reliable air-quality monitoring and evidence-based emergency measures are essential.

Conclusion

Vehicle restrictions can be a useful short-term intervention, but lasting improvement in Delhi-NCR's air quality requires coordinated action across transport, industry, construction, waste management and regional pollution sources.

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