Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the role of the Graded Response Action Plan in controlling air pollution in Delhi-NCR. Discuss the limitations of emergency restrictions in addressing the region's persistent air pollution problem.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 31/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

GRAP; CAQM; severe air pollution; construction and demolition restrictions; vehicular emissions; industrial pollution; regional coordination; long-term pollution control; public health

Model Answer

Introduction

Delhi-NCR experiences severe air pollution due to multiple sources, including vehicular emissions, industrial activity, construction dust, waste burning and seasonal agricultural fires. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) provides emergency measures based on prevailing air quality.

Role of GRAP

1. Emergency Restrictions: GRAP introduces progressively stricter measures as air quality deteriorates, including construction bans and restrictions on polluting activities.

2. Institutional Coordination: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) coordinates enforcement across Delhi-NCR.

3. Public Health Protection: Temporary restrictions aim to reduce pollution exposure, particularly among children, elderly people and vulnerable groups.

Limitations

Emergency restrictions are reactive and cannot independently address year-round pollution. Fragmented enforcement, regional pollution sources, inadequate public transport and dependence on fossil fuels weaken long-term outcomes.

Way Forward

- Strengthen public transport and cleaner mobility.
- Control industrial and construction emissions through continuous monitoring.
- Promote clean energy and scientific waste management.
- Improve coordination among NCR states and local authorities.
- Expand public-health monitoring and pollution forecasting.

Conclusion

GRAP is an important emergency mechanism, but sustainable improvement requires coordinated, year-round emission reduction strategies.

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