

Measures to Reduce Pollution in India - GK Notes for Bank & SSC in PDF

General Awareness section is really important to increase your accuracy while appearing for any Government Recruitment Exam. If you are confident in the answers, then you can easily score maximum marks in minimum time. The recent studies by many organisations like WHO, UNEP, NITI Aayog etc has brought air pollution in focus for the right reasons. When pollutants get mixed with the air we breathe, we say that the air is polluted. Alas, we know this definition right from our school days, but we seldom do anything to reduce it. Read this article on Different Measures to Reduce Pollution & Disasters faced by the human race due to Pollution.

What is Smog? - Introduction

Although you may have heard about Delhi Smog, you may not know what are its causes and effects. Smog is derived from two words – smoke and fog. In layman's terms, smog is a type of fog that has smoke or soot particles. Smog can also be called as a mixture of various gases, dust, and water vapour. The yellowish or blackish fog is due to air pollutants such as sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and some other organic compounds that combine with sun's rays to form smog.

Are Indian cities choking out due to air pollution?

- As per new World Health Organization report, India has 14 out of the 15 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM 2.5 concentrations or particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres.

- The worst being Kanpur with a PM 2.5 concentration of 173 micrograms per cubic metre, followed by Faridabad, Varanasi and Gaya.
- These cities like Kanpur, Varanasi along with Delhi has been in the limelight for the high levels of air pollution and the deteriorating conditions of its inhabitants.
- Who is to be blamed -- the government or the errant public?
- Passing the buck is the game being played, but little do people realize that the game is being played on them.
- The government may wash away its hands and the people may say that it is not their problem.
- At the end of the day, there is a grave problem and it needs to be mitigated at the earliest.
- Allergies, asthma and even cancer are the effects that cannot be ignored anymore.
- The time is now and we all have to get united to curb this growing menace.

Measures to Reduce Pollution - Government Action That Demands a Reaction

The government both at centre and state have taken adequate steps to curb air pollution. But are these measures sufficient?

The **National Air Quality Index (AQI)**, which was introduced to inform people about the possible impact on health has been successful to some extent. This scheme has been generating and exhibiting real-time data about the level of pollutants in the air.

The real question to be asked here is: Do people really care about the increasing pollution levels?

#1. Odd-Even Rule - Measures to Reduce Pollution

Although the odd-even rule has gained popularity in some countries, in India, there are many challenges in its implementation. According to the Odd-Even rule, on a given day either even number plates or odd number plates are allowed to ply on the roads. This to some extent will reduce the number of vehicles on the road and thereby reduce air pollution. Here is the catch. If you have a vehicle that has an even number plate, wouldn't you go ahead and buy a new vehicle that has an odd number plate? Well, this is something that the government should be cognizant of before they implement this rule.

#2. Moving to Bharat Stage to VI from IV.

India has followed the Bharat Stage IV norms since April 2017, and is scheduled to switch to Bharat Stage VI in April 2020 to reduce emissions of particulate matter by 10%-20% in existing cars and two-wheelers.

#3. National Air Quality index

AQI, dubbed as 'One Number- One Colour-One Description' for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity in real time and create more awareness to public to reduce pollution.

Other Countries & Measures to Reduce Pollution

There are several countries around the world that are facing air pollution issues. While they too have various restrictions and implementation issues, they have successfully reduced the levels of air pollutions to considerably low number. In **Paris**, cars are banned in historic central districts during weekends. They also impose the odd-even rule to curb air pollution. During major pollution events, they even offer free public transport. Paris also encourages bike and car sharing activities.

- **Freiburg** in Germany has almost 500 kilometres of two-wheeler routes, tramways, and an affordable public transport system.
- **Copenhagen** gives priority to two-wheelers over private cars and now has more two-wheelers than people.
- **Zurich** has put limitations on the number of parking spaces in the city. It allows only a certain number of cars inside the city at any particular time.

The following table illustrates the major pollution-related incidents in India and the world.

Sr. No.	Country	Disaster Description
1	<i>Bhopal Gas Leak</i>	<p>This was the world's worst ever industrial disaster that happened on the night of December 2, 1984. Toxic gases leaked from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, India.</p>
2	<i>Chernobyl Nuclear Accident</i>	<p>This was the biggest radiation contamination recorded in the history of the world. This incident happened on April 26, 1986. The city of Chernobyl lies about 90 kms from Ukraine's capital, Kiev. This incident killed over 30 people and it released 100 times more radiation than the atom bombs that were dropped on Japan.</p>

Air pollution is like a slow poison to us and we have to take appropriate measures to curb it. There are three levels at which air pollution can be stopped. First is at the



domestic level, second is at the national level and third is at the global level. Educating the local people is very important and the government should take necessary steps to create awareness among the general public. As responsible citizens, we too need to take cognizance of the hazards of air pollution and take suitable steps to stop it.

Find more details on Delhi Smog, its causes & effects by watching this video!

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