

PERFECTION

Miscellaneous Reading Comprehensions

Reading Comprehensions

Directions (1-7): Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

The apex judiciary on Monday underscored the imperative of waste segregation for environmental sustainability, mandating the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to furnish a comprehensive report delineating the ramifications of waste-to-energy projects on public health and ecological equilibrium.

The Court accentuated that segregation at the source is an indispensable facet of sustainable waste management, a principle that ought to be inculcated at the domestic echelon. A two-judge bench, presided over by Justice Abhay S. Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, scrutinized a petition instituted by environmentalist MC Mehta, which encapsulated concerns regarding

Delhi-NCR's deteriorating environmental matrix. The discourse encompassed an array of environmental maladies, including stubble incineration, solid waste mismanagement, industrial emissions, and construction-generated particulate proliferation.

The judicial bench subjected the National Capital Region (NCR) states—which encompass Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan districts—to incisive queries about their smart city initiatives and the extent of adherence to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. During the proceedings, Senior Advocate and Amicus Curiae Aparajita Singh lamented the deficient segregation practices, elucidating that waste-to-energy plants are destined for inefficacy in the absence of systematic segregation. “A negligible proportion of waste undergoes preliminary differentiation, as organic refuse is frequently amalgamated with non-biodegradable plastic,” she remarked. Responding to these deliberations, the apex court mandated the NCR administrations to submit comprehensive affidavits by March-end, explicating the

compliance trajectory of their urban governance bodies vis-à-vis the 2016 stipulations. Additionally, the Court sought exhaustive expositions on waste management strategies, chronological implementation blueprints, and executing authorities.

Previously, the Supreme Court had castigated the Delhi government for dereliction in solid waste regulatory compliance, frequently pronouncing Delhi's waste governance paradigm as lamentable, portending a potential public health exigency. It was earlier observed that Delhi generates over 11,000 metric tonnes of refuse daily, yet existing waste-processing infrastructures possess a maximum capacity of 8,073 metric tonnes, thereby exacerbating an unsustainable accumulation of 3,000+ tonnes of untreated detritus daily.

Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) announced the revocation of Stage 2 anti-pollution measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), attributing this decision to meteorological amelioration. At 4 pm on Monday, Delhi's

24-hour mean Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 186, markedly below the Stage 2 trigger threshold of 300. Consequently, only Stage 1 restrictions remain operative, pending further assessment.

The CAQM credited the reprieve to favorable meteorological vicissitudes, including an enhanced mixing height and improved ventilation coefficient, thereby facilitating atmospheric dilution of pollutants. Meteorological prognostications by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) suggest that Delhi's AQI is poised to oscillate between 'moderate' and 'poor' classifications, conferring a transient respite upon denizens beleaguered by prolonged pollution episodes.

Q1. Based on the passage, which of the following statements logically follow the Supreme Court's concerns and directives?

- (I) The Supreme Court's directive to the CPCB suggests that waste-to-energy projects are inherently unsustainable and should be phased out to mitigate environmental degradation.
- (II) The requirement for affidavits from NCR states indicates a judicial push towards enhanced accountability and measurable compliance with waste management regulations.
- (III) The improvement in air quality due to meteorological conditions implies that structural policy changes are secondary to atmospheric variations in controlling pollution levels.

- (a) Only (I)
- (b) Both (I) and (II)
- (c) Only (II)
- (d) Both (II) and (III)
- (e) None of the above

Q2. What can be inferred regarding the potential consequences of continued failure in implementing proper waste segregation in Delhi-NCR?

(I) The failure to segregate waste at the source may exacerbate landfill overcapacity, leading to uncontrolled waste accumulation and heightened environmental hazards.

(II) An increase in untreated waste generation could amplify health risks, potentially leading to a large-scale epidemiological crisis in urban populations.

(III) The inefficiency of waste-to-energy plants due to poor segregation could undermine the financial viability of waste management projects, causing long-term economic strain on urban governance.

- (a) Only (I)
- (b) Both (I) and (II)
- (c) Both (II) and (III)
- (d) Only (III)
- (e) None of the above

Q3. Considering the Supreme Court's stance on environmental governance, which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage?

(I) The Court's intervention indicates a lack of proactive enforcement mechanisms at the state level, necessitating judicial oversight for compliance with waste management regulations.

(II) The emphasis on waste-to-energy projects suggests that the Supreme Court envisions a long-term transition to sustainable waste disposal methods, contingent upon systematic segregation.

(III) The Court's insistence on affidavits from NCR states implies that the judicial system is prioritizing punitive action over corrective environmental measures.

(a) Only (I)

(b) Both (I) and (III)

(c) Only (III)

(d) Both (I) and (II)

(e) None of the above

Q4. Based on the Supreme Court's directives and observations, which of the following statements are logically valid extrapolations of the Court's stance on environmental governance?

(I) The Court's insistence on detailed affidavits from NCR states signifies a broader institutional skepticism regarding the self-regulatory efficacy of municipal bodies in adhering to environmental statutes.

(II) The judicial discourse surrounding waste-to-energy projects implies that their operational viability is inextricably linked to infrastructural recalibration in municipal waste segregation mechanisms.

(III) The Supreme Court's previous rebuke of Delhi's waste management inefficiencies suggests an implicit endorsement of punitive jurisprudence over collaborative policy realignment in environmental governance.

(a) Only (I)

(b) Both (I) and (III)

(c) Both (I) and (II)

(d) Only (III)

(e) None of the above

Q5. Considering the Supreme Court's scrutiny of Delhi-NCR's waste management crisis, which of the following implications can be logically inferred?

(I) The judicial intervention in environmental governance suggests that systemic administrative inertia has necessitated direct adjudicatory oversight.

(II) The Court's insistence on source-level waste segregation as a prerequisite for functional waste-to-energy projects indicates a recognition of the interdependence between localized waste management policies and macro-level environmental sustainability.

(III) The Commission for Air Quality Management's decision to revoke Stage 2 restrictions under GRAP substantiates the argument that episodic meteorological conditions exert greater influence on urban air quality than long-term regulatory frameworks.

(a) Only (I)

(b) Both (I) and (II)

(c) Both (II) and (III)

(d) Only (III)

(e) None of the above

Q6.What inference can be drawn regarding the Court’s approach to balancing judicial oversight and executive accountability in environmental governance?

(I) The Court’s insistence on compliance reports indicates a strategic shift from direct judicial intervention to fostering institutional self-regulation through documented accountability measures.

(II) The prioritization of systemic waste management over temporary meteorological improvements suggests an implicit judicial recognition that long-term sustainability requires infrastructural recalibration rather than episodic regulatory responses.

(III) The Supreme Court’s directive for compliance affidavits from multiple NCR states implies a broader critique of decentralized governance models in environmental policy enforcement.

(a) Only (I)

(b) Both (II) and (III)

(c) Both (I) and (II)

(d) All (I), (II), and (III)

(e) None of the above

Q7. Given the passage's discussion on Delhi's air quality management, which of the following can be inferred about the effectiveness of pollution control measures?

- (I) The revocation of Stage 2 restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) implies that temporary improvements in air quality do not necessarily reflect long-term pollution control success.
- (II) The Supreme Court's scrutiny of waste management policies indicates that solid waste mismanagement is a significant contributor to air pollution in Delhi-NCR.
- (III) The fluctuation of Delhi's AQI due to meteorological factors suggests that long-term air quality improvement requires structural interventions beyond temporary weather changes.

- (a) Only (I)
- (b) Both (I) and (II)
- (c) Both (II) and (III)
- (d) Both (I) and (III)
- (e) None of the above