

# The Punjab Smog Crisis: A Failure of Urban Governance or a Challenge of Transboundary Diplomacy?

## Outline

### I. Introduction

### II. How is Punjab Smog Crisis a Failure of Urban Governance?

(A) ~~Less implementation of already existing laws~~  
case in point: Provincial Environment Protection Act 1997

(B) Excessive use of fuel based transportation  
case in point: Report of the Exise Department

(C) Widespread use of air conditioners

(D) Lack of Political will  
case in point: ~~Report~~ <sup>by</sup> David Keeshner

(E) Wastage of food remnants  
case in point: Report of World Bank 2025

III. Manifestations that the Punjab  
Smog Crisis is a challenge of  
Transboundary Diplomacy:

- (A). More traffic congestion in  
New Delhi
- (B). Industrial output without  
recycling in India.

IV. Way forward to Tackle  
The Punjab Smog Crisis:

- (A). Ensure electrification of  
the vehicles
- (B). Encourage the use of nature  
based cooling systems
- (C). Build healthy diplomatic  
channels with the neigh-  
bouring countries
- (D). Promote the use of public  
transport for inter city travel.

V. Conclusion:

"Smog crisis is rooted in the urban mismanagement and the urban people should take possibility to mitigate this crisis" - David Kenner. This insight resonates with the smog crisis spreaded in the Punjab province of Pakistan. Not only the urban people but also the government seems to be involved in the crisis. Governance failure is reflected in the negligence of implementing the already existing laws and the excessive use of fuel based transportation system. Despite the above mentioned failures, widespread use of air conditioners and the lack of political will added fuel to the fire. In addition to the locally induced failures, neighbouring countries are also transferring this borderless crisis. However, there is a dire need to take some progressive measures. Important measures to tackle this crisis are the electrification of transport vehicles

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and encouraging the use of nature  
based cooling systems.

In a nutshell, the Punjab  
Smog Crisis is more because of  
urban governance failures and less  
because of ineffective transboundary  
diplomacy. Lack of political will  
and the wastage of the food  
wastages are some of the urban  
governance failures. In spite of  
these urban governance negligence,  
Lack of proper diplomatic channels,  
is a step which adds up in this  
menace. Therefore, it is essential to  
take pragmatic steps to mitigate the  
crisis. Promoting the use of public  
transport and building healthy  
diplomatic channels will prove effec-  
tive in tackling this crisis.

