

SUMMARY of the Article “South Asia's Smog” by Jamil Ahmad, Dawn [Published on December 20th, 2023]

Air pollution has emerged as a severe environmental threat, significantly affecting well-being and posing health risks, particularly in South Asia, which houses a quarter of the global population and exhibits the world's worst urban air pollution. The region experiences dangerously elevated air pollution levels, surpassing WHO guidelines and exposing inhabitants to unhealthy air throughout the year, leading to a reduction in life expectancy. Winter exacerbates the problem, trapping a toxic mix of smoke and dust in layers of smog due to cold and heavy air. Cities like Lahore, Peshawar, Gujranwala, New Delhi, and Kolkata rank among the most polluted globally. The impact is particularly calamitous for children, the elderly, and those with respiratory and cardiac conditions. In Pakistan, life expectancy has decreased by four years due to air pollution, with residents in highly affected urban areas expected to lose up to five years of their lives. Major sources of pollution include toxic emissions from industry, transport, waste burning, and seasonal crop residue burning. While short-term measures like issuing health advisories and closing institutions have been taken, the long-term solution requires addressing the root causes, including regulatory gaps, unsustainable urbanization, and insufficient green cover. Urgent and bold measures are needed, including strengthening law enforcement, regulating land use management, expanding electric transport networks, imposing congestion tolls on polluting vehicles, and creating pedestrian zones. Implementing Pakistan's National Clean Air Policy in conjunction with climate change policies through a cross-sectoral approach is crucial, with community engagement and local monitoring playing vital roles.

Easy/Short SUMMARY:

South Asia faces a severe air pollution crisis, particularly during winter, trapping a toxic mix of smoke and dust in thick layers of smog. Cities like Lahore and Peshawar have some of the world's worst air quality, significantly reducing life expectancy, especially for vulnerable groups. Major pollution sources include industry, transport, waste burning, and crop residue burning. Short-term measures like closing institutions are insufficient, requiring urgent and bold actions. Solutions include strengthening law enforcement, regulating urbanization, expanding electric transport, imposing congestion tolls, and creating pedestrian zones. Implementation of Pakistan's National Clean Air Policy, community engagement, and local monitoring are vital for a lasting solution.

SOLUTIONS of The Problem:

1. Strengthening Law Enforcement:

- Enhance the implementation arm of law enforcement agencies to penalize polluters promptly.

2. Regulating Crop Residue Burning:

- Provide farmers with alternative systems for environmentally friendly crop residue disposal, rendering a ban on burning more effective.

3. Land Use Management Regulations:

- Regulate urban sprawl, ensuring sustainable and regulated expansion to preserve green cover and natural air filters.

4. Cross-Sectoral Approach to Policies:

- Implement Pakistan's National Clean Air Policy in synergy with climate change policies through a cross-sectoral approach.

5. Expansion of Electric Transport:

- Expand the network of electric transport to reduce emissions from traditional vehicles.

6. Congestion Tolls:

- Restrict vehicular movement in urban centers by levying congestion tolls on smoke-emitting transport.

7. Pedestrian Zones:

- Introduce pedestrian zones as a compulsory requirement in urban designing and restructuring to protect citizens from air and noise pollution.

8. Community Engagement:

- Engage communities and local bodies in monitoring air quality systematically, fostering swift and sustained action through stringent regulatory frameworks.

9. Implementation of Regulations:

- Strengthen the implementation of regulations and policies to curb pollution effectively.

10. Climate Change Integration:

- Integrate the National Clean Air Policy with climate change policies for a comprehensive and coordinated approach.

IMPORTANT Facts and Figures Given in the Article:

- **Air Pollution Impact on Life Expectancy in Pakistan:** Reduced by four

years compared to the global average reduction of 2.3 years.

- **Most Polluted Urban Centers:** Lahore, Peshawar, Gujranwala, New Delhi, and Kolkata.
- **Major Sources of Air Pollution in Pakistan:** Toxic emissions from industry, transport, waste burning, and seasonal crop residue burning.
- **Urbanization Rate in Pakistan:** The highest in the region, with half of the country's population projected to live in cities by 2025.

MCQs from the Article:

1. **What is the impact of air pollution on life expectancy in Pakistan, according to the article?**
 - A. Reduced by 2.3 years
 - B. Reduced by 4 years**
 - C. Increased by 2.3 years
 - D. Unaffected
2. **Which cities are mentioned as having the worst air quality in the article?**
 - A. Islamabad and Karachi
 - **B. Lahore, Peshawar, Gujran**

wala, New Delhi, and Kolkata**

- C. Beijing and Tokyo
- D. London and Paris

1. **What is the major factor contributing to increased air pollution during winter in South Asia?**
 - A. Heavy rainfall
 - B. Increased wind speed
 - C. Cold and heavy air trapping smoke and dust**
 - D. Reduced industrial activities
2. **What does the article suggest as a solution to reduce pollution in**

urban centers?

- A. Increase vehicular movement
- B. Expand unregulated urban sprawl
- C. Introduce congestion tolls on smoke-emitting transport**
- D. Ban electric transport

3. What is highlighted as a significant concern in the article regarding urbanization in Pakistan?

- A. Lack of modern amenities
- B. Unsustainable and unregulated urban sprawl**
- C. Overemphasis on green cover
- D. Inefficient waste management

VOCABULARY:

1. **Calamitous** (adjective) (كوارثي): Involving calamity; catastrophic.
2. **Sprawl** (noun) (تفكك): The spread of something in an irregular and untidy manner.
3. **Exacerbates** (verb) (يُفاقم): Makes (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse.
4. **Sustained** (adjective) (مستمر): Continuing for an extended period without interruption.
5. **Cross-sectoral** (adjective) (تقاطع-قطري): Involving or relating to different sectors, especially different areas of business or industry.
6. **Congestion** (noun) (ازدحام): The state of being congested.
7. **Coordination** (noun) (تنسيق): The organization of different elements or activities so as to enable them to work together effectively.
8. **Advisories** (noun) (تحذيرات): Official warnings or advice.
9. **Juncture** (noun) (نقطة): A particular point in events or time.
10. **Epicentre** (noun) (مركز الزلزال): The point on the earth's surface vertically above the focus of an earthquake.

☐ Attention Readers!

We are deeply concerned about individuals who share our summaries without providing proper credit. We kindly request that you refrain from removing the attribution label affixed to this article. Considerable time, effort, resources, and



expertise have been invested in its creation. It is essential to exhibit professionalism by crediting the source appropriately and acknowledging the rightful contributions. Your cooperation in sharing the original article is greatly appreciated. Failure to comply with this request may lead to legal consequences. We maintain a dedicated team of advocates ready to address instances of unprofessional and unethical behaviour, including copyright infringement.

□ Get Concise Editorial Summaries, Solutions, and Vocabulary Meanings! □

□ Prepared by the Expert Team at CSSMCQs.com! □

□ Looking for a hassle-free way to stay informed about current affairs and editorial insights? We've got you covered! □

□ Introducing "Dawn Important Editorials"! □

□ Join our WhatsApp Channel for quick and comprehensive summaries of the latest editorials, along with well-crafted solutions and helpful vocabulary meanings. □

□ Why Choose Us? □

□ Our team at CSSMCQs.com uses their efforts to bring you accurate and efficient summaries.

□ Stay updated with the most important points from the editorials, saving you time and effort.

□ Benefit from our expertly crafted solutions that offer insightful perspectives and creative ideas.

□ Expand your vocabulary with our thorough explanations and translations.

□ All this is at your fingertips, available in one convenient WhatsApp group!

□ Why Reading Summaries are so necessary for CSS & PMS Aspirants?

□ Cultivating Critical Analysis:

Summaries of editorials and opinions distill the essence of complex arguments, enhancing your ability to dissect intricate ideas, extract core arguments, and recognize underlying themes.

□ Efficient Time Management:

CSS aspirants often juggle multiple subjects and topics. Reading summarized editorials and opinions allows you to grasp diverse viewpoints in a fraction of the time.

□ Diverse Perspectives:

CSS exams require a comprehensive understanding of various perspectives. Summaries expose you to a range of viewpoints on critical issues, helping you broaden your intellectual horizons.

□ Quick Updates on Current Affairs:



SUMMARY of the Article, South Asia's Smog, by Jamil Ahmad, Dawn

Summarized editorials provide quick updates on the latest happenings, enabling you to stay informed about recent developments without delving into lengthy articles.

□ Constructing Coherent Arguments:

The concise nature of summaries teaches you how to articulate complex ideas succinctly. This skill is invaluable when constructing well-structured and concise answers in the CSS exam.

□ Enhancing Writing Skills:

Analyzing succinct summaries equips you with the ability to distill your thoughts into concise, coherent sentences – a skill that directly translates into writing impactful essays and answers.

□ Practical Application in Interviews:

Summarized opinions give you a bank of well-articulated arguments that you can draw upon during interviews. This helps you participate actively in discussions, demonstrating your depth of knowledge.

□ Retaining Key Concepts:

Summarizing editorials involves identifying the core concepts. This process reinforces your memory and understanding of crucial topics, ensuring they stay embedded in your long-term memory.

□ Stimulating Critical Thinking:

When you engage with summarized editorials, you're encouraged to think critically about the main points and arguments. This practice nurtures your ability to question assumptions and delve deeper into subjects.

□ Adaptable Learning:

Summaries allow you to adapt your learning approach based on your time and goals. Whether you're seeking a quick update or an in-depth analysis, summaries can cater to your needs.

To receive the summaries, solutions, and vocabulary meanings directly on WhatsApp, click the link below and join "Dawn Important Editorials" now:

□

<https://cssmcqs.com/dawn-editorials-articles-summary-for-students-pdf-download/>

□ Register on our website [<https://cssmcqs.com/register/>] for more exclusive benefits and resources.

□ Stay informed, be prepared, and excel in your knowledge-building journey with CSSMCQs.com! □

□ Join our WhatsApp group and seize the opportunity for valuable insights! □
Looking forward to having you as part of our vibrant community!



Best regards,
CSS MCQs

dawn.com
South Asia's smog
Jamil Ahmad

AIR pollution is a major environmental threat of our time, affecting our well-being and posing health hazards to the most vulnerable members of our communities. South Asia, home to a quarter of the global population, has the worst urban air pollution in the world. Most South Asians live in areas where air pollution levels significantly exceed the WHO guidelines, exposing people to unhealthy air year-round and shortening life expectancy.

At the start of winter, air pollution increases to extremely dangerous levels. The toxic mix of smoke and dust is trapped by cold and heavy air, converting it into thick layers of smog over long periods of dry weather. In addition to health hazards, reduced visibility endangers lives on roads and motorways. Only occasional spells of rain provide temporary relief from the smog, even as highly dangerous levels of pollution remain in the air.

The air quality in Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal is counted as the worst. Lahore, Peshawar, Gujranwala, New Delhi, and Kolkata rank among the world's most polluted urban centres. A recent news report labelled South Asia as the 'epicentre' of air pollution. This year, the situation is alarming. The impact of living under such hazardous conditions is particularly calamitous for children, the elderly and those with respiratory and cardiac health conditions.

In Pakistan, due to air pollution, life expectancy has been reduced by four years compared to the global average reduction of 2.3 years. In the worst-affected urban areas, such as Peshawar and Lahore, residents are expected to lose as many as five years of their lives as a result of unhealthy air.

Air pollution has reduced life expectancy.

The drivers of air pollution are well known, as are the solutions to control it. Toxic emissions from industry, transport, waste burning and seasonal crop residue burning are major sources of air pollution in Pakistan.

In some parts of Pakistan, health advisories have been issued and educational institutes and offices closed for short periods, with the expectation that less human activity would reduce the smog and protect the vulnerable. This is no lasting solution. A ban on crop residue burning will also not be effective until farmers are provided with an alternative system to clean their land of crop residue in an environmentally friendly way. Meanwhile, court cases against polluters often fall by the wayside, either due to the inability of prosecuting agencies to produce timely evidence, or law enforcement agencies' lack of capacity.

Land use management regulations are another area warranting immediate attention. Pakistan's urbanisation rate is the highest in the region. Half of the country's population will be living in cities by 2025. In the process, unsustainable and often unregulated urban sprawl is taking place, mostly at the expense of green cover, depriving the cities of natural air filters. This exacerbates air pollution significantly.

Conversion of agricultural land or forested areas into housing schemes must be regulated to ensure the provision of sufficient green spaces around cities. This is also important to safeguard natural habitats for wildlife and biodiversity, and thus essential for a balanced ecosystem.

The United Nations Environment Programme has identified implementation and policy gaps and compiled actions that governments can take to address air pollution. The costs of inaction are high. The burden of disease and economic costs keep rising. Urgent and bold measures are needed to tackle the problem on a permanent basis. Strengthening the implementation arm of law enforcement agencies will enable the courts to penalise polluters.

Other steps to help reduce pollution include expanding the network of electric transport and restricting vehicular movement in urban centres by levying a congestion toll on smoke-emitting transport. Introducing pedestrian zones is

useful to protect citizens from air and noise pollution.

Temporary closure of traffic in recent roadworks in Peshawar cantonment provided a pleasant peek into how pedestrians could enjoy smoke-free air in an otherwise polluted and noisy part of the city. The provision of pedestrian zones should be a compulsory requirement of urban designing and restructuring. Through a cross-sectoral approach, Pakistan's National Clean Air Policy should be implemented in synergy with climate change policies through a bottom-up approach.

Engaging communities and local bodies will be helpful to monitor air quality in a systemic manner and propel swift and sustained action at ground level through stringent regulatory frameworks.

Citizens all over are increasingly raising concerns about the impact of air pollution on their lives. Their calls for clean air must be heard and answered.

The writer is director of intergovernmental affairs, United Nations Environment Programme.

Published in Dawn, December 20th, 2023

[Current Affairs 2023 MCQs by CSS MCQs](#)





Current Affairs MCQs

SUMMARY of the Article, South Asia's Smog, by Jamil
Ahmad, Dawn

CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs CSS PAST PAPER QUIZZES

2023 October Sep August July June May April Mar Feb Jan
2022 Dec Nov Oct Sep Aug July June May April Mar Feb Jan
2021 Dec Nov Oct Sep Aug Jul Jun May April Mar Feb Jan
2020 Dec Nov Oct Sep Aug Jul Jun May April Mar Feb Jan

PPSC, FPSC Past Papers Sub Inspector MCQs Paper

Here, you can seek Current Affairs MCQs for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. Covering issues of Pakistan including political, economic, and social affairs, as well as the country's relations with neighbours and global entities.

Current Affairs MCQs CSS Past Paper Quizzes

Domestic Affairs MCQs

Our repository offers MCQs covering Pakistan's Domestic Affairs such as Political, Economic, and Social Issues.

External Affairs MCQs

MCQs of Pakistan's External Affairs cover Pakistan's relations with its Neighbors (India, China, Afghanistan, Russia), the Muslim World (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Turkey) and with the United States and with Regional and International Organizations (UN, SAARC, ECO, OIC, WTO, CW).

Global Issues Multiple Choice Questions

We also have a broad range of Global Issues Multiple Choice Questions. Additionally, you can also

[Submit an MCQ of Current Affairs](#).

Current Affairs Online Quiz

If you are willing to take Current Affairs Online Quiz, [Click HERE](#).

MCQs of Current Affairs 2022 & 2023

Here, you can seek [Current Affairs 2021, 2022 & 2023 MCQs](#) of Pakistan Current issues 2021, 2022 & year 2023. Pakistan Current Affairs sample test and practise questions for job Test. Current Affairs of Pakistan, first in Pakistan, Important issues, current govt etc. Here you will find updated Current affairs of Pakistan Mcqs.

Furthermore, there are lots of Global Issues Multiple Choice Questions. You can also Submit [MCQ of Current Affairs](#). If you are willing to take [Current Affairs Online Quiz](#), Click [HERE](#)

CSS Current Affairs MCQs Quiz

[CSS Current Affairs Quiz in Paper 2023](#) 

[CSS Current Affairs Quiz in Paper 2022](#) 

[CSS Current Affairs Quiz in Paper 2021](#) 

[CSS Current Affairs Quiz in Paper 2020](#)

[CSS Current Affairs Quiz in Paper 2019](#)

[CSS Current Affairs Quiz in Paper 2018](#)

[CSS Current Affairs Quiz in Paper 2017](#)

[CSS Current Affairs Quiz in Paper 2016](#)

[CSS Current Affairs Quiz in Paper 2015](#)



[Click Here for Online MCQs Quiz Now](#)

[Click Here to Submit MCQs](#)

[Log In](#)

[Register](#) if you don't have an Account.

| [Compulsory MCQs](#) | | [Optional MCQs](#) | | [CSS Syllabus 2022](#) | | [Past Paper MCQs](#) | |

[Home](#)