

EPA

اداره تحفظ ماحول حکومت پنجاب
An ISO Certified Agency

UNFOLDING THE HORIZONS 2025



Prepared by
Strategy and Analysis Wing Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab

NOTE FOR READERS:

This report presents a brief overview of the key initiatives undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Punjab during 2025 to improve environmental governance and pollution control across the province. It highlights major policy directions and actions without going into operational details. Readers seeking comprehensive information on enforcement actions, smog mitigation measures, and other sector specific interventions are encouraged to consult the State of the Environment Report 2025.

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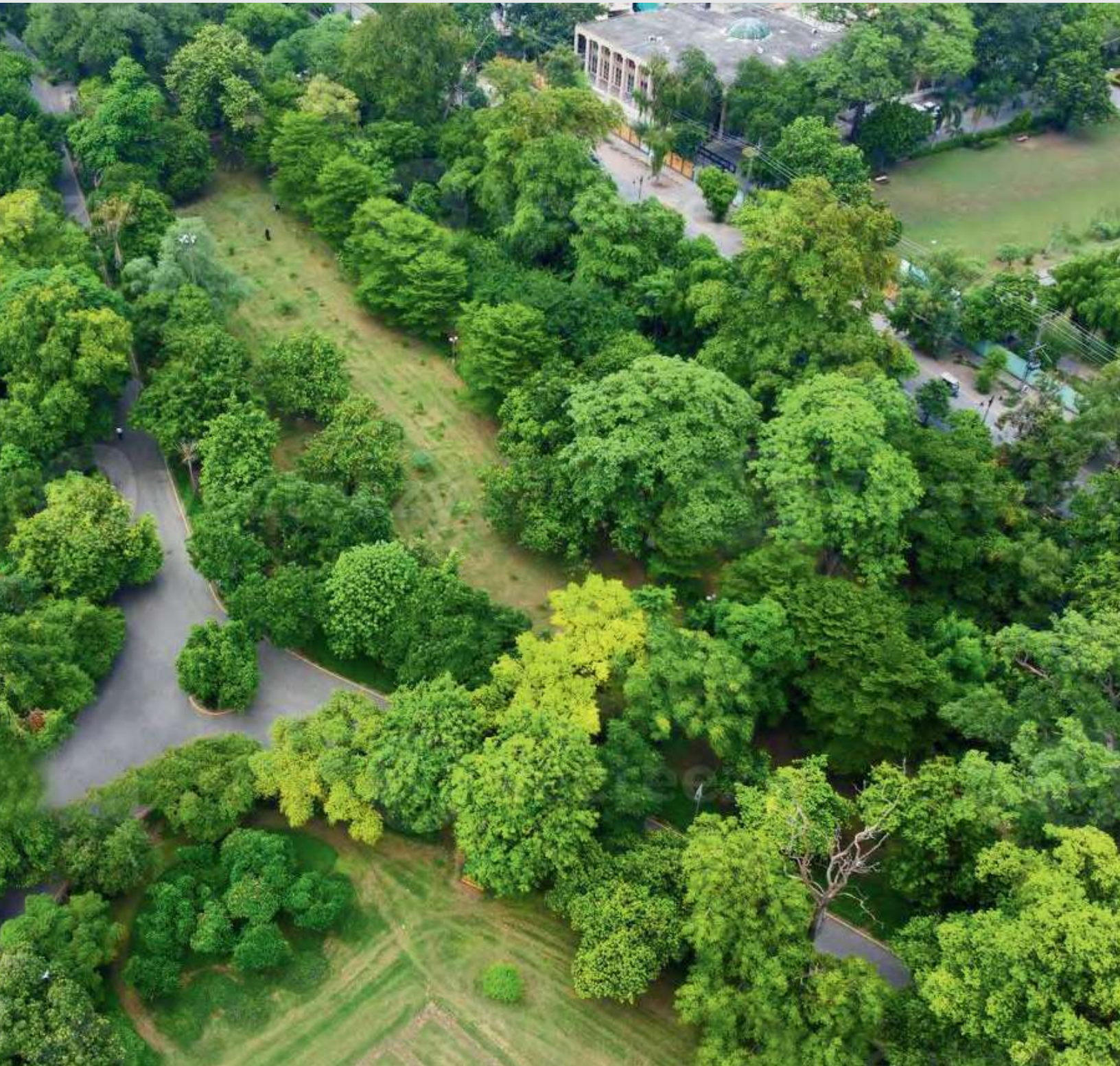
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1. Introduction

Environmental degradation has emerged as one of the most critical development challenges facing Pakistan, particularly in Punjab province, which is home to over half of the country's population and a substantial share of its industrial and agricultural activity. Rapid urbanization, industrial expansion, vehicular growth, and unsustainable resource use have resulted in severe air pollution, water scarcity, waste management crises, and public health risks. Among these challenges, smog episodes in major cities such as Lahore have attracted global attention due to their intensity and persistence.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab serves as the principal regulatory authority responsible for implementing environmental laws, enforcing pollution control standards, and promoting sustainable development. Operating under the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, EPA Punjab is mandated to regulate emissions, oversee industrial compliance, conduct environmental impact assessments, and raise public awareness regarding environmental protection.





EPA is building on its successes through reliable and effective legislation about environment protection and high quality service delivery. EPA sustains qualitative and quantitative standards for the discharge of effluents, wastes, air emissions or noise either for general applicability or for a particular area or from a particular source in the form of Punjab Environmental Quality Standards (PEQS) and other standards established under the laws, rules and regulations.

Punjab's environmental challenges are deeply rooted in its socio economic structure. The province hosts thousands of industrial units, extensive agricultural operations, dense urban centers, and a rapidly growing vehicle fleet. Historically, environmental regulation in Punjab suffered from weak enforcement, limited institutional capacity, inadequate monitoring infrastructure, and low public awareness. Prior to recent reforms, EPA Punjab faced several constraints, including Limited technical and human resources, Fragmented data collection systems, insufficient coordination with other government departments, Weak compliance culture among industries and the public.

These challenges contributed to persistent air pollution, contamination of surface and groundwater, and degradation of urban living conditions. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the provincial government initiated a series of reforms aimed at strengthening EPA Punjab's institutional capacity and regulatory authority, culminating in the intensified actions observed in 2025. This report documents and analyzes the major achievements of EPA Punjab in 2025, providing a comprehensive account of initiatives undertaken and their impacts on environmental governance in Punjab.



2. 2025 from the Lens of EPA Punjab

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is committed to monitoring, managing, and improving environmental conditions across Punjab through a comprehensive suite of initiatives. These initiatives focus on air quality monitoring, water management, and pollution control, ensuring sustainable development and public health protection.

The year 2025 marked a significant milestone for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in strengthening environmental governance, enhancing regulatory enforcement, and promoting sustainable development. In response to increasing environmental challenges such as air pollution, water scarcity, industrial emissions, plastic waste, and climate change, the EPA implemented a series of innovative, technology driven, and community focused initiatives. This report presents a comprehensive overview of key actions, programs, and enforcement measures undertaken during this year.



The cumulative impact of EPA Punjab's initiatives in 2025 reflects a systemic transformation in environmental governance. Key characteristics of this transformation include:

- Shift from reactive to proactive regime
- Multi Sectoral Approach
- Data driven preemption
- Informed decision making
- Public involvement and transparency
- Ease of doing business
- Integration of science and technology into policymaking
- Strengthened enforcement and compliance culture
- Enhanced institutional credibility and capacity

Together, these achievements positioned EPA Punjab as one of the most proactive environmental regulatory bodies in Pakistan.



3. Digital Interventions

Digital interventions in EPA Punjab focus on the use of technology to strengthen environmental governance, improve monitoring and enhance regulatory efficiency. Through digital platforms, real time monitoring systems, online compliance tools and data driven dashboards. EPA Punjab ensures transparency, timely decision making and effective oversight of environmental standards while reducing manual processes and improving institutional performance.





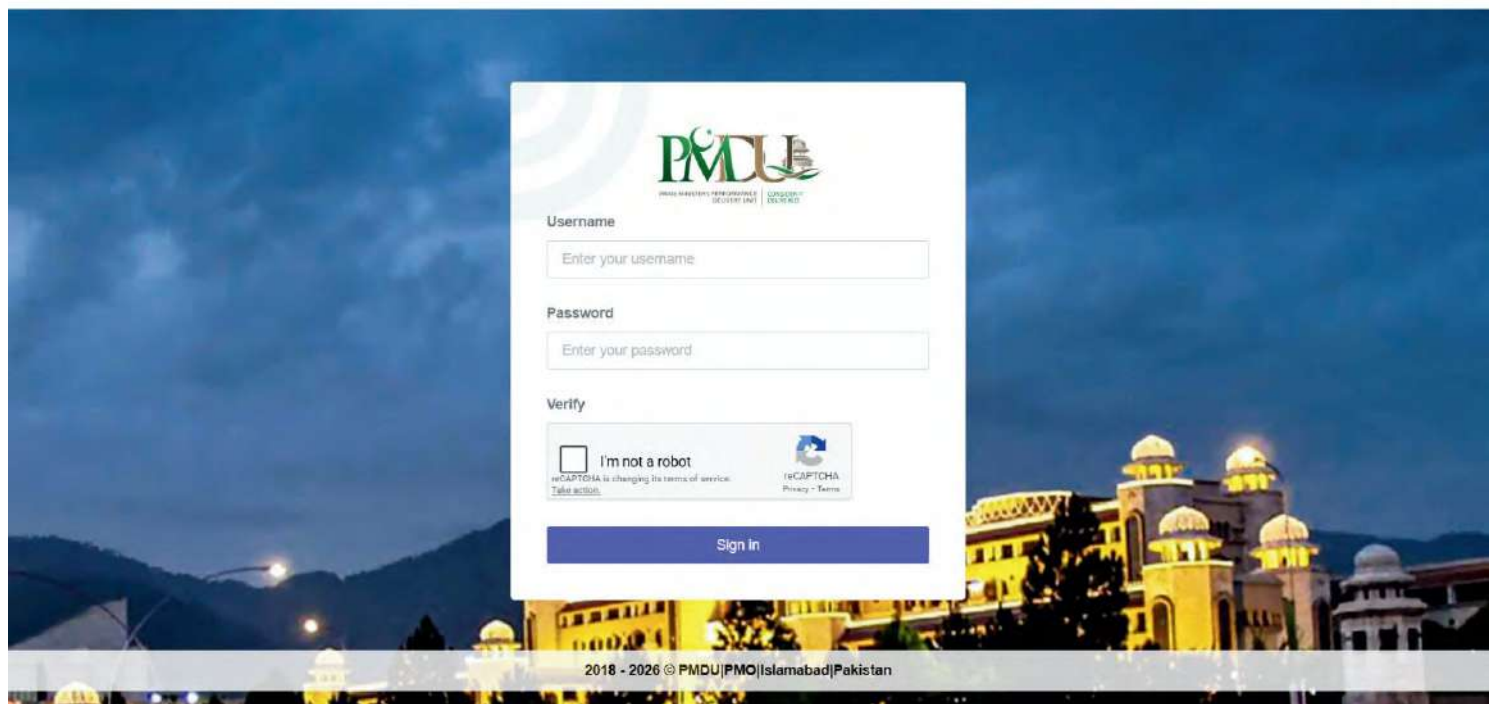
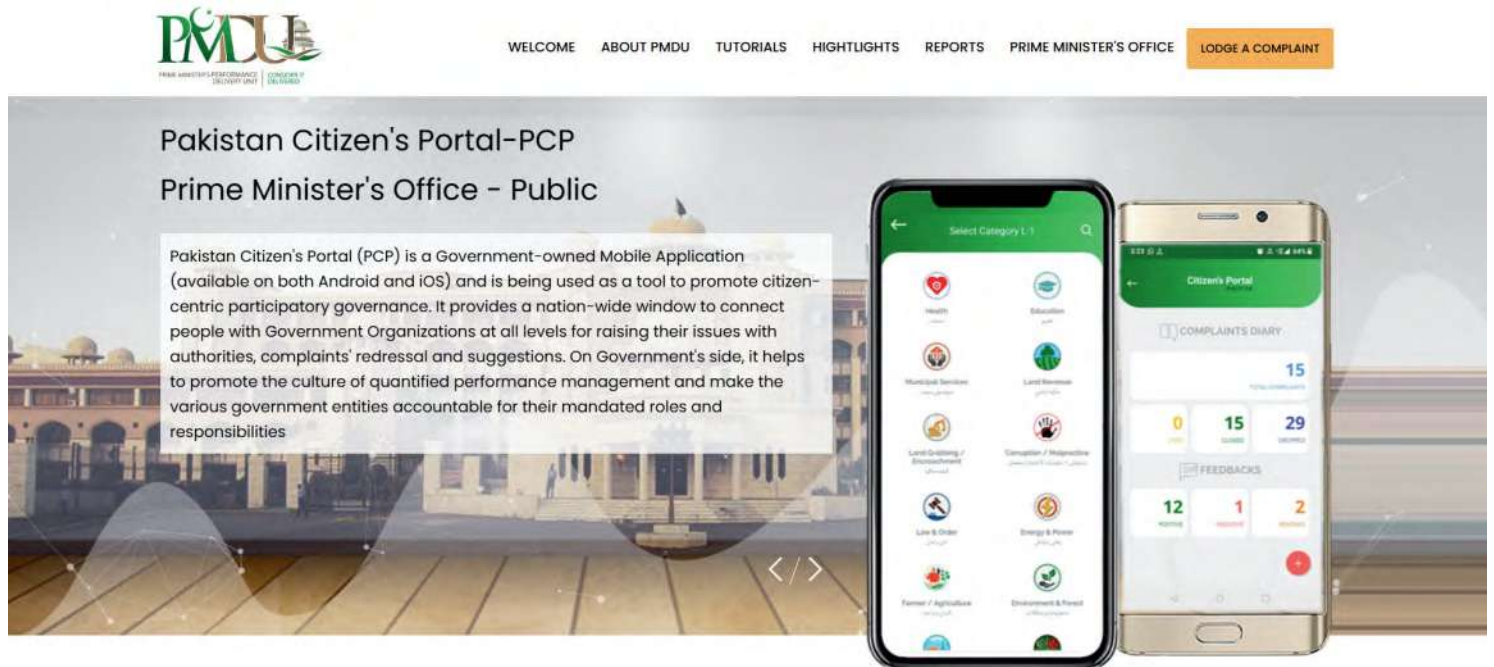


3.1. Establishment of IT Support Unit

Digital interventions in EPA Punjab focus on the use of technology to strengthen environmental governance, improve monitoring and enhance regulatory efficiency. Through digital platforms, real time monitoring systems, online compliance tools and data driven dashboards. EPA Punjab ensures transparency, timely decision making and effective oversight of environmental standards while reducing manual processes and improving institutional performance.

3.2. Internal Accountability Dashboard

To enhance transparency and track progress, the Internal Accountability Dashboard has been established by EPA Punjab to provide a centralized platform to monitor and report on key environmental initiatives, enforcement actions and progress towards achieving environmental goals. This Dashboard ultimately contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment in Punjab.

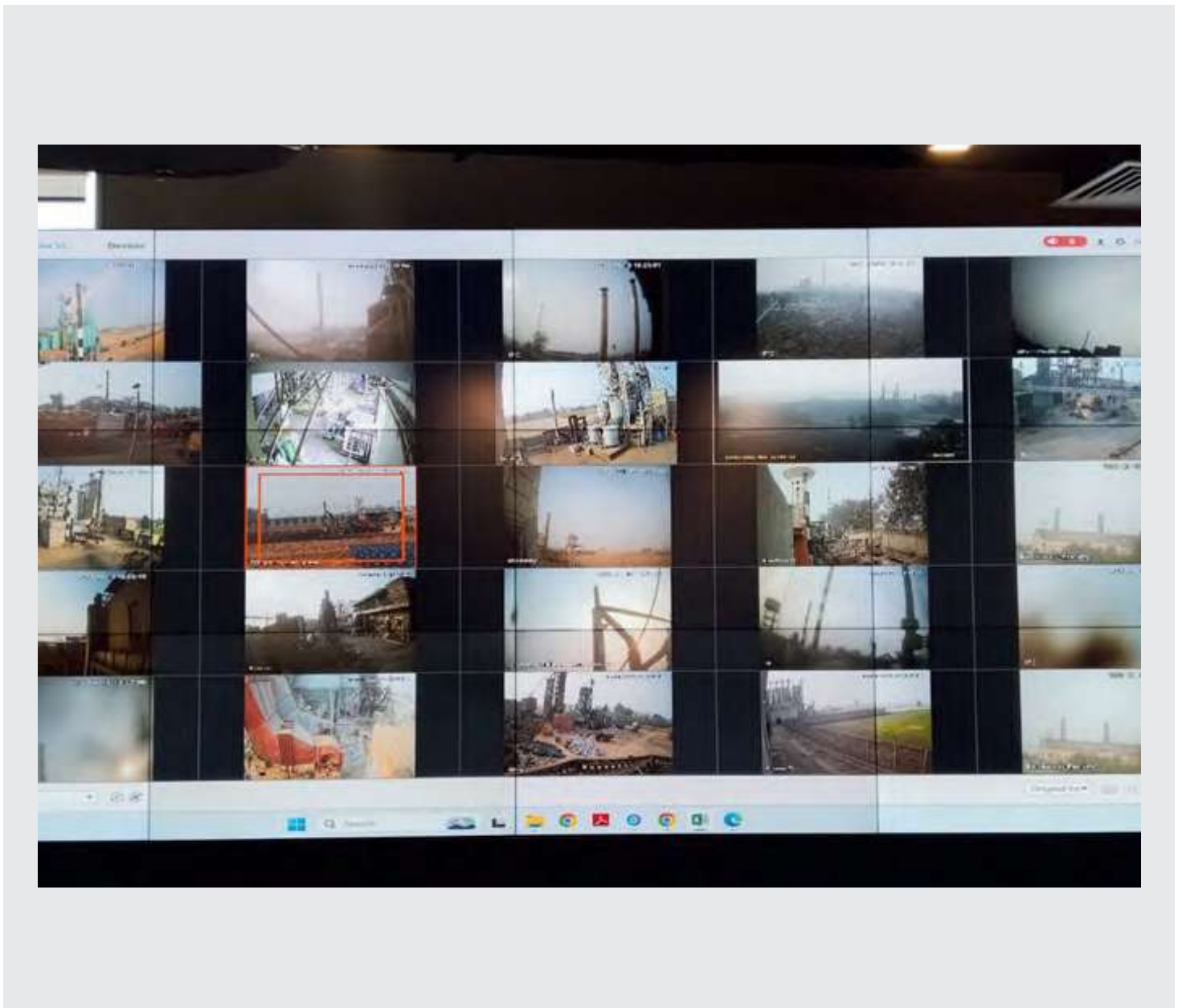


Internal Accountability Dashboard

3.3. Digital Transformation and Smart Environmental Governance

Traditional inspection and monitoring systems were often manual, fragmented, and vulnerable to inefficiencies. To address these limitations, EPA Punjab embraced digital transformation in 2025 as a means to enhance transparency and effectiveness.

Industrial stack monitoring is being upgraded with high-definition cameras linked directly to the 1373 Helpline and the Climate Watch Hub. This connectivity allows for real-time visual monitoring of smoke opacity.

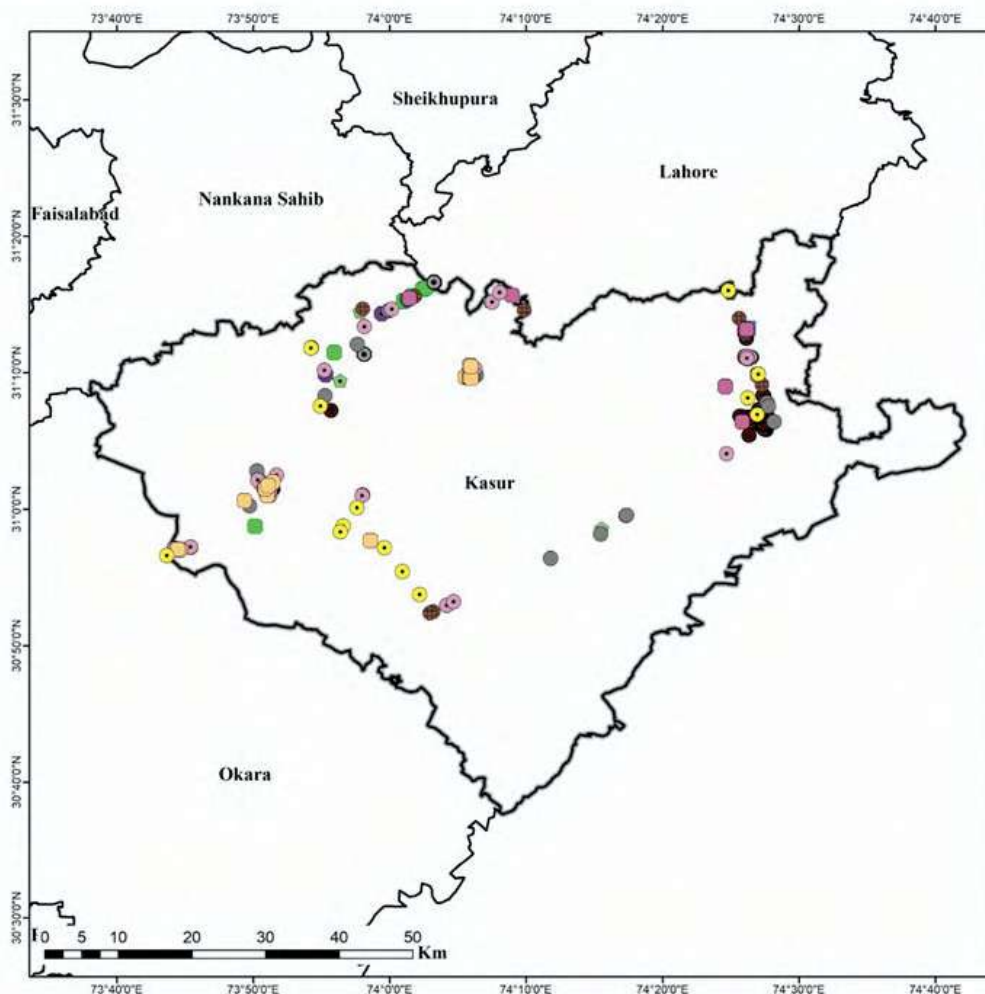


3.3.1. Digital Monitoring Systems

EPA Punjab introduced digital tools including:

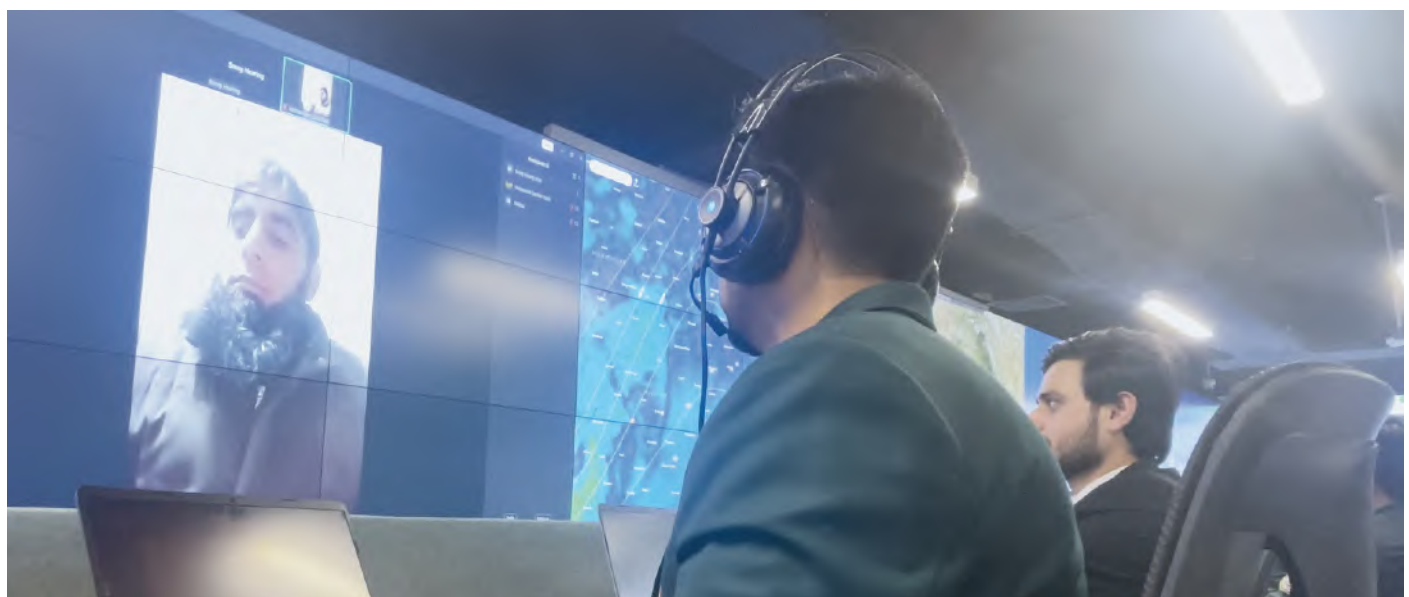
- Industrial mapping and geo tagging
- Drone based surveillance of pollution hotspots
- Real time emissions monitoring

These systems enabled inspectors to upload data instantly, reducing delays and manipulation. Digital governance improved inspection efficiency, transparency and strengthened data driven decision making. The availability of real time data enhanced policy planning and public accountability.



3.4. Online Adjudication Hub

The Online Adjudication Hub at EPA Punjab is a digital platform established to streamline the adjudication of environmental hearing. It enables online hearings, case submissions, and document sharing, ensuring faster resolution of environmental violations and assessment matters. The hub enhances transparency, efficiency, and accessibility, reduces administrative delays and strengthens enforcement of environmental laws through a modern, technology driven mechanism.



3.4.1. Digital Compliance Verification System

In EPA Punjab, after the primary hearing in the Online Adjudication Hub, the confirmation of compliance by a violator is verified within 24 hours, enabling swift closure of cases and timely enforcement. For the first time in Punjab, EPA has linked the confirmation of compliance mechanism allowing premises or equipment to be operational promptly once adherence to environmental regulations is verified. This innovation enhances accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the agency's enforcement system.



3.5. Online Industrial Monitoring

Online Industrial Monitoring through CCTV Cameras with AI and Machine Learning capabilities to set an alarm in case of any violations, especially in the context of environmental regulations. Online industrial monitoring through CCTV cameras provides a modern, efficient, and enforceable approach to control industrial pollution, ensure compliance, and protect the environment.

The impact of online industrial monitoring are:

1. Transparency and Accountability:

Industries are aware that monitoring is continuous, reducing violations.

2. Cost Effective Supervision:

Minimizes the need for frequent on site inspections by officials.

3. Rapid Response:

EPA teams can intervene immediately in case of violations.

4. Data Driven Decision Making:

Recorded footage and sensor data provide evidence for fines, warnings, or corrective actions.

5. Environmental Protection:

Helps reduce air, water, and soil pollution by enforcing compliance strictly.




Violation




Sealed



3.6. e-FOAS

EPA Punjab is fully transformed its internal functions, file movements, notes, drafts etc on Government of The Punjab's online filing system e-FOAS that allows reducing paperwork and speeding up processing. For the first time, EPA Punjab is issuing QR-coded NOCs through this system, ensuring easy verification, enhanced transparency, and secure authentication of environmental approval certificates, showcasing the agency's commitment to digital innovation and efficient service delivery.

 e-FOAS


SIGN IN

 USER NAME

 PASSWORD 




[Configure Password Recovery](#) [Recover Password](#)

Remember Me

q f x z m 

ENTER CAPTCHA

LOG IN

Or login with   

Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB)

3.7. Human Resource Management Information System

The Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Punjab is a digital platform designed to streamline and modernize HR processes within the agency. Its primary purpose is to improve efficiency, transparency and accuracy in managing employee data, payroll, leaves, performance evaluations and training records. By centralizing HR information and automating routine tasks.



The image shows the login interface for the Punjab HRMS. At the top, there is a blue header with the Punjab HRMS logo and the text "Punjab HRMS". Below the header, a blue bar contains the text "Sign in to start your session". The main content area is white and contains three input fields: "Email" with an envelope icon, "Password" with a lock icon, and a CAPTCHA field displaying the numbers "7 5 6 6 3". Below the CAPTCHA field is a text input field labeled "Enter CAPTCHA". At the bottom right, there is a blue "Sign in" button.

3.7.1. Performance Evaluation Reports

EPA Punjab became the first attached department to fully regularize all Performance Evaluation Reports (PERs) through HRMIS. This initiative has removed long standing bottlenecks in officers' performance evaluation and ensured the timely submission of PERs, while clearly establishing accountability of both reporting and countersigning officers. As a result, unnecessary delays have been minimized, promoting transparency, efficiency and a more accountable performance management system.



3.8. EPA Punjab Industrial Directory

The Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), maintains a comprehensive industrial directory data base that contain detailed information on industrial establishments, including their geographic location and contact information, the nature of products manufactured.

INVENTORY DASHBOARD DEVELOPED BY SAW

Login

Enter your Email Address and password to login

Email address

Password

[Sign in](#)

3.9. Environmental Approval Management System

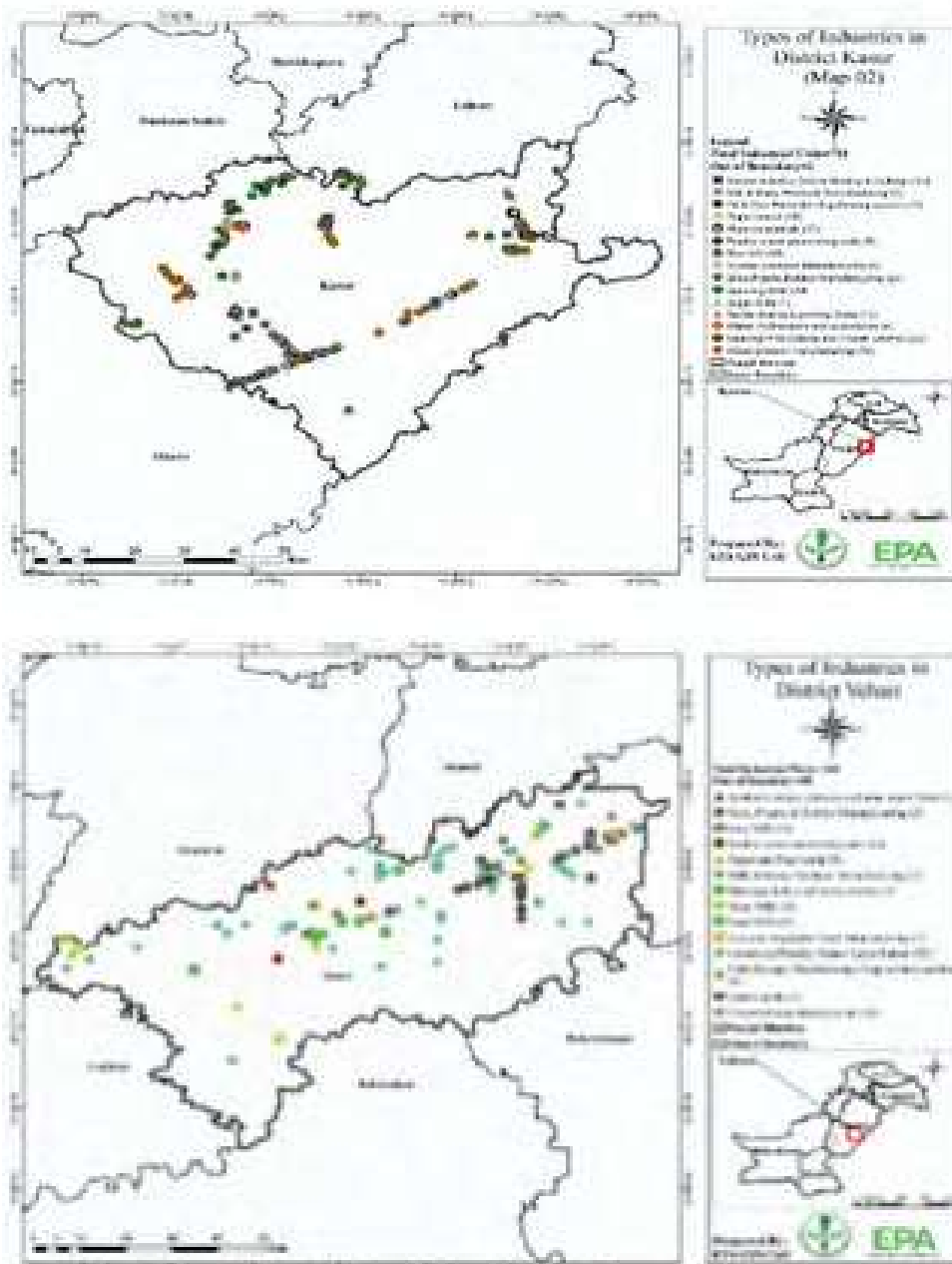
The Environmental Approval Management System (EAMS) in EPA Punjab is a pioneering digital platform that streamlines and monitors environmental approvals across the province. For the first time in Punjab, EPA has established digital submission of EIA and IEE reports covering all 41 districts of Punjab. Through EAMS, applicants can track the step by step process of approvals and receive timely updates via email, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and accountability.

The system is also integrated with the Planning Support System under the Environmental Management System (EMS) of EPA Punjab enabling improved coordination, data sharing and informed decision making for environmental management.

Id	File No.	Title of Project.	Submission Date	Review	Review Issuance Date / Reply Receiving Date	SIR Issue Date/ Reply Receiving Date	Final Status	Current Status	Industry / District	Actions	SIR	Scrutiny Letters
26525	34/HQ-RWP/IEE/2026	Ouhong Dongcheng (Pvt) Ltd	16-01-2026					File is Submitted for Preliminary Scrutiny	Rawalpindi	Show		No scrutiny letters uploaded yet.

3.10. Unique Identification & E Mapping of Industries

The Environmental Protection Agency has successfully assigned Unique Identification (ID) Numbers to each industrial unit and completed comprehensive electronic (E mapping) of industrial units across Punjab. This project represents a major step toward digital monitoring, environmental compliance, and sustainable industrial management. The E mapping system enables real time tracking of industrial locations, operational status, and environmental compliance, strengthening environmental governance across the province.



E Mapping



EPA Certified Lab Portal

District Name:

Select District

Name of EPA Certified Lab *

Select One

Name of Authorized Person *

Enter Name of Authorized Person



Enter Captcha

Verify

Powered by Punjab Information Technology Board

3.11. Certified Private Lab Digital Portal

EPA Punjab has launched a digital application system for laboratory certification to streamline and improve the transparency of the process. Through this online portal, private laboratories submit complete applications along with details of all collected samples and required documentation. After submission, the system automatically forwards the application to the relevant district office for technical review, verification and further action, ensuring an efficient and standardized certification process across Punjab.

3.12. Digital Revamping in EPA Punjab





3.12.1. Revamping of Eco Watch App (Unique ID Integration)

A core feature of the Eco Watch App revamp is the integration of a Unique ID-based system for every brick kiln and industrial unit in Punjab. This permanent identifier eliminates data duplication and ensures a transparent digital trail for every inspection and violation, streamlining industrial compliance tracking.



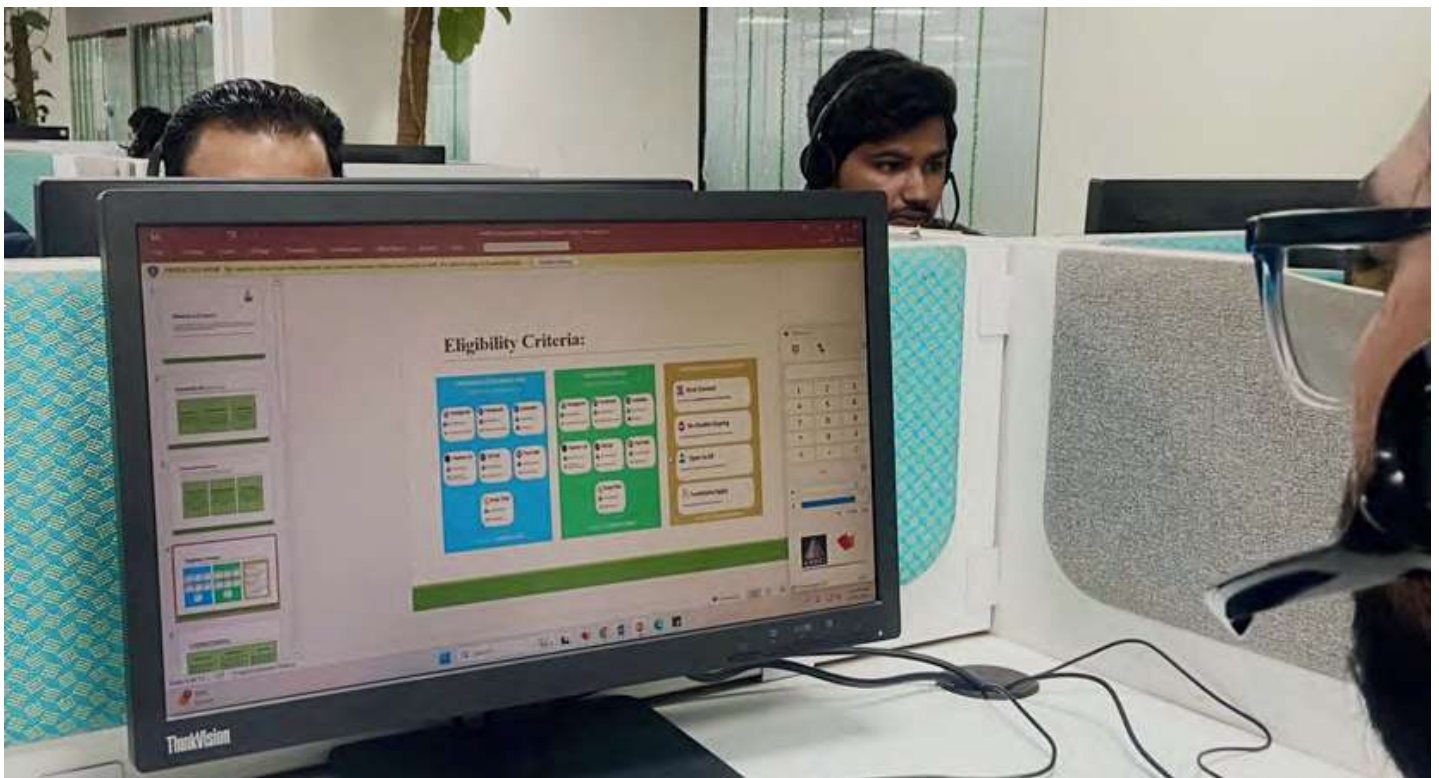
Industry Unique ID



Brick Kiln Unique ID

3.12.2. Revamping of 1373 Helpline

The 1373 Helpline has been revamped into a modern CRM-based system that automatically categorizes citizen complaints regarding emissions and illegal industrial activities.



3.12.3. Revamping of Green Punjab Application

The Green Punjab Application is being redesigned as a comprehensive citizen-engagement platform that allows users to report violations with geo-tagged photos and real-time location data.


Green Punjab

Login To Your Account

Phone No/Email فون نمبر

phone no/ email

Password پاسورڈ

Write here 

[Forgot Password?](#)

Login

Continue as Guest user

Not have an account? [Sign Up](#)

 **Contact Us**

Green Punjab App

3.12.4. Planning Support System & EAMS Integration

The Planning Support System (PSS) is being integrated with the Environmental Assets Management System (EAMS) to translate complex data into actionable policy. By combining GIS Based mouza level mapping remove the un-necessary steps of SIRs.

The screenshot displays the EPA's web portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Listings', and 'Add Approvals' buttons, along with a search icon and 'Options for Current User' link. Below this is a section titled 'eSIR Particular' with an 'Upload Kml' field containing 'Untitled L...Kml' and a 'Change' button, and a 'Generate PDF' button.

The main content area features the 'Automated Zoning Report' for the 'Local Government and Community Development Department Punjab'. It includes logos for 'District Management Unit' and 'EPA An ISO Certified Agency'.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant		Date of Application	
District Name	Sahiwal, Sahiwal	Local Govt.	District Council Sahiwal, Municipal Corporation Sahiwal
Address			

Boundary Under Review

The following map displays the existing KML boundary of the land submitted by applicant:

SEARCH AREA :30537.1-ACRE

Boundary Coordinates:

```

72.92175292968751
30.702722092672076,73.06045532226564
30.716898347731924,73.06457519531251
30.621168217326172,72.97393798828126
30.6034300107029,72.92175292968751
30.702722092672076
                    
```

Zoning Breakdown and Overlay on Land Use Plan

This section presents the overlay analysis and distribution of subject land as per approved Land Use Plan.

4. Institutional Reforms





4.1. ISO 9001 Certification and Quality Management Systems

One of the most notable achievements of EPA Punjab in 2025 was obtaining ISO 9001 certification, making it the first provincial environmental agency in Pakistan to meet this international quality management standard. ISO certification is specifically for EIA Process. The certification process required EPA Punjab to undertake comprehensive organizational reforms, including the documentation of procedures, standardization of workflows, and establishment of performance evaluation mechanisms.

This initiative involved extensive staff training, internal audits, and restructuring of administrative processes. Inspection protocols, complaint handling systems, enforcement actions, and reporting mechanisms were aligned with international best practices. The adoption of a quality management system ensured consistency in decision making and reduced procedural ambiguities.



The ISO certification significantly enhanced EPA Punjab institutional credibility, both domestically and internationally. It improved transparency, reduced delays in regulatory processes, and strengthened accountability mechanisms. For industries and stakeholders, the certification signaled a more predictable and professional regulatory environment, while for the public, it increased confidence in the agency's ability to address environmental grievances.

4.2. Reviving the Institutional Identity of EPA Punjab through a New Logo

EPA Punjab undertook a significant step toward reviving and modernizing its institutional identity through the introduction of a new official logo. This initiative reflects the department's renewed vision, strengthened commitment, and forward looking approach to environmental governance. The adoption of the new logo symbolizes organizational reform, professionalism, and enhanced public engagement, while ensuring uniform branding across all official correspondence, digital platforms, and communications.



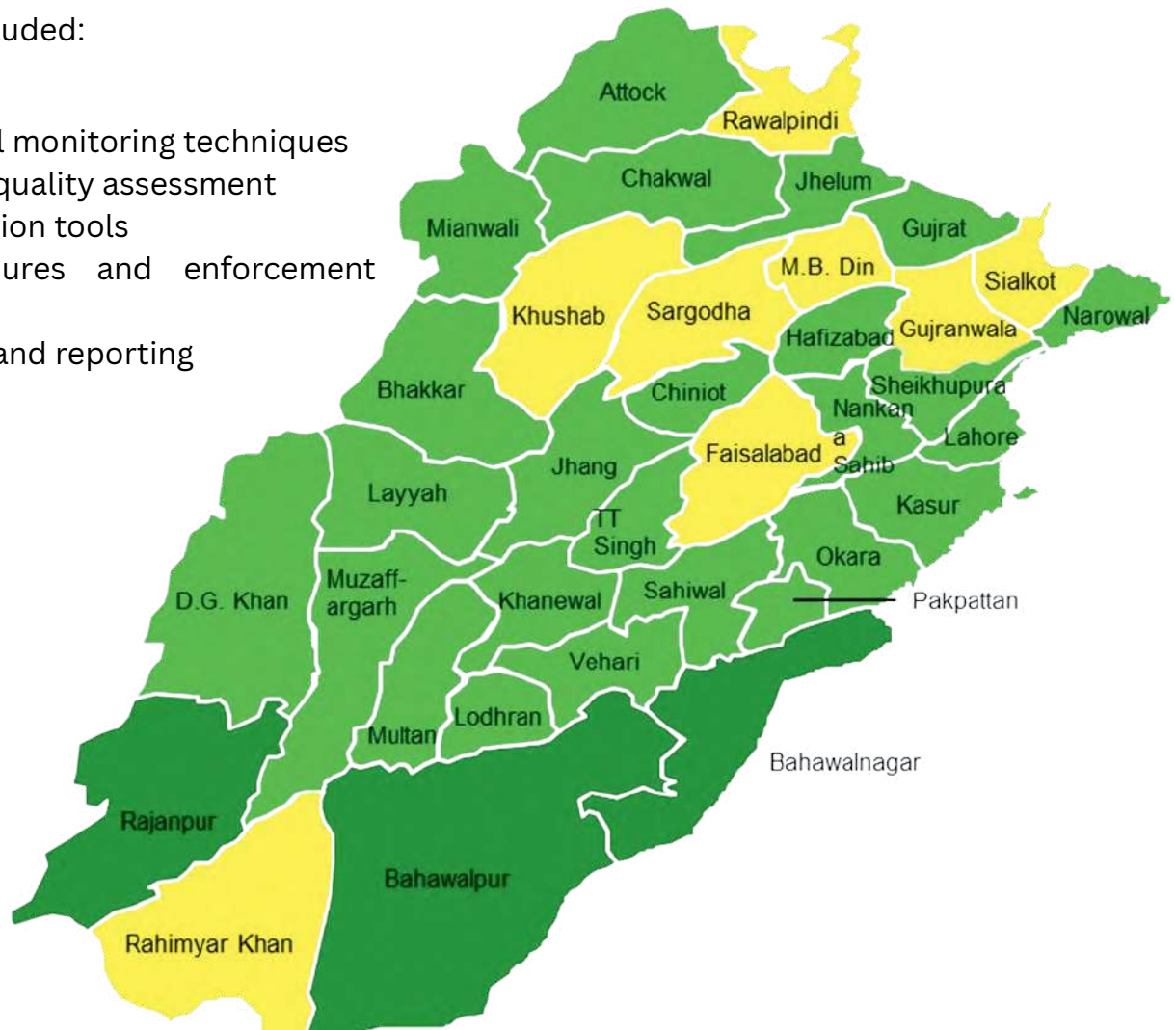
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An ISO Certified Agency

4.3. Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

In 2025, EPA Punjab invested heavily in strengthening its human resource base. Recognizing that effective environmental regulation depends on technical expertise and professional competence, the agency conducted specialized training programs for inspectors, scientists, and administrative staff.

Training areas included:

- Environmental monitoring techniques
- Air and water quality assessment
- Digital inspection tools
- Legal procedures and enforcement protocols
- Data analysis and reporting



Enhanced staff capacity improved the quality of inspections, reduced reliance on external consultants, and enabled EPA Punjab to respond more effectively to complex environmental challenges. The professional development of staff also contributed to institutional sustainability by building long term expertise within the agency.

4.4. District wise Ranking of Environmental Officers

In 2025, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Punjab introduced, for the first time, a district wise ranking system based on Key Performance Indicators of Environment District officers. This initiative marks a significant step toward better progress and develop a sense of competition amongst the Environmental Officers posted in different Districts of Punjab.



PERFORMANCE CONTRACT AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY

22.09.2025





4.5 Introduction of Performance Agreements for Officers

EPA Punjab, for the first time, introduced a performance-based accountability framework by requiring all officers to sign formal performance agreements. Through this initiative, clear targets, responsibilities, and performance indicators were defined to enhance efficiency, transparency, and institutional accountability. The performance agreements aim to align individual officer performance with departmental objectives, strengthen monitoring mechanisms, and ensure timely and effective enforcement of environmental laws. This landmark step reflects EPA Punjab's commitment to improving governance, fostering a results-oriented culture, and delivering measurable environmental outcomes.

4.6. Launching of Environmental Protection Force

In 2025, the EPA launched and operationalized the first uniform Environmental Protection Force (EPF) for the very first time in the history of department to strengthen on ground enforcement of environmental laws. The force is playing a vital role in conducting inspections, sealing non compliant units, responding to environmental complaints, and supporting anti smog operations. Equipped with modern tools and legal authority, the EPF enhanced compliance, deterrence, and rapid response across urban and industrial zones. The government of Punjab has provided the environmental protection force with advanced tools and equipments to tackle environmental challenges. These include E bikes, Tabs, Plastic film thickness gauge, PH meter, safety helmet, safety goggles and N 95 mask.





Environment Protection Force

4.7. Air Quality Monitoring System

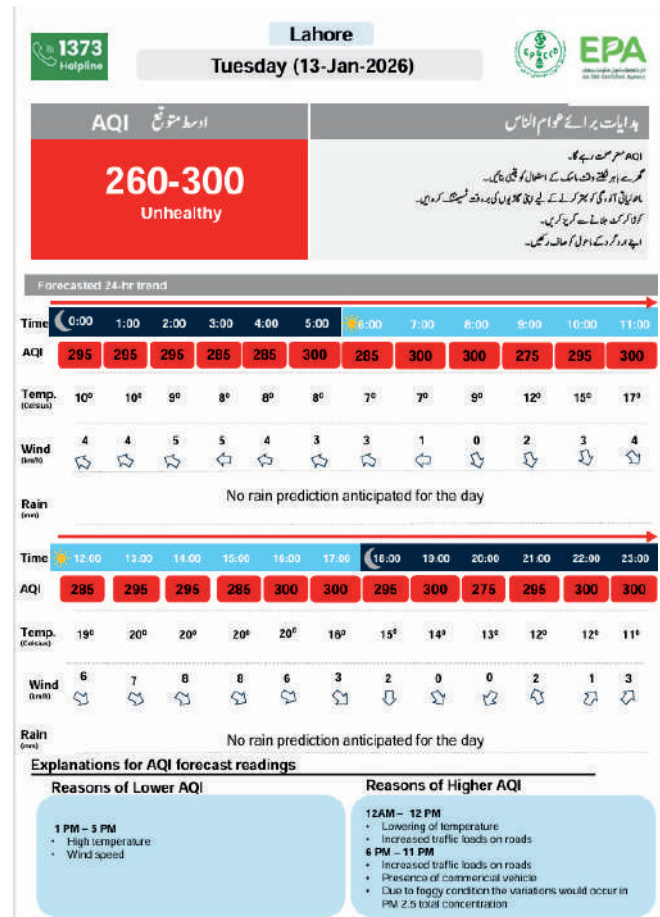


The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) operates a province wide Air Quality Monitoring System (AQMS) to systematically measure, monitor, and control air pollution across Punjab. The primary objective of this system is to assess the overall environmental conditions of the province. In support of this objective, the EPA has installed 46 Air Quality Monitoring Stations across 18 districts of Punjab. These stations conduct continuous, real time monitoring of local air quality and environmental parameters. The data collected are utilized to generate hourly Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts through in house dashboards, which are made publicly available to ensure transparency and informed public awareness.

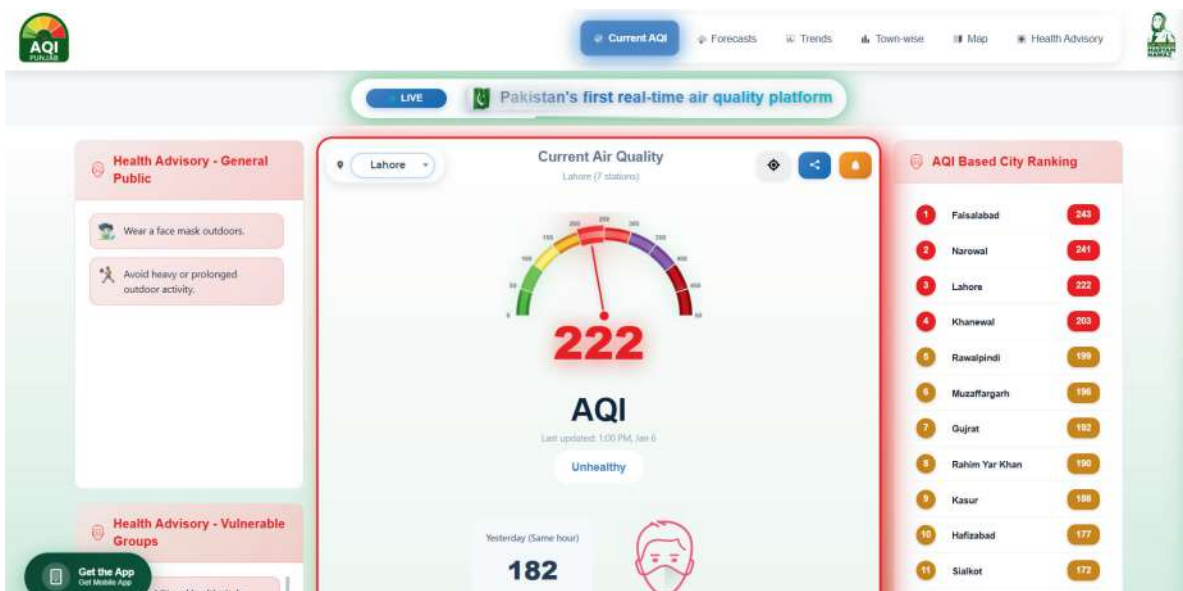
4.8. Development of Advanced Air Quality Index (AQI) Forecasting Model

Air pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental issues in Punjab. In 2025, EPA Punjab introduced an advanced AQI forecasting model designed to predict air quality trends and smog episodes. This model integrated data from ground based monitoring stations, meteorological forecasts, emissions inventories, and satellite observations. Unlike previous systems that focused primarily on real time reporting, the new forecasting model emphasized predictive capability, enabling authorities to anticipate pollution spikes several days in advance.

The forecasting model transformed air quality management by enabling proactive interventions such as temporary industrial shutdowns, traffic restrictions, and public health advisories. It reduced reliance on emergency responses and strengthened policy planning. Moreover, the availability of reliable forecasts improved public awareness and encouraged behavioral changes among citizens.



Forecasting



Real Time AQI

4.9. Inter Departmental Coordination and Governance Integration

Environmental challenges are inherently cross sectoral, requiring cooperation among multiple government departments. In 2025, EPA Punjab enhanced coordination with departments such as transport, agriculture, industries, health, Safe City, RUDA, PITB and local government.



4.9.1 Mechanisms for Coordination

Coordination mechanisms included:

- Joint task forces for smog mitigation
- Data sharing arrangements
- Integrated enforcement operations
- Policy alignment across departments
- Help Desk at Chamber of Commerce and Industries in Several Districts of Punjab EPA

Punjab played a central coordinating role, ensuring environmental considerations were integrated into broader governance processes. Improved coordination reduced policy fragmentation, enhanced enforcement effectiveness, and enabled comprehensive responses to environmental challenges. It also strengthened the overall governance framework for environmental protection in Punjab.



MOU with PSCA



MOU with RUDA



MOU with PITB



Helpdesk at LCCI

4.9.2 Director General's Conference

The Director General EPA Punjab convened a conference in 2025, for the first time, inviting his counterpart from all EPAs to review and present their respective team performances and key initiatives undertaken during the year. The conference provided a platform for comprehensive presentations on departmental achievements followed by a mutual dialogue and exchange of ideas aimed at improving coordination and effectiveness. The primary objective of this conference was to build stronger liaison, enhance interaction among all EPAs and promote collaborative approaches for improved environmental governance.





4.10. Environmental Reforms in Educational Institutions

Educational institutions play a critical role in shaping societal values and behaviors. EPA Punjab recognized that instilling environmental responsibility among students could yield long term benefits. In 2025, EPA Punjab mandated environmental compliance measures for schools, colleges, and universities including installation of waste segregation systems. Colour coding system has 5 distinct categories in which yellow for paper, green for glass, grey for organic, red for metal and orange for plastic waste.

Institutions were inspected regularly, and non compliance resulted in penalties. These reforms raised environmental awareness among students and staff, promoted sustainable practices, and created environmentally responsible campuses. Over time, these measures are expected to influence community behavior beyond institutional boundaries.



4.11. Environmental Education Book

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab launched a children’s story book called “Our Earth, Our Responsibility” to help teach kids about environmental protection and our role in caring for the planet. This book contains unique expressions of alphabets and awareness stories about environmental issues including topics like plastic waste, tree plantation and waste water. Children’s storybooks like this help young learners connect emotionally to caring for the planet, understanding topics such as clean air, water, nature conservation and waste reduction. Making them environmentally responsible inhabitants of earth.



4.12. Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health

The Second World Health Organization (WHO) Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health held in Cartagena, Colombia in March 2025. WHO recognized two success stories as effective examples of clean-air action one of which was EPA Punjab's success in improving air quality management and outcomes. This recognition highlighted EPA Punjab's initiatives in monitoring, policy implementation, and enforcement that have contributed to measurable progress toward cleaner air.



GLOBAL APPRECIATION OF EPA
Success Story Presented in International Air Quality Conference In Columbia
March 2025



4.13. Participation in COP 30

Pakistan actively represented itself at COP30 in Brazil, highlighting the country's severe vulnerability to climate change and its ongoing efforts toward environmental resilience. Punjab's Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif led the delegation, emphasizing Pakistan's need for stronger climate financing, green energy transitions, and support for adaptation measures despite contributing minimally to global emissions. During the conference, the Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also established a "Punjab Pavilion", showcasing provincial climate action initiatives such as waste management reforms, air quality improvement projects, and sustainable development programs. The pavilion served as a platform for engaging international partners and presenting Pakistan's climate challenges and home grown solutions to the global community.



4.14. International Collaboration

EPA Punjab participated in the World Economic Business Forum for the first time, representing Pakistan and presenting the province’s Clean and Green Punjab initiatives on a global platform. This marked an important step in showcasing Punjab’s efforts in environmental protection, pollution control and sustainable development. Additionally, EPA Punjab has been actively collaborating with international organizations including IQ Air and other partners to improve air quality monitoring and implement advanced environmental solutions, reinforcing its commitment to technology driven and globally aligned environmental governance.



4.15. Collaboration with LUMS for Academic and Research Support

EPA Punjab entered into a collaboration with Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) to strengthen academic linkage, research support, and capacity building in the field of environmental protection. Under this collaboration, opportunities were created for joint research, technical assistance, student engagement, and knowledge sharing to support evidence-based policymaking and effective environmental regulation.



4.16. Drought Management Plan by EPA Punjab



For the first time, EPA Punjab took a proactive role in drought management by initiating coordinated measures to assess, monitor, and address the impacts of drought across the province. This landmark initiative focused on evaluating environmental stress indicators, water scarcity trends, and ecosystem vulnerability to support informed planning and mitigation efforts.

4.17. State of Environment Report 2024

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its first in house written State of Environment report, highlighting key environmental challenges. The report assesses Punjab's environmental progress and guides policies.



4.18. Draft Legislation

Under the Punjab Environmental Protection framework, two key regulatory instruments were formulated during the year 2025 to strengthen environmental governance and industrial compliance. The Punjab Environmental Protection, Pollution Charge for Industrial Activity (Calculation and Collection) Regulation, 2025 was drafted to introduce a structured and transparent mechanism for assessing and recovering pollution charges from industrial units based on the type, extent, duration and recurrence of environmental violations. This Regulation aims to internalize environmental costs, discourage repeat non-compliance and promote cleaner production by linking financial liability with pollution load.

Punjab Environmental Protection (Handling of Hazardous Substances) Regulations, 2025 was prepared to regulate the safe handling, storage, transport, use and disposal of hazardous substances across the province. The Regulations emphasize prior authorization, risk identification, emergency preparedness, accident reporting and environmentally sound disposal practices to minimize risks to human health and the environment. Together, these regulatory initiatives reflect the Government's commitment to proactive environmental management, improved industrial accountability and strengthened protection of public health and ecological resources.





4.19. Liquid Tree

The EPA has supported the research concept of “Liquid Trees”, utilizing microalgae based systems to absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen in urban spaces where conventional tree plantation is limited.



Liquid Tree

4.20. Establishment of Center for knowledge Exchange and Policy Dialogue

This center will serve as a dedicated institutional platform for knowledge sharing, professional training, policy dialogue, research dissemination and collaboration among government departments, academia, development partners and other stakeholders on environmental and sustainability related matters.



Center for knowledge Exchange and Policy Dialogue

4.21 Institutionalization of the Volunteer Internship Program

During the reporting period, EPA Punjab institutionalized its Volunteer Internship Program to establish a standardized and well-regulated framework for engaging students and young professionals. Clear eligibility criteria, defined roles and responsibilities, and structured supervision mechanisms were introduced to ensure transparency, consistency, and effective learning outcomes





5. Enforcement





5.1. Emission Testing System

Recognizing vehicular emissions as a major contributor to smog, the Government of Punjab initiated a systematic vehicle emission testing program to mitigate air pollution. In April 2025, the Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a comprehensive vehicle emissions testing initiative in Lahore, targeting pollution originating from the transport sector. EPA Punjab is conducting the Emission Test of all LTV vehicles older than year 2022. All vehicles with models of 2022-2025 are exempted from this test.



The Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) operated a vehicle emission testing program, which was offered free of cost from mid-April to November 2025 to promote broad public participation and ensure regulatory compliance. After November 2025, testing fees were applicable for the vehicle emission testing program and were determined based on the vehicle's model year. Fee for emission testing is paid through e-pay system. All the data record is maintained through digital application instead of manual record.

Emission tests were conducted using advanced emission gas analyzers capable of measuring exhaust concentrations of various gases in percentage terms. The primary pollutant assessed under this program was carbon monoxide (CO). The EPA Punjab has prescribed an acceptable CO level less than 6% for petrol-powered vehicles. During testing, the CO concentration recorded by the advanced gas analyzer and evaluated against this regulatory standard. These analyzers provide accurate and reliable measurements of carbon monoxide emissions. Vehicles found emitting CO level equal or exceeding from 6% threshold were classified as non-compliant (unfit)

Vehicles that met the prescribed emission standards were issued a smart green sticker, serving as visible proof of compliance. Public awareness campaigns were conducted to educate motorists on vehicle maintenance and emissions control. The program increased compliance rates and reduced excessive vehicular emissions



Vehicle Emission Testing



5.2. Hawkeye Movement

The Hawk Eye vehicle is launched by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Punjab. The Hawk Eye vehicle is a specialized 360 degree live camera equipped surveillance vehicle used by the Hawk Eye Squad to monitor environmental compliance and detect violations in real time. This vehicle is a key tool in enforcement of notifications and orders issued in the larger public interest. The Hawk Eye vehicle is part of a broader environmental governance strategy introduced with the first ever Environment Protection Force (EPA) in Punjab, which includes multiple squads for specialized tasks from vehicle emissions to urban vigilance. Hawkeye vehicle moved on daily basis for compliance monitoring.

5.2.1. Strategic task assigned to Hawkeye

- Industrial hotspot monitoring
- Dust management monitoring
- Water recyclers installation monitoring
- Hotspots identification for fog Cannon Operations
- Other specialized assignments





5.3. Anti-Smog Gun

Anti-smog gun is high-powered mist spraying systems mounted on vehicles or fixed platforms that emit extremely fine water droplets into the air. EPA Punjab launched Pakistan's first ever fog canon fleet to fight smog and improve air quality. The ultra fine mist spray technology will effectively settle harmful PM10 particles, reducing level of suspended particles which improves Air Quality locally. The Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) operates 15 fog cannons in Lahore as part of its air pollution mitigation strategy. These fog cannons are operated 24 x 7 on deployment Plan specifically designed daily keeping in account the pollution hotspots in Lahore, particularly during periods of elevated air pollution which helps to reduce visible dust and particulate matter in high-traffic or construction zones and offers rapid responsive action.





Operation of Anti-Smog Gun

5.4. Smog Mitigation Strategy and Implementation

EPA Punjab implemented a comprehensive smog mitigation strategy in 2025, targeting multiple pollution sources simultaneously. The strategy involved coordinated actions across sectors, including industry, transport, construction, and agriculture.

Key measures included:

- Strict enforcement against industrial emissions
- Regulation of brick kilns
- Dust control at construction sites
- Bans on crop residue burning
- Deployment of anti smog equipment

The integrated approach resulted in measurable improvements in air quality during peak smog months. Although smog was not entirely eliminated, the reduction in pollution levels demonstrated that coordinated, sustained action can yield significant environmental and public health benefits.



Anti-Smog Gun



Water Bowser



Industry Action



Brick Kiln Action

5.5. Zero Tolerance Enforcement Policy and Industrial Pollution Control

EPA Punjab adopted a zero-tolerance enforcement policy in 2025. This policy marked a decisive shift from warnings and extensions toward strict regulatory action, emphasizing compliance through deterrence. Under the zero-tolerance framework, EPA Punjab conducted extensive inspections of industrial units across the province. Inspection teams were deployed in industrial estates, urban clusters, and peri-urban areas, focusing on high-pollution sectors such as textiles, chemicals, steel re-rolling mills, food processing, and tanneries.



5.5.1 Enforcement Actions and Legal Measures

Industries found violating environmental standards faced immediate enforcement actions. These included:

- Sealing of industrial units
- Imposition of heavy environmental fines
- Disconnection of utilities
- Registration of FIRs against repeat offenders
- Demolition of illegally operating units

EPA Punjab also initiated legal proceedings through environmental tribunals, strengthening the judicial enforcement of environmental laws. The zero tolerance policy significantly improved industrial compliance rates. Many industries invested in pollution control technologies such as scrubbers, filters to avoid penalties. The policy also altered industry behavior by signaling that environmental violations would no longer be tolerated, contributing to long-term reductions in industrial pollution



Demolition of Industry



Sealing of Industry Boiler

5.6. Brick Kiln Reforms and Emissions Reduction

Brick kilns have long been identified as a major source of air pollution in Punjab, emitting particulate matter, black carbon, sulfur dioxide, and other harmful pollutants. Traditional kiln designs were inefficient, relied on low-quality fuels, and contributed significantly to smog formation. In 2025, EPA Punjab strengthened its enforcement against brick kiln to ensure continuous operation on zig-zag technology has been done in 2025. Zigzag kilns are more energy-efficient and produce significantly lower emissions compared to conventional designs



5.6.1. Action against Polluting Brick Kiln

During ongoing inspection the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Punjab takes strict action against any brick kiln found in violation of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for zig-zag kiln technology. Brick kiln found violating environmental standards faced immediate enforcement actions. The enforcement action against brick kiln is imposition of heavy environmental fines, registration of FIRs against repeat offenders and demolition of illegally operating brick kiln.



5.6.2. Motorway Zone Compliance

A landmark achievement in 2025 was achieving 100% environmental compliance of brick kilns located along motorway zones. These areas were prioritized due to potential threat to high speed traffic on motorway. The brick kiln reforms resulted in substantial reductions in particulate emissions and black carbon levels. Improved air quality along major transport corridors enhanced public health and set a precedent for replicating kiln reforms across the province. The initiative also demonstrated the feasibility of combining regulation with technological modernization.



5.7. Formation of anti-stubble burning Squad

The formation of the Anti-Stubble Burning Squad in Punjab, Pakistan, based on EPA and government initiatives. The Squad is formed to control stubble burning, which contributes significantly to air pollution and smog in Punjab, especially during post-harvest seasons. Its main goals are:

- Monitoring and reporting instances of stubble burning.
- Coordinating awareness campaigns for farmers and local communities.
- Suggesting policy measures and incentives to promote eco-friendly alternatives

Stubble burning has been a recurring environmental issue in Punjab, causing smog in Lahore and other districts during winters. The EPA initiative marks a coordinated, multi-departmental effort to systematically tackle the problem.



Stubble Burning

5.8. Stubble Burning Control Initiative

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stepped up enforcement actions against stubble burning across the province to combat rising air pollution levels and safeguard public health. The Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched a dedicated initiative to curb stubble burning, a major contributor to air pollution in the province. This initiative focuses on prevention, monitoring, and farmer engagement to reduce the environmental and health impacts of crop residue burning.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Punjab in collaboration with the Agriculture department has provided agricultural machinery, including 5,000 super seeders, to farmers to discourage crop residue burning and promote sustainable farming practices. The EPA, Punjab has also deployed drone squad and eight e-squad for monitoring of agricultural areas and report the violations to Agriculture department.



5.9. Quick Response Center

A Quick Response Center (QRC) is a centralized hub designed to coordinate and manage immediate responses to environmental incidents and violations. Water bowzers are strategically used to control stubble burning in agricultural areas.



In 2025, the Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established 67 Quick Response Centers along the major motorways (M-2, M-3, M-4 & M-11) in 8 Stubble Burning Hotspots Districts to strengthen environmental monitoring and fire extinguishing. These centers serve as hubs for coordinating rapid inspections, deploying field teams, and ensuring timely action against environmental violations such as stubble burning. The center ensures timely decision-making, efficient allocation of resources, and real-time tracking of enforcement actions, thereby enhancing the EPA's capacity to protect public health and the environment

5.10. Mist Sprinkler System

The Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has deployed modern mist sprinkler system to reduce dust generated around construction sites as a part of anti smog measure in Lahore as construction activities are significant contributors to dust and particulate pollution. To mitigate these environmental impacts, the EPA Punjab has ensured installation of Mist Sprinkler Systems at construction sites.

These systems spray water over exposed soil, debris, and construction materials, reducing the dispersion of airborne particulate matter. By controlling dust emissions, the sprinkler systems help maintain air quality and ensure compliance with environmental standards.



Mist Sprinkler System

5.11. Drone Aerial Surveillance

EPA Punjab for the very first time introduce Thermal night vision Drones to conduct aerial surveillance on day and night basis to monitor, inspect, and enforce environmental regulations more effectively.



5.11.1. Impact on industries

- Increased detection of violations
- Stronger enforcement and fines
- Pressure to comply with environmental laws
- Encourages adoption of cleaner technologies

EPA drone surveillance strengthens environmental protection, improves regulatory enforcement, and helps ensure industries follow pollution control laws.



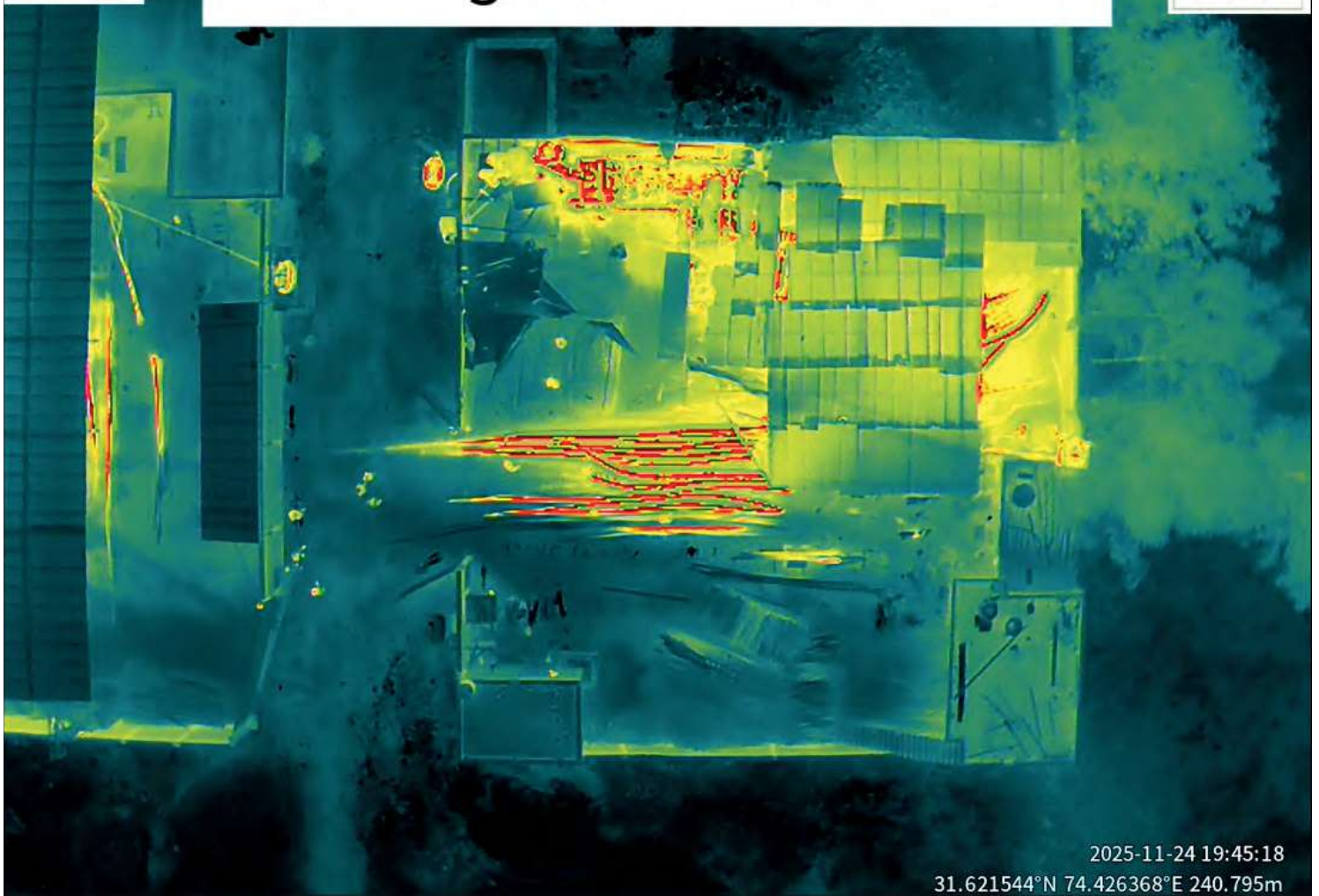
Drone Aerial Surveillance

5.11.2 Night Surveillance Squad

The night surveillance squad using thermal drones by EPA Punjab is a modern initiative designed to monitor environmental compliance after dark. Equipped with advanced thermal imaging technology, these drones can detect emissions, illegal discharges and other violations that are hard to observe at night. This system enables real time monitoring, accurate data collection and swift enforcement actions significantly enhancing the agency's ability to prevent pollution and protect public health while promoting cleaner air across the province.



Night Monitoring of Industries through Thermal Drones



Night Surveillance by Thermal Drones

5.12. Water Conservation and Sustainable Resource Management

Punjab faces increasing water stress due to rapid population growth, urban expansion, agricultural demand, and climate variability. Groundwater depletion, contamination of surface water bodies, and inefficient water use practices have emerged as serious environmental and socio economic challenges. Recognizing water as a critical environmental resource, EPA Punjab placed significant emphasis on water conservation and sustainable management in 2025.



5.13. Mandatory Rainwater Harvesting Systems

One of the most important water conservation initiatives undertaken by EPA Punjab in 2025 was the introduction of regulations mandating rainwater harvesting systems in new construction projects through Environmental Approvals issue by the Agency under section 12 of PEPA 1997. Developers of residential, commercial, and institutional buildings were required to integrate rainwater collection and recharge mechanisms into project designs. These systems were intended to:

- Recharge groundwater aquifers
- Reduce surface runoff and urban flooding
- Lower dependence on freshwater extraction
- Promote climate resilient urban development

EPA Punjab incorporated compliance with rainwater harvesting requirements into environmental approval and inspection processes. The policy marked a shift toward preventive and sustainable water management. Over time, widespread adoption of rainwater harvesting is expected to slow groundwater depletion, enhance water security, and reduce the environmental footprint of urban development. The initiative also increased awareness among developers and the public regarding responsible water use.



5.14. Water Recycling Units at Service Station

EPA Punjab also focused on regulating water intensive commercial operations, particularly car wash stations, which were identified as major sources of water wastage. In 2025, EPA mandated the installation of water recycling and reuse systems at such facilities. Regular inspections were conducted to ensure compliance, and non compliant stations were issued notices, fined, or sealed. The policy aimed to promote efficient water use while maintaining business operations.

This intervention significantly reduced freshwater consumption in the commercial sector and encouraged businesses to adopt sustainable practices. It also demonstrated EPA Punjab's ability to address environmental issues beyond air pollution, reinforcing a holistic environmental management approach.



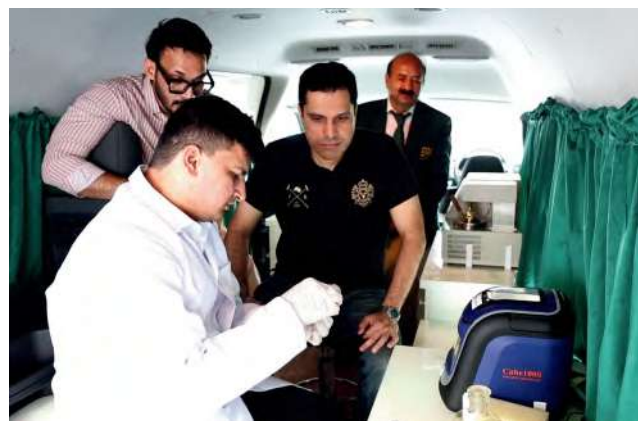
5.15. Hospital Waste Management System

The Hospital Authorization System in EPA Punjab is a regulatory mechanism designed to ensure that hospitals comply with environmental and pollution control standards, particularly in medical waste management. Under this system, hospitals including those operating incinerators must obtain online environmental authorization from EPA Punjab for their incinerators and ensure strict compliance with all rules and guidelines established by the agency. This approach promotes environmental safety, public health protection and transparent regulatory oversight.



5.16. Fuel Testing Labs

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab has for the first time in Punjab introduced fuel testing laboratories to monitor and ensure the quality of petrol and diesel sold at petrol pumps across the province. These laboratories test fuel samples for adulteration and control environmental pollution and protect vehicle engines. In addition, EPA Punjab has launched mobile fuel testing labs, enabling on site testing and swift enforcement actions against non-compliance fuel outlets, marking a significant step toward improving fuel quality and air quality in Punjab.



Fuel Testing Lab

5.17. Stringent Action on Pyrolysis Plant

EPA Punjab took stringent action against an unauthorized pyrolysis plant, marking the first ever demolition of such a facility in the province. The plant was found operating without proper permits and pollution control measures, posing serious risks to air quality and public health. EPA issued notices, imposed fines and ultimately ordered the demolition of the plant, demonstrating its strong commitment to enforcing environmental laws, deterring illegal industrial activity and protecting communities from harmful emissions.



5.18. Specialized Effluent Monitoring and Enforcement Unit

The Specialized Effluent Monitoring and Enforcement Unit (SEMEU) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab is a dedicated regulatory body responsible for the systematic monitoring, evaluation, and enforcement of environmental standards governing effluent discharge. The Unit ensures compliance with applicable environmental laws, regulations, and permit conditions related to wastewater discharges from industrial, commercial, and municipal sources.

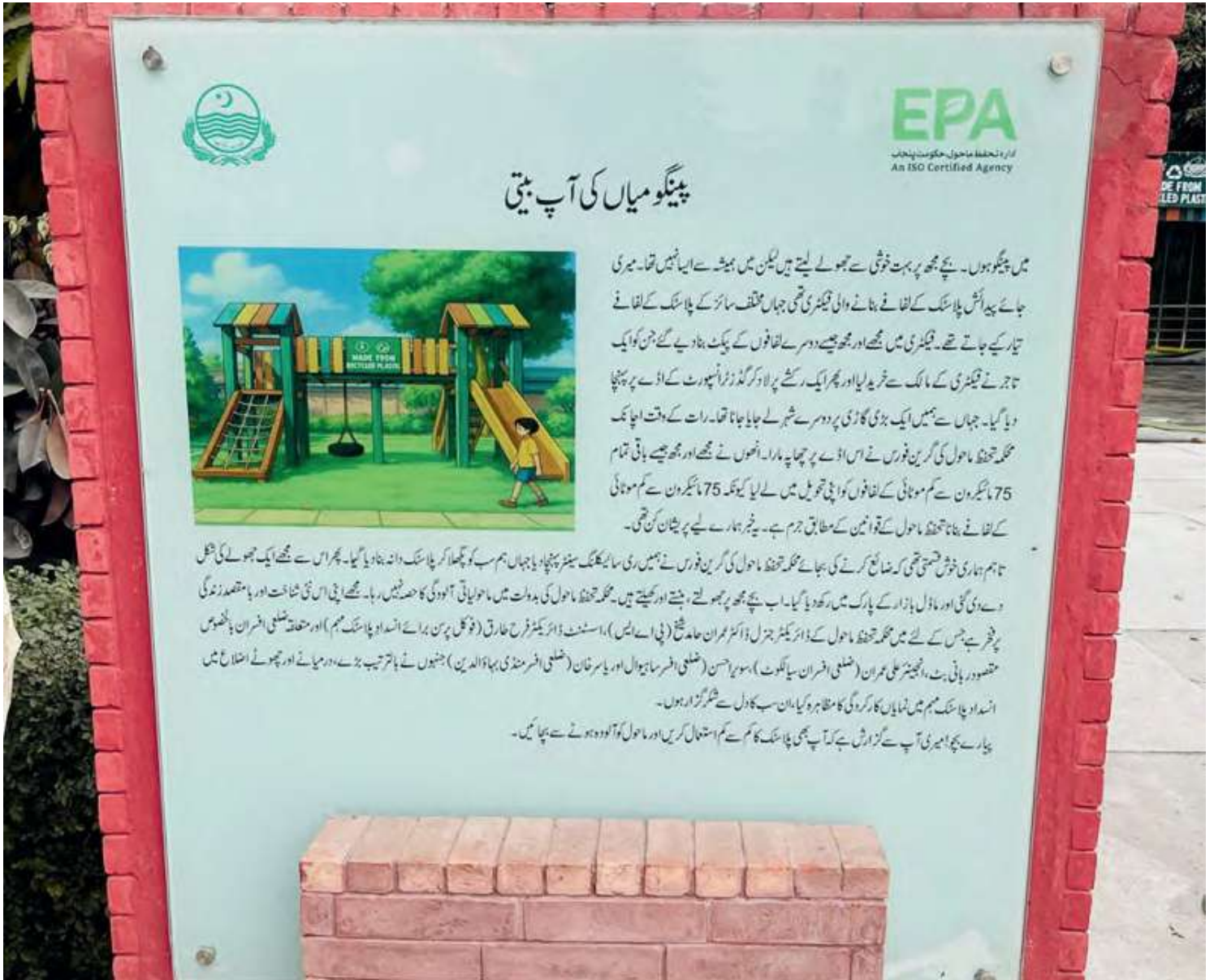
Its core functions include conducting regulatory inspections, collecting and analyzing effluent samples, identifying instances of non compliance, and initiating appropriate enforcement actions. Through proactive monitoring and effective regulatory oversight, the Unit plays a vital role in preventing water pollution, protecting public health, and conserving aquatic and environmental ecosystems.



Specialized Effluent Monitoring

5.19. Crackdown on Single Use Plastics

The Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has intensified its province wide crackdown on single use plastics as part of the government's "Plastic Free Punjab" initiative. Enforcement teams are conducting inspections across major cities and districts to ensure compliance with the ban on the manufacture, sale, storage, and use of plastic shopping bags thinner than 75 microns. During ongoing operations, the EPA has confiscated large quantities of banned plastic bags, imposed fines on violators, sealed non compliance businesses, and initiated legal proceedings where necessary. EPA Punjab recycled confiscated plastic into plastic furniture's and swings which were distributed into schools, hospitals and play ground. EPA Punjab also ensure to take pledge from every shop owner that certifies the shop is plastic free, and more than 25000 pledges placed in all over Punjab.



5.19.1 Plastic Confiscation Slip

In 2025, EPA Punjab has digitized anti plastic campaign inspections and confiscations, allocated QR Coded Plastic confiscation slips book to all District Environmental Offices to facilitate the process. Digitization helps in ensuring standardized records and assist systematic documentation of plastic related activities and enforcement actions.



Plastic into Swings



Plastic Confiscated



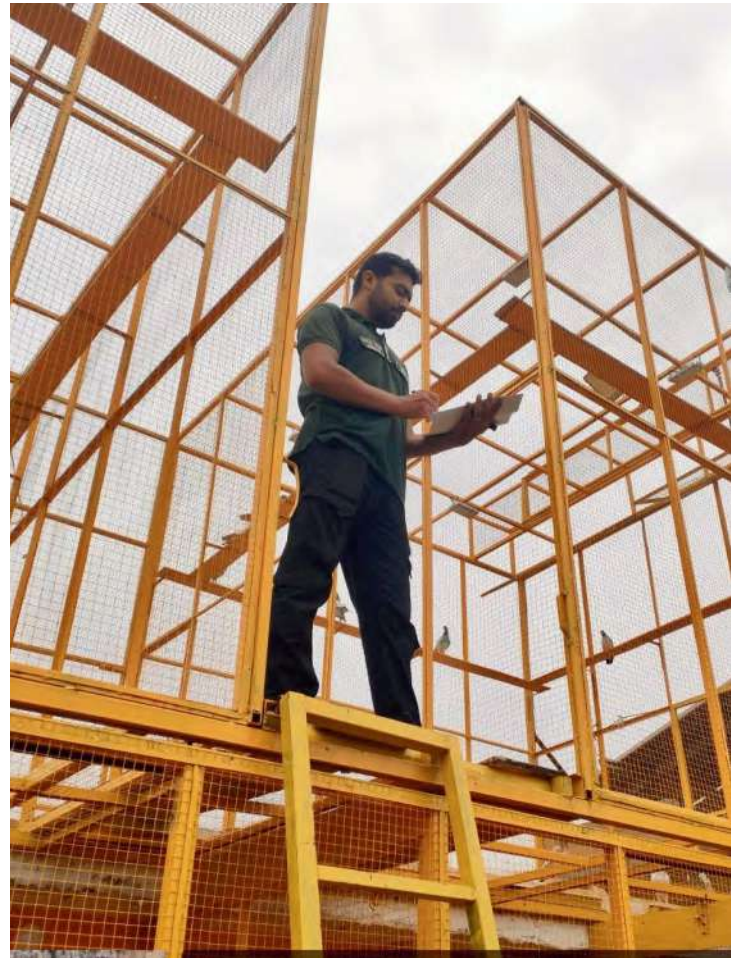
Plastic in to School Furniture



Plastic in to Hospital Furniture

5.20 Control on Bird Hazards Near Airports

EPA Punjab pushed itself beyond conventional regulatory boundaries to address one of the most critical public health and aviation safety challenges by taking the lead in initiating a comprehensive crackdown and declaring designated **“No Bird Zone”** areas. This proactive measure was undertaken to safeguard public safety, as bird strikes pose a serious risk to aircraft, particularly during takeoff, landing, and low-altitude operations, and can result in catastrophic engine failure, loss of life, and aircraft crashes, as evidenced by aviation incidents worldwide.



5.21 Mandatory installation of Suction Hoods

EPA Punjab conducted a targeted crackdown against smoke emitting commercial kitchens and marriage halls operating without proper suction hoods and air pollution control mechanisms. This enforcement action was initiated to curb excessive air pollution and protect public health, as emissions from unregulated cooking activities significantly contribute to smog and deteriorating air quality. Inspections were carried out across multiple locations, and facilities found operating in violation of environmental standards were issued notices, penalized, or ordered to install compliant suction and ventilation systems.



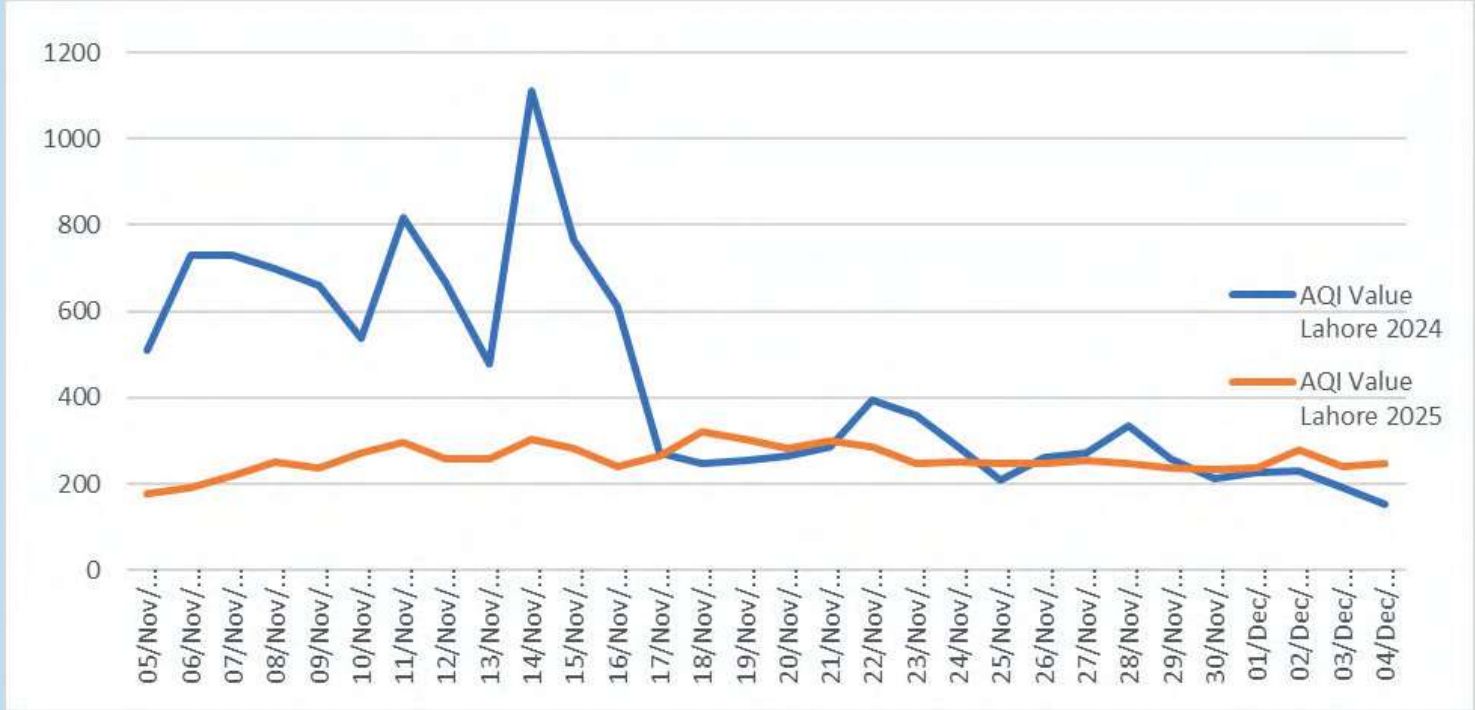
6. Cleaner Air Returns : insights from 2025





Since the COVID-19 lockdown period, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab has sustained and strengthened its efforts to improve environmental quality and public health across the province. Building on the temporary environmental recovery observed during lockdowns, EPA Punjab expanded air and water quality monitoring, enforced environmental regulations more rigorously and promoted cleaner industrial practices through inspections, compliance actions and environmental approvals. The Agency introduced digital tools, mobile applications and centralized data systems in collaboration with PITB to enhance transparency, monitoring and decision making. Public awareness campaigns, stakeholder engagement and coordination with line departments were intensified to address pollution, waste management and climate related challenges. By 2025, these continuous and technology-driven interventions have contributed to improved environmental indicators, making 2025 one of the cleanest years since the COVID-19 lockdown and reflecting EPA Punjab’s commitment to a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable Punjab.

Importantly, this assessment was not only claimed by the EPA Punjab but was also independently supported by multiple media outlets, highlighting the impact of cleaner energy use, stricter regulations and increased environmental awareness.



Comparison between AQI Data of November 2024 and November 2025

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DAWN

LAHORE SEES SIGNIFICANT REPRIEVE FROM EXTREME SMOG

- Data for November 2025 confirms a **dramatic 56% reduction** in daily peak pollution intensity
- The city **recorded zero days with an Air Quality Index (AQI) above 300** – the “Hazardous” category that plagued the previous November
- The monthly baseline pollution also improved, **showing a 37% reduction**

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dawn.today Lahore experienced a significant reprieve from extreme smog conditions this November compared to the hazardous emergency of 2024, according to a new analysis by the Pakistan Air Quality Initiative (PAQI).

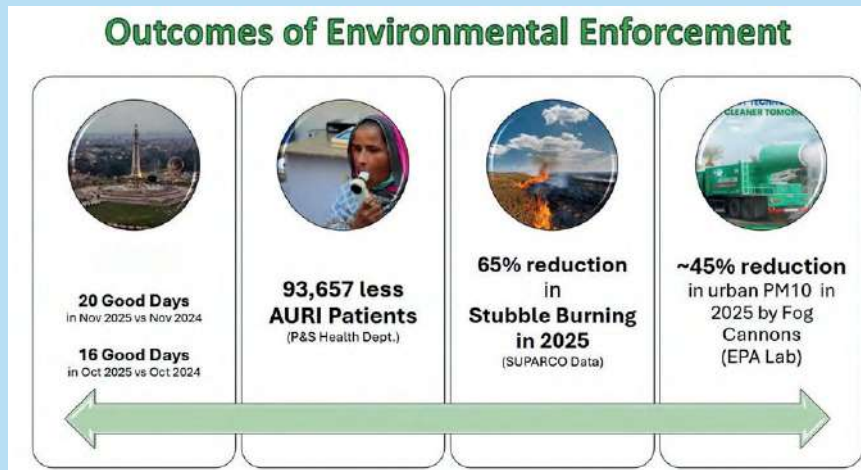
The Pakistan Air Quality Initiative (PAQI) is a non-profit citizen-led platform dedicated to monitoring, visualising, and advocating for clean air across the country through data-driven research and public awareness campaigns.

Data for November 2025 confirms a dramatic 56 per cent reduction in daily peak pollution intensity. The maximum daily PM2.5 concentration plummeted to 237 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), a stark contrast to the severe peak of 539 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ recorded on Nov 14, 2024.

For more, visit the link in our bio.

#DawnToday
December 4, 2025

Post on Air Quality by DAWN



Visible reduction in AQI of Lahore acknowledged by Nukta Pakistan

7. Conclusion

In 2025, the Environmental Protection Agency continued to advance its mission of protecting human health and the environment through a broad set of regulatory actions, cleanup efforts, and collaborative projects. The year 2025 marked a defining chapter in the evolution of EPA Punjab. Through institutional reforms, scientific innovation, strict enforcement, digital governance, and sustainability focused policies, EPA Punjab significantly strengthened environmental regulation in Punjab. While environmental challenges persist, the achievements of 2025 laid a robust foundation for future progress.









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