

NEPAL

# GOVERNANCE

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## Pollution in Kathmandu finally makes the city uninhabitable

WEEKLY

Photo from ekantipur.com

Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, recently scored 202 on the Air Quality Index (AQI), making it the most polluted city in the world. According to the AQI, any score above 200 triggers a health alert and is considered to be very unhealthy and deteriorating to health. This alarming situation poses a significant risk to public health.

The country's recent wildfires and burning of agricultural waste during this season are to blame for the sudden rise in pollution. However, stakeholders cannot escape this severe situation by pointing out natural causes. Over 1 million vehicles play a major role in contributing to air pollution in the metropolitan area, with one-third of the total vehicles failing the pollution test, according to a cross-check conducted by the Environment Department. Additionally, the construction of underground electricity cables, Melamchi drinking water pipe laying, and pollution from factories are also factors that contribute to the pollution in the metropolitan area.

Despite the government collecting 1.5 rupees per liter of gasoline as a pollution tax since 2008, which has amounted to 1.65 billion rupees since the financial year 2065-66, the funds have not been used specifically for pollution prevention and control. Both the 'Air Quality Management Action Plan for Kathmandu Valley-2076' issued by the government and the 9-point commitment passed by the Kathmandu Valley Municipality Forum on October 13, 2075, to control pollution in the valley are essentially limited to paper.

With very unhealthy air quality, health warnings of emergency conditions, and the entire population likely to be affected with many experiencing serious health issues, the capital city is ineligible for residential purposes. According to the data of 'State of Global Air-2020', 42,100 people die in Nepal every year due to air pollution. The question remains: what kind of deadly index should this number reach in order for stakeholders to put in collective effort to control air pollution and make Kathmandu breathable?

Read more : [E-kantipur](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Curriculum Development Centre has begun distributing books for the new academic session 2080 to students, thanks to the cooperation of both private and government distributors and an effective management of paper, budget, and staffing to ensure timely distribution. For classes 6 to 10, the government publishing house Janak Shiksha Material Kendra has printed 15 million books, while private publishers have printed 12 million books for classes 1 to 5.

Read more: [Online Khabar](#)

2. Due to the lack of phone and internet access important administrative work and lifestyle of locals in Humla, Mugu and Dolpa is affected with only 4.78 percent of total population having internet access. Technical education has been limited to theoretical classes. Locals have to walk for 2-3 hours to reach districts' headquarters for the internet.

Read more: [EKantipur](#)

3. The Election Commission has published the names of 74 candidates of last November parliamentary election that failed to submit the details of election expenses on stipulated time and are subject to clarification.

Read more : [The Annapurna Express](#)

4. In Nepal, the year-on-year consumer price inflation has risen to 7.44 percent, affecting basic utilities and services like healthcare costs. This increase can be found in basic necessities such as food, clothing and living costs which has severely impacted livelihood of Nepalis. The government has yet to come up with a sustainable solution to address the inflation.

Read more: [Kathmandu Post](#)

5. The Land Use Regulation 2079 and the restricted land allocation within the Kathmandu Valley negatively impacted the real estate market and decreased revenue collection from 8 billion 600 million rupees to 2 billion 74 million, the Ministry of Land Management has decided to stick with the previous regulation as of right now.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

6. The government has failed to assign tasks to 31 joint secretaries from different ministries, such as the Ministry of Health and Population, and the Ministry of Finance. According to the Civil Service Act, any government official who is not given official responsibilities, except during leave, suspension, or transfer, will face departmental action. This failure has not only lowered employee morale but also raised concerns about the Civil Service system.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

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