

Q In recent times, Pakistan's government has realized the importance of making climate change a cornerstone of its national agenda. Discuss different national initiatives in this regard. Also, discuss Pakistan's leadership performance in recently held COPs.

Ans

### 1) Introduction

Climate change refers to the shift in average weather conditions, such as temperature, humidity and wind patterns etc and the severity of the change in the severity of these conditions. This shift in weather conditions pose a serious threat to the entire world, specifically, <sup>the</sup> developing countries. Pakistan is no exception in this regard. The impacts of climate change on Pakistan is negative despite being the lowest carbon emitter. Considering these negative implications, the government of Pakistan took measures, such as afforestation, conserving existing natural resources and other adaptation and mitigation measures. Moreover, Pakistan's



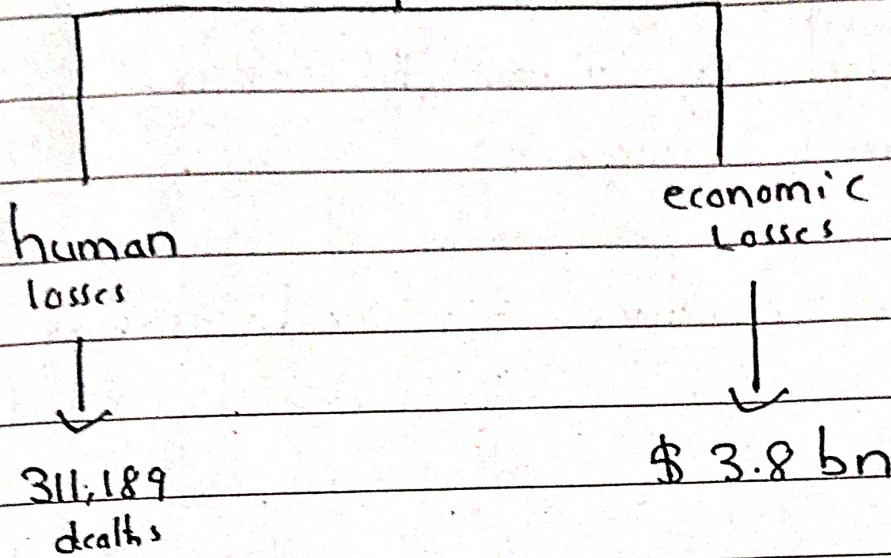
Performance at recent COPs is ~~also~~ also remarkable. The performance in form of Global Methane Pledge, Paris Ecosystem Restorative initiative, advocacy for climate fund and collaboration with other countries, indeed ~~are~~ <sup>is</sup> commendable.

## 2, Overview of the negative implications of climate change on Pakistan

Pakistan has the lowest share in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but is still vulnerable to climate change. The effects of climate change on Pakistan is multifaceted, such as human losses and economic losses. According to Global Climate Risk Index Report 2017, Air Pollution has caused 311,189 deaths in Pakistan in 2015; \$3.8 bn economic losses and 523.1 lives loss per year due to climate change effects. Furthermore, Pakistan has experienced frequent floods, heatwaves ~~and~~, droughts and untimely monsoon season which negatively impacts every Pakistan.



# Climate change



## 3) National initiative w.r.t climate change

(i) Initiative of target plantation drive:

The government of Pakistan has launched Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme with the total cost of 125.1843 bn. The project is being implemented across the country by the Ministry of Climate change along with provincial wildlife departments. In addition to this, the last government of Pakistan has also launched Prime Minister's Urban Forest Project and Clean Green Pakistan Movement in order to



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to boost the plantation drive.

(iii) Efforts to conserve the existing natural resources:

The government of Pakistan approved National Biodiversity Strategy in 2018 to conserve the existing natural resources. The goal was to increase the protected areas in the existing protected area from 12-percent in 2018 to 15-percent in 2023. This step was also endorsed by the United Nations ~~Convention~~ Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

(iii) Aim at reduction in projected emissions:

Pakistan intends to set conditional target of an overall 50-percent reduction in its projected emission in case of international grant finance. To reach the target, Pakistan aims to shift to 60-percent renewable energy and 30-percent electric vehicles by 2030.



### (iii) Adaptation and Mitigation measures

Pakistan developed its first National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) in 2012 considering the adverse impacts of climate change. The major focus of the Policy was climate resilient development and adaptation. However, after Paris Climate Accord 2015 the shift focus shifted to nature-based solutions and adaptation and mitigation, it is evident from the updated National Climate Change Policy 2021 (NCCP-2021).

## 4) Pakistan's Performance at recent COPs

### (i) Pakistan's ~~Performance~~ <sup>Performance</sup>

#### (i) Pak Eco-system Restorative Initiative (COP 25)

At COP 25, Pakistan ~~was~~ launched "Pak Eco-system Restorative Initiative". The objective



was to expanding green fields, Promoting eco-tourism, conserving marine life and promoting blue economy. Moreover, through Recharge Pakistan, it aims at integrating water management to also address the concern of water security.

This Programme includes:

- Afforestation
- Promoting eco-tourism
- Conserving Marine life and promoting blue economy
- Integrated water management

(iii) Global Methane Pledge (GMP)  
 Pakistan voluntarily along with other countries signed Global Methane Pledge to contribute to a collective effort to reduce global methane emission atleast 30-percent by 2030 which will eliminate over 0.2° c warming by 2050. This project



will be financed by financial institutions, private sector and philanthropy.

Global Methane Emission  
by Pakistan

30% ↓ by 2050

(iii) Collaboration with other  
countries: (COP 26)

Pakistan signed agreements with other countries to collaborate towards common goals. Firstly, Pakistan-Germany Climate and Energy Initiative will provide platform for political dialogue to discuss and share knowledge and experience in combating climate change and will facilitate research and cooperation at academic level. Secondly, Pakistan and UAE also signed a Memorandum of ~~Joint~~ understanding for Green Cooperation which will help both the countries to cope with the threat of climate change effectively.



iv) Loss and Damage Fund: a step towards climate justice (COP27)

Thanks to Pakistan's efforts, at the conclusion of COP27 a historic decision was made: to establish and operationalize a loss and damage fund that will help poor countries to fight against climate change. It was a remarkable step because there were grievances among poor countries that did not contribute to global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but still vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. They termed it "climate justice".

## 5) Conclusion

Climate change is a serious issue in contemporary era. Developing countries like Pakistan are adversely affected. Fortunately, Pakistan has realized the seriousness of the issue and made it the cornerstone of its agenda.



Various steps have been taken by the government of Pakistan to tackle climate change. Similarly, the performance of Pakistan at recent COPs is also commendable, however, these initiatives must be implemented in true letter and spirit to yield results. A proper mechanism for implementation is the need of the hour because without practical application there are just talks. As ~~Ishtiaq Hussain~~ As Ishtiaq Hussain has rightly mentioned in his book "Concerning the Un-governable" that "Pakistan is good in making policies but poor in implementation."

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