

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Discuss the important components of Pakistan's National Climate Change policy. What is the impact of 18th amendment on climate change policy formulation in Pakistan? How can Pakistan take benefit from COP28?

Introduction:

Historical many acts and institutions are formulated to resolve the climate change issues in Pakistan, particularly between the period of 1983 to 2007. After 18th amendment the subject of environment is diluted to provinces and National climate change policy was adopted that includes various sectoral strategies. Moreover, as world is getting more concern regarding climate issues that are discussed and adopted in COP-28. Pakistan take benefit from COP-28 through, technological cooperation, meet financial vulnerabilities, and use the platform to lead environmental diplomacy.

Historical background of environmental governance in Pakistan:

To overcome the climate issues the first ordinance was enacted in 1983 named as

"Pakistan Environmental Protection Ordinance". The supreme body was established to govern the environmental related matters named as "Pakistan Environmental Protection Council". Later it was replaced with "Pakistan Environmental Protection Act" 1997. The main idea of PEPA is to enforce the regulation through punishment, inspections and environmental tribunals are set up to penalize violators.

Role of 18th amendment in formulation of environmental policy:

Before 18th amendment most of the acts or ordinances are centralized in nature and provinces have minimum role. However, after 18th amendment environment became the subject of provinces.

i) Institutional restructuring:

The ministry of environment was abolished and Ministry of Climate change was created to provide guideline to provincial institutions in terms of policy making and ensures Pakistan's compliance with international obligations.

f) Provided opportunities for local innovation:

With autonomy in environmental subject provincial governments began tailoring environmental action plans with regional context. For instance, Sindh focused on Mangrove conservation and flood management; Punjab implemented policies of strict actions against smog polluters and KPK launched "Billion tree tsunami" project for reforestation.

Important components of National Climate Change Policy:

National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) was formulated in 2012 as a centralized framework to provide strategic direction for both federal and provincial governments. 10 key sectors are prioritized in the policy.

i) Water storage:

NCCP provide strategy for water conservation, efficient irrigation and rain water harvesting. It promotes development of water storage infrastructure

ii) Agriculture and Livestock :

According to NCCP develop climate resilient crop varieties and encourage sustainable farming practices.

iii) Forestry and Biodiversity :

Increase forest cover through afforestation and reforestation. Protect natural habitats and wildlife.

iv) Energy and Industry :

Promotion of shifting toward renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Encourage public private partnership for clean energy projects. Moreover, encourage industries to adopt cleaner energy technologies.

v) Urban planning and transport :

Develop climate resilient urban infrastructure. Improve solid waste management system. Besides promote use of public transport and fuel efficient vehicles. Develop infrastructure for non motorized transport.

i) Disaster preparedness and health:

Strengthen early warning system for natural disasters and enhance disaster management capabilities. Additionally, address health risks associated with climate change through development of health sector infrastructure for rapid response.

Pakistan can take benefit from COP-28 in the following ways:

i) Transfer of technology to build efficient energy infrastructure:

The COP-28 summit decided to curb the emission according to Paris agreement through energy transition specially. Pakistan has been facing the inefficient energy infrastructure. Through the platform Pakistan can engage with countries like Netherlands and Germany to exchange technology that could help Pakistan to build efficient and conservative energy infrastructure.

ii) Financial vulnerabilities can be address through COP-28:

In COP-28 significant attention was given to mobilize financial resources to support climate actions, especially in developing countries.

In 2022 floods Pakistan faced a loss of 14 billion dollar infrastructure. Through the platform Pakistan can attract foreign investment to build climate resilient infrastructure in agriculture sector and solid waste management. Through this the country's financial vulnerabilities can be mitigate.

iii) Pakistan can lead environmental diplomacy to foster cooperation in SDGs :

Environmental diplomacy is a way to through which negotiations, cooperations and plans are initiated to resolve environmental issues. By using the platform of COP-28, Pakistan can present its case world wide. Countries like Norway benefitted alot through environmental diplomacy to complete their sustainable development goals through cooperation with USA and European Union.

Pakistan can also lead environmental diplomacy to enhance cooperation in the completion of SDGs.

Conclusion :