

Climate Change is the biggest security threat of

the 21st Century.

Outline

A- Introduction

1. Attention grabber: It could be not inherited from our ancestors, but is borrowed from our children. (American proverb)

2. Background statement: Climate change is no longer an environmental issue but a multidimensional security threat.

• It threatens food, water, energy, health, and geopolitical stability.

3. Thesis Statement: Climate change is the defining security threat of the 21st century because it undermines human security at multiple levels, economic, environmental, social, and political, posing a greater danger than any traditional military conflict.

B- Understanding Climate Change as a Security Threat

1. Definition of Climate Change

2. Concept of 'non-traditional security threats'

3. How climate change differs from conventional threats (war, terrorism)

C- Dimensions of Security Threat from Climate Change

1. Food Security

1.1 Desertification: Expanding deserts reduce cultivable land, shrinking food supplies

1.2 Crop Failure: Irregular rainfall and rising temperatures cause massive crop losses

1.3 Locust Swarms: Climate shifts fuel pest outbreaks, devastating standing crops.

2 Water Security

2.1 Glacier Melt: Rapid glacier retreat threatens long-term water reserves

2.2 Water Scarcity: Overuse and erratic rains intensify freshwater shortages

2.3 Indus-Basin Tensions: Dwindling river flows aggravate inter-provincial and regional disputes.

3 Health Security

3.1 Heatwaves: Extreme temperature causes mass casualties in urban areas.

3.2 New Diseases: Changing climates spread vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue.

3.3 Pandemics: Environmental stress increases the risk of global disease outbreaks.

4 Energy Security

4.1 Hydropower Decline: Reduced river flows lower electricity generation capacity.

4.2 Oil Disruptions: Climate disasters obstruct energy transport and supply chains.

4.3 Energy Shortages: Rising demand and declining resources deepen crises.

5 Economic Security

5.1 Agricultural Losses: Declining yields weaken agro-based economies

5.2 Rising Poverty: Climate shocks push vulnerable populations below poverty lines

5.3 Unemployment: Disrupted industries and agriculture reduce job opportunities

6 National Security

6.1 Resource Conflict: Competition over water and land triggers violence

6.2 Climate Refugees: Mass displacement strains urban centers and governance.

6.3 Terrorism: Poverty and instability make populations more vulnerable to extremist groups.

D- Why climate change is the biggest threat

1- Universality: affects all nations

2- Permanence: Long term effects

3- Irreversibility

4- Global reach

E- Global Evidence of Climate-Induced Security Risks

1- Syrian Civil War linked to drought and

Food Shortages

2- Sub-Saharan Africa: desertification → migration and conflicts

3- Pakistan: 2022 floods displacing 33M, costing \$30 billion

F Strategies to Counter Climate Threat

1- Mitigation: renewable energy, ~~afforestation~~

2- Adaptation: disaster preparedness

3- International level: Paris agreement, COP summits

4- National level: Implementation of climate policy, warnings.

G- Conclusion

ESSAY :

"The world is not inherited from our ancestors; it is borrowed from our children - American Proverb"

Climate change is no longer confined to the realm of environmental debate; it has transformed into the most pressing security threat of our era, undermining the foundations of human survival and stability. Unlike conventional threats such as war or terrorism, climate change strikes silently yet pervasively, destabilizing societies from within by eroding food supplies, exhausting water reserves, triggering disease outbreaks, and fueling mass displacement. Its consequences are multidimensional: farmers confront

desertification, crop failures, and locust swarms; cities struggle with heatwaves, pandemics, and energy shortages; nations wrestle with resource conflicts, refugees and terrorism - What makes this threat unparalleled is its universality, no state, rich or poor, is immune to its impacts. From the Syrian drought that fueled civil unrest to the 2022 floods in Pakistan, climate change has proven itself a catalyst of insecurity at every level. Climate change, therefore, is the defining security threat of the 21st C, because it undermines human security at multiple levels, economic, environmental, social and political, posing a greater danger than any traditional military conflict.

Climate Change and National Security: A Case Study of South Asia

Outline

A- Introduction

- 1- Attention grabber: The world is not inherited from our forefathers, it is borrowed from our children (American Proverb)
- 2- Background Statement: South Asia as a climate hotspot with fragile governance and high population density

3- Thesis Statement : Climate change poses an existential threat to South Asia's national security by undermining food, water, health, economic and political stability, demanding regional cooperation and sustainable climate action.

B- Climate Change in South Asia: Vulnerabilities and Trends

- 1- Melting Himalayan glaciers and river disruptions
- 2- Increased floods, droughts and cyclones
- 3- Pakistan, Maldives, Bangladesh → among world's most climate-vulnerable states

C- Dimensions of Security Threats in South Asia:

1- Food Security

- 1.1 Crop failures from floods and droughts
- 1.2 Desertification (Thar, Rajasthan, Afghanistan)
- 1.3 Locust swarms devastating agriculture in Pakistan and India

2 Water Security

- 2.1 Glacial melt affecting Indus and Ganges - Brahmaputra basins
- 2.2 Indus Water Treaty under strain
- 2.3 India-Bangladesh dispute over water sharing

3 Health Security

- 3.1 Deadly heatwaves in India and Pakistan
- 3.2 Rising dengue, malaria, climate-sensitive diseases
- 3.3 Risk of climate-driven pandemics

4 Energy Security

- 4.1 Hydropower decline due to water scarcity
- 4.2 Extreme weather disrupting energy grids
- 4.3 Rising energy demand of fast-growing economies

5 Economic Security

- 5.1 Agriculture-based economies at risk (Pakistan, Bangladesh, India)
- 5.2 Climate-induced poverty, unemployment,
- 5.3 Rising adaptation and mitigation costs

6 National and Regional Security

- 6.1 Climate refugees: Bangladesh → India, Afghan → Pakistan
- 6.2 Resource conflicts fueling Indo-Pak tensions
- 6.3 Indian Ocean vulnerabilities (Maldives, Sri Lanka)

D- Pakistan at the Epicenter of Climate Crisis

- 1- 2022 floods: a case of climate devastation
- 2- water scarcity and agricultural collapse
- 3- Afghan climate migration adding to border instability

E- Way Forward

- 1- Strengthening regional water sharing & climate cooperation
- 2- Investment in renewable energy
- 3- Building early warning systems and disaster response systems
- 4- Climate diplomacy for Pak at global forums.

F- Conclusion

ESSAY

'The world is not inherited from our ancestors, it is borrowed from our children' - Climate change is no longer confined to environmental concerns but has transformed into a multidimensional security threat. While the entire world is grappling with the consequences of global warming, South Asia stands out as one of the most vulnerable region. With its fragile governance, dense populations, poverty, and inter-state rivalries, the region faces a perfect storm of climate-induced insecurities. Melting Himalayan glaciers, erratic monsoons, recurring floods, prolonged droughts and devastating cyclones are no longer seasonal anomalies but defining features of South Asia's climate reality. The implications are severe: food insecurity due to crop failures, water conflicts across borders, deadly health crises triggered by heatwaves and diseases, and economic instability threatening millions of livelihoods. More dangerously, climate change is fueling resource scarcity, mass migration, and rising tensions between states, making it a catalyst for regional instability. Thus climate change poses an existential threat to South Asia's national security by undermining food,

water, health, economic and political stability, demanding regional cooperation and sustainable climate action

③ Climate Refugees - The Emerging Challenge

Outline:

A- Introduction

1- Attention grabber = Climate change, is in my opinion, the most important trigger and the most important enhancer of forced displacement. (UNHCR Chief António Guterres)

2- Background Statement = Rising sea levels, floods, and droughts are forcing millions to abandon their homes. South Asia is on the frontline.

3- Thesis Statement: Climate Change is creating a new class of displaced people, climate refugees, who pose grave humanitarian, economic and security challenges, especially in fragile regions like South Asia.

B- Climate Change as a driver of displacement:

1- Sea level rise (Maldives, Bangladesh coastlines)

2- Floods and droughts destroying livelihoods

3- Desertification and water scarcity forcing rural-to-urban migration.

C- Climate Refugee Crisis is an emerging challenge because:

1- Food Insecurity

- Crop failures push farmers to cities or across borders

2- Water Insecurity

- Competition over scarce water leads to migration

3- Health Risks

- Pandemics in overcrowded camps

4- Economic Pressures

- Joblessness and poverty push communities to migrate.

5- National Security

- Refugee flows triggering border tensions

(Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan)

(Remember: Case Study of
Bangladesh → India migration
Maldives relocation dilemma
Afghan climate refugees in Pak)

D- Way Forward

1- Regional Refugee Framework

2- Building climate-resilient livelihoods

3- International recognition of 'climate refugee' status

4- Stronger disaster preparedness

E- Conclusion

ESSAY

UNHCR Chief António Guterres once said: "Climate change, is in my opinion, the most important trigger and the most important enhancer of forced displacement" - Climate Change is rapidly emerging as a threat where rising global temperatures are not just an environmental concern but a human survival threat. Climate change today manifests through rising sea levels, floods, droughts, desertification, and intensifying cyclones, forcing millions to abandon their ancestral homes. From the sinking islands of the Maldives to the flooded plains of Bangladesh and the drought-stricken fields of Pakistan, South Asia stands on the frontline of this emerging catastrophe. Unlike traditional migration driven by economic or political reasons, these people are displaced by forces of nature, creating an entirely new category: climate refugees. The phenomenon extends beyond humanitarian suffering, destabilizing societies, straining fragile economies, and heightening regional security tensions. Already, millions are living in precarious conditions, with no international legal framework to recognize their plight. If climate change is creating a new class of displaced people,

climate refugees, who pose grave humanitarian, economic, and security challenges, especially in fragile regions like South Asia. If left unaddressed, climate-induced migration will become one of the most pressing global governance challenges of the 21st century.

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Climate Change and Food Insecurity:

Outline