

Current Affairs

CSS-2026

Q#02

"Pakistan stands at a decisive turning point where climate shocks, rapid population growth, governance gaps, non-traditional security threats and intense fiscal stress are converging to heighten national vulnerability. Critically evaluate the above statement and propose policy measures for building a stable, secure and disaster-resilient Pakistan."

01 Introduction:

Pakistan stands at a decisive turning point where climate shocks, rapid population growth, governance gaps, non-traditional security threats, and intense fiscal stress are converging to heighten national vulnerability. Recurrent floods, rising temperatures, and glacial retreat have exposed weaknesses in infrastructure and disaster management. Population pressures strain healthcare, education, and employment systems, while governance deficits slow reform implementation. Fiscal stress reduces resilience investment, and emerging

(P.T.O)

Security - threats - further destabilize
Communities.

02

Climate Shocks

Flood-Induced
Community displacement

Glaciers Retreat
Threatening water Security

Urban Infrastructure
Vulnerability to rainfall
Extremes

Heatwave Mortality
and Health Risks

Agricultural losses from
Erratic Rainfall

Hydropower Generation
disruption

Increased vector-borne
Disease Risk

Economic drain from
Recurrent disasters

"Some measures mentioned above are discussed below"

(2.1)

Flood-Induced Community

Displacement

Frequent floods force millions to
abandon homes, creating social and
economic instability. As per UNDP 2022,
Pakistan floods displaced over 8 million
people and damaged 700,000 homes.

(2.2)

Glacier Retreat Threatening

Water Security

Rapid glacial melt disrupts
river flows critical for agriculture
and hydropower. As per IPCC report
2023 Karakoram - Himalaya glaciers
melted 30% faster between 2015-2025
affecting the Indus basin,

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(2.3)
Heat Wave Mortality And Health Risks

Rising public health heat-related deaths Summer temperatures exceed health. Single reported 450 in June-July 2025.

(2.4)
Increased Vector-Borne Disease Risk

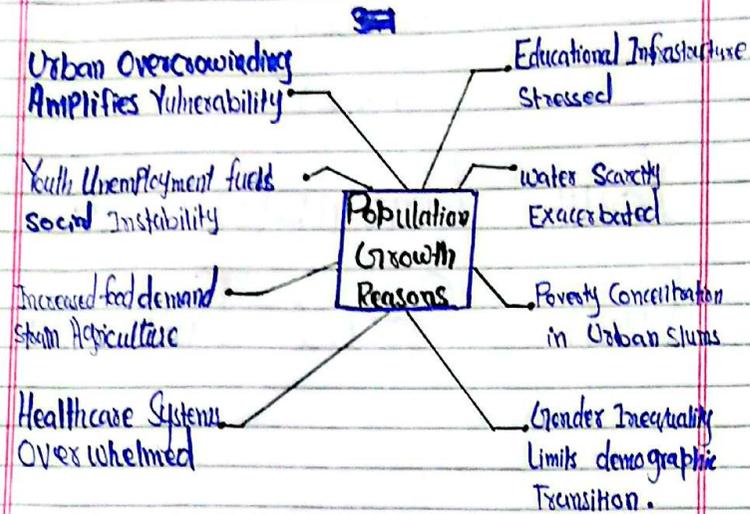
Flooding and heatwaves accelerate disease outbreaks. Stagnant water and rising temperatures create breeding grounds for mosquitoes, spreading dengue and malaria.

(2.5)
Economic Drain from Recurrent Disasters

Repeated from Annual storm forestry 2024 GDP per year. Climate development damages reduce GDP per year. Shocks divert funds to recovery from floods and slow growth and slow World Bank report cost 2.4% of Pakistan GDP per year.

03

Rapid Population Growth



"Some measures mentioned above are discussed below."

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(3.1)

Urban Overcrowding Amplifies Vulnerability

Rapid population increase leads to densely populated cities. Overcrowded neighborhoods strain housing service, increasing exposure to disasters. Karachi population density exceeded 24,000 per km² in 2024.

(3.2)

Youth Unemployment Fuels Social Instability

A large youth population creates economic pressure. Insufficient jobs lead to frustration, crime, and potential radicalization among unemployed youth. As per World Bank report, 2025 Pakistan faces 8.5 million youths unemployed.

(3.3)

Increased Food Demand Strains Agriculture

Population growth accelerates pressure on food supply. Rising demand outpaces agricultural production, causing inflation and food insecurity.

(3.4)

Educational Infrastructure Stressed

Growing student populations strain schools and universities. Overcrowded classrooms and limited resources affect quality of education. Punjab school enrollment increased 6% annually, exceeding available infrastructure capacity according to the UNICEF 2024 report.

(P.T.O)

(35)

Gender Inequality Limits Demographic Transition

low female literacy and limited reproductive health service sustain high fertility. As per UNESCO 2025 report, female literacy in rural Sindh remains 42% in 2021.

04

Governance Gaps

Weak disaster Response Institutions	Ineffective Regulatory Enforcement
Policy Continuity disruption	Data deficiency Impedes Planning
Corruption Diverts Public funds	Technical Inefficiency
Weak local Government Capacities	Inequitable Resource Allocation

Some measures mentioned above are discussed below

(4.1)

Weak Disaster Response Institutions

Governance failures reduces disaster resilience. Fragmented agencies and untrained personnel delay aid distribution and recovery.

(4.2)

Policy Continuity Disruption from Political Instability

Frequent government changes hinder long-term planning. As per Pakistan Climate Council, 2024 report only 40% of climate adaptation projects launched in 2020 were completed by 2024.

(P.T.O)

(4.3)

Ineffective Regulatory Enforcement

Lax enforcement increase disaster risk. In 2023 Karachi floods destroyed 12,000 illegal structures in high risk zone.

(4.4)

Judicial Inefficiency

Delayed courts slow enforcement of environmental and disaster related cases. As per PLC report 2025, Average case resolution exceeds five years in environmental lawsuits.

(4.5)

Inequitable Resource Allocation

Poor and reduces resilience As per PCP report, 2024 less than 35% of flood prone districts received full climate budget allocation.

OS

Non-Traditional Security Threats

Non-Traditional Security Threats

Food Scarcity as a Source of Social Conflict

Water tension Between Provinces

Urban infrastructure Vulnerability to Terrorism.

Public Health Emergencies

Radicalization due to Socioeconomic Marginalization

Cross-Border Environmental Risks

Migration Pressure on Urban Security

Some measures mentioned above are discussed below

(S.1)

Climate-Induced Internal Displacement

Climate disasters are generating large-scale population movements. In 2022-24, over 4 million people were internally displaced due to floods and riverbank erosion as per UNHCR report 2024.

(S.2)

Food Scarcity As a Source Of Social Conflict

Disrupted food supply triggers local disputes and unrest. As per PBS report 2024, wheat price surged 38%.

(S.3)

Water Tension Competition Between Provinces

(S.4)

Cross Border Environmental Risks

Shared ecosystems heighten transboundary security challenges. As per International River report 2024, Indus basin floods in 2024 were worsened by glacial melt in northern India affecting 2 million Pakistanis.

(S.5)

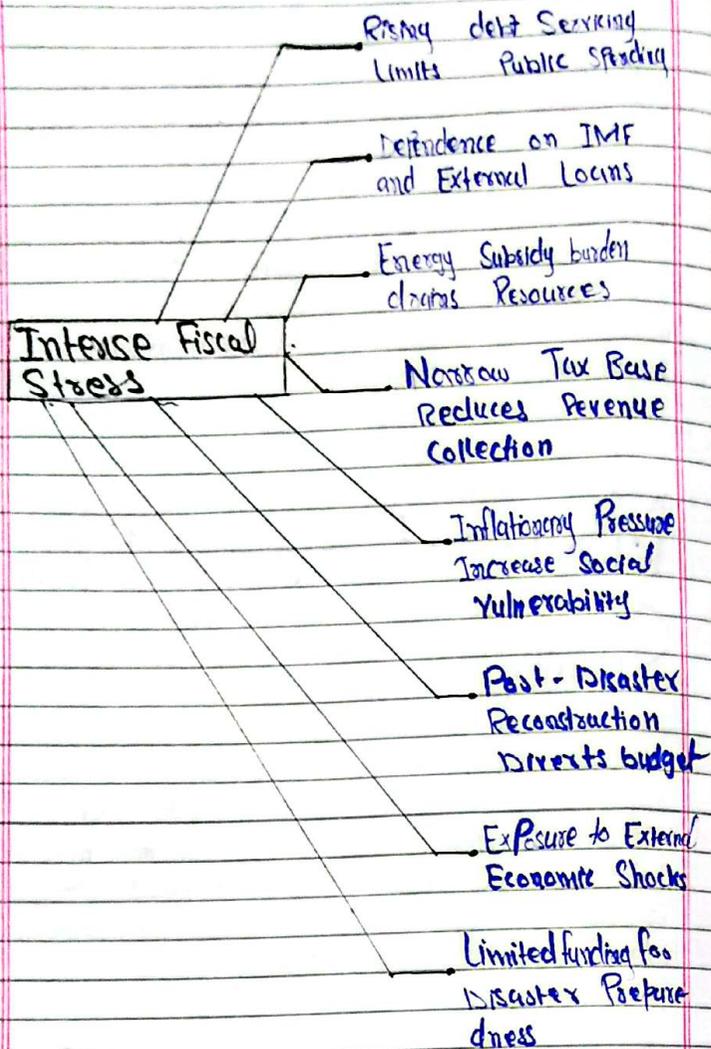
Migration Pressure On Urban Security

Sudden population influx stresses city law enforcement. As per UN-Habitat report 2025, over 1 million people migrated to Karachi in 2024-25 due to flood and drought impacts in rural Sindh.

(P.T.O)

06

Intense Fiscal Stress



Some measures mentioned above are discussed below.

(6.1)

Rising Debt Servicing Limits Public Spending

High debt repayments constrain government investment in development and resilience. As per SBP report, 2025- Pakistan spent 40% of federal revenue on debt servicing in 2024-25.

(6.2)

Energy Subsidy Burden Drains Resources

Heavy energy subsidies crowd out development spending. In 2024, energy subsidies cost 3% of GDP. As per report of the Planning Commission 2024

6.3

Exposure to External Economic Shocks (P.T.O)

Dependence on foreign loans and impacts increases fiscal vulnerability. As per SBP report 2024, PKR depreciation increased debt servicing by 15% impacting provincial budgets.

(6.4)

Post Disaster Reconstruction Diverts Budget

Funds allocated for development are redirected to emergency relief and reconstruction, reducing long-term. Over \$25 billion was spent on 2022 flood reconstruction.

(6.5)

Limited funding for Disaster Preparedness

Fiscal stress prevents proactive resilience investments. As per report of PC, 2024 only 45% of allocated climate adaptation funds were spent in flood-prone districts.

(07)

Proposed Policy Measures for Building a Stable, Secure, and Disaster-Resilient Pakistan

Making climate security binding state responsibility

Transitioning from population growth management to human capital strategy

Restoring Governance through localized Authority and Accountability

Strengthening early warning, forecasting, and anticipatory action

Creating fiscal space through structural tax and subsidy reforms

Some measures mentioned are above discussed below.

(7.1)

Making Climate Security A Binding State Responsibility

Climate risk must be treated as a core state function, not an environmental add-on. UNDP notes 2024 states with binding climate mandates suffer fewer post disaster fiscal shocks.

(7.2)

Transitioning from Population Growth Management to Human Capital Strategy

Pakistan should shift policy focus from population numbers to productivity by prioritizing female education, health access and skill development.

(7.3)

Establishing a Protected National Disaster And Resilience Financing Mechanism

A ring-fenced national fund dedicated solely to disaster preparedness and adaptation is essential to avoid diversion of resources. As per IMF 2024 finds countries with protected resilience funds recover faster and rely less on emergency borrowing.

(68)

Conclusion

Pakistan intersecting challenges of climate shocks, population growth, governance deficits, security threats, and fiscal stress demand integrated, evidence based policy strengthening institutions, investing in resilience, managing demographics, and reforming fiscal systems are essential to achieve a stable secure and disaster resilient Pakistan.