

"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 the national vulnerability."

Critically evaluate the above statement and suggest policy measures for building a stable, secure and disaster resilient Pakistan.

I. Introduction:

Pakistan has been trapped in a whirl of internal problems which are repeating in a cyclic manner

(Malecha Lodhi)

It has been rightly depicted by the former ambassador of Pakistan, Malecha Lodhi that Pakistan is experiencing a cycle of disasters. These disasters include the climate shocks, rapid population growth, governance gaps and the intense fiscal stress. But the question arises that how these me

disasters are making the country nationally vulnerable. Like the persistent climate shocks risks the food security and the critical infrastructure damage thus increasing the ~~strong~~ national vulnerability. Further, the rapid population is a strain on the resources and the basic needs, thus heightening the national vulnerability, so on and so forth. To cope with the above discussed problems it is advisable to have a strong political will, adequate spending and spread mass awareness.

II. Outline of the Question statement that How the Disasters are Enhancing the National vulnerability?

Climate shocks $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Risks food security} \\ \text{Damage critical infrastructure} \end{array} \right.$

Rapid Population Growth $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Strain on the resources} \\ \text{Enhancement of inequality} \end{array} \right.$

Governance $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Leads to Corruption} \\ \text{Gaps} \end{array} \right.$

↓ decrease of public service

Non-Traditional Security Threats

Risks industrial production
Enhances the cultural conflicts

High Fiscal stress

High inflation
Precursor to social unrest

I. How climate shocks Risks national vulnerability by compromising Food security?

Pakistan is an agricultural economy comprising of more than 20% to the GDP. Climate shocks like floods, heatwaves, and erosions cause the large swathes of land to destroy, creating the food insecurity.

As the Reports of ISSE puts:

Floods risk the food security by damaging the cash crops.

(ISSE)

II. How the climate shocks enhance the national vulnerability by damaging critical infrastructure?

The climate shocks directly hit the critical infrastructure of the country like the schools, hospitals, roads. This damage not only put pressure on the national exchequer but also affects the education and the health standards.

Floods Cost Damage
of \$138 to the critical
infrastructure in 2022.

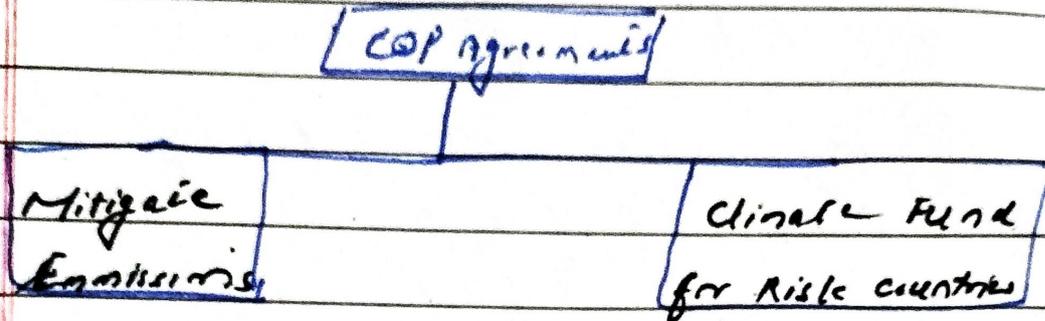
(Economic survey)

(A) Policy Measure to Condate
climate shocks to Protect Nat
ional vulnerability:

I. Focus on the Adaptation and
Resilience:

Resilient infrastructure, agricultural
crops, and the adaptation of the agree-
ments of the COPs in mitigating

the emissions is an important policy measure:



III - How the strain on Resources by Rapid Population Growth Enhances the National Vulnerability?

Pakistan is growing rapidly at the rate of 2.5% which is second highest in South Asia. This growth already put strain on the resources i.e. water, energy, jobs thus making the country nationally vulnerable.

Population growth is a North star for Pakistan.

(Ajay Banga)

IV. How the Enhancement of Inequality by Rapid Population Growth Compromises the National Vulnerability?

Rapid population growth enhances the inequality in Pakistan. As the high population is a precursor to the poverty and the exploitation of labour to earn more profit makes the people more rich thus rising the national vulnerability.

Poverty at 29.3% is
an indication of inequality.
(World Bank)

II. Policy Measure to Control Rapid Population to Protect the National Vulnerability:

I. Spread Awareness Among Masses:

To control the rapid population growth it is essential to spread mass awareness. Through media, curriculum and seminars, women should be well

aware of the negative consequences
of high population.

Social Media should be
an effective tool to spread
awareness.

(IPDRI)

v. How the Rampant Corruption
due to Governance Gaps is En-
hancing the national vulnerability?

Rampant corruption due to the
governance gaps leads to the removal
of public trust and the allocation of
money to the less development projects
enhances the national vulnerability.

Pakistan stood at
135 in corruption
perception index out
of 167 countries in
2025.

vi How the Inefficient Public
Service Delivery due to Governance

pushing the national vulnerability?

Governance gaps leads to the inefficient public service delivery. The policing, administrative, social services are at risk due to governance gaps leading to the internal chaos and the instability.

Inefficient public service delivery is a ticking bomb to produce social unrest.

(Maleeha Lodhi)

III. Policy Measure to Cope with the Governance Gaps to protect the national vulnerability:

I. Delegate Powers to the local Government system:

Delegating powers to the local government and providing them with legal and the resource base is an essential step to fill the

gap and to protect the national vulnerability.

vii. How the non-traditional security threat like the lack of water is adding fuel to the national vulnerability?

Absence of adequate water and the persistent threat of blocking it compromising the agricultural produce thus affecting the raw material supply to the industry, in this way affecting the production.

Insufficient water is an indirect hindrance to industrial produce.

(DEW Report)

viii. How the cultural conflicts are adding fuel to the national vulnerability?

Pakistan is the home to the four provinces having distinct identity.

race and ethnicity. These differences leads to the cultural conflicts and the linguistic ones damaging the national cohesion.

IV. Policy Measure to Curbate the Non-Traditional Security Threats:

I. Have a strong political will:

There is a need of strong political will which is strong enough to solve the water conflicts with diplomacy and avoid politics on the linguistic grounds.

IX. How the High Inflation Rate Due to the Fiscal stress is Exposing the country to the national vulnerability?

High fiscal stress production due to the current account deficit leads to high inflation thus limiting

the purchasing power of people and leads to social unrest.

SPI indicates the increase of inflation of 1.9% in Jan 2026.

8. How the social unrest due to the high fiscal stress is increasing the national vulnerability?

Fiscal stress produces the social unrest as the people do not have the money to cope and buy the essential goods further, less employment opportunities added fuel to the fire.

Social Unrest in Bangladesh and Nepal are the leading case studies.

9. Policy measure to tackle the high fiscal stress to protect the vulnerability:

I. Give Boost to The Exports:

Boosting exports is the leading way forward to tackle the high fiscal stress. Technological, agricultural exports and standardization of products can reduce the fiscal stress.

Export Emergency of
 10 items by Federal
 Government is a well-
 coming step.

(Information Ministry)

ii. Conclusion:

To conclude, Pakistan is in a whirl of multiple problems i.e. non traditional security threats and the high fiscal stress are contributing to the national vulnerability. To protect it it is essential to have a strong political will, boost in exports and a strong local government.