**Climate Crisis**

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Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it is a present-day reality that is profoundly affecting Pakistan, particularly in regions such as North Punjab, Sindh, and Baluchistan. As global temperatures rise, these areas are experiencing severe climatic disruptions, posing significant risks to their socio-economic stability and environmental health.

North Punjab, the agricultural heartland of Pakistan, is grappling with erratic weather patterns. The region, known for its fertile plains, is now facing prolonged droughts and unexpected heavy rainfall. These extreme weather events have disrupted crop cycles, reduced agricultural yields, and led to significant economic losses for farmers. Additionally, the melting of glaciers in the northern areas, which feed into Punjab’s rivers, is causing unpredictable river flows, further complicating irrigation practices.

Sindh, home to the mighty Indus River, is witnessing severe water scarcity and heatwaves. The province’s coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels, leading to increased salinity in groundwater and soil erosion. Karachi, the economic hub of Pakistan, has experienced record-breaking temperatures, adversely affecting public health and increasing the strain on already limited water resources. The recurring floods, attributed to erratic monsoon patterns, have displaced thousands of people, destroyed homes, and damaged infrastructure.

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Baluchistan, with its arid climate, is facing intensified drought conditions. The province’s water reservoirs are drying up, leading to a severe water crisis. The lack of water has devastated agriculture and livestock, which are the primary sources of livelihood for the local population. Moreover, the region’s unique biodiversity is under threat as species struggle to adapt to the changing climate. The socio-economic fabric of Baluchistan is further strained by these environmental challenges, exacerbating poverty and migration issues.

Addressing the climate crisis in Pakistan requires a multi-faceted approach, integrating immediate action and long-term strategies. Here are some key recommendations:

Pakistan needs substantial financial support to implement climate adaptation and mitigation measures. International climate financing, such as funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other COP26 commitments, should be mobilized to support local projects aimed at building resilience against climate impacts.

Implementing advanced irrigation techniques, such as drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting, can help conserve water. Constructing small dams and reservoirs will also aid in managing water resources more effectively.

Initiatives like the Billion Tree Tsunami should be expanded across the country. Planting trees not only sequesters carbon but also helps in soil conservation and maintaining local ecosystems.

Transitioning to renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, will reduce reliance on fossil fuels, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and providing sustainable energy solutions for rural and urban areas alike.

Raising awareness about climate change and its impacts is crucial. Educational programs and community-based initiatives can empower local populations to adopt sustainable practices and advocate for climate action.

Developing robust disaster management systems and early warning systems will enhance the capacity to respond to climate-induced disasters, minimizing damage and ensuring quicker recovery.

The climate change challenges facing North Punjab, Sindh, and Baluchistan are a clarion call for immediate and coordinated action. With effective climate financing, sustainable practices, and comprehensive policy implementation, Pakistan can mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and build a resilient future for its people. The time to act is now, for the cost of inaction is far too great.

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