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### **FORESIGHT**

October - 2023 - Vol. XI/10

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#### Chief Editor Note

Welcome to the latest edition of Foresight magazine, where we bring you a compilation of thought-provoking articles that delve into an array of pressing issues, both on the global stage and within our local communities. Our aim is to provide you with insightful analysis, engaging features, and exclusive interviews that foster a deeper understanding of the multifaceted world we inhabit.

In this issue, we explore the delicate balance Pakistan maintains in the realm of Afghan refugees and trade. Navigating the intricate hop of diplomacy, security, and economic interests is central to Pakistan's stance.

We delve into the resurgence of Nawaz Sharif in Pakistan's political arena and the key factors influencing his return. This development carries significant implications for the nation's political landscape.

Within the broader context of the global Sino-US power dynamic, we dissect Pakistan's pragmatic approach and its role in this geopolitical chess match.

We also feature an exclusive interview with Dr. Sonia Saleem, focusing on her work empowering bilateral trade. Her insights provide a unique perspective on fostering international relationships and driving economic growth.

In this edition, we analyze the complexities of international relations, contrasting India's response with Canada's stance on recent events. We revisit the progress and challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the critical discussions taking place at the United Nations General Assembly. Lastly, we join Nepal in celebrating its 9th Constitution Day, reflecting on the rich cultural diversity that shapes our world. We invite you to engage with our content, and your feedback continues to inspire us in delivering quality insights. Enjoy this journey of exploration and understanding with us. We thank our readers for their continued support and engagement with Foresight magazine. Our mission is to offer a platform for informed discussions, diverse perspectives, and a deeper comprehension of the challenges and opportunities that define our world.

With warm regards,

Tanveer Ali Maken

#### A TIME FOR ACTION

#### Pakistan's Stance on Afghan Refugees and Trade Balancing Diplomacy, Security, and Economic Interests

Tanveer Ali Maken

No nation in the world permits illegal immigrants who might endanger national security. Pakistan has long welcomed Afghan refugees with open arms, despite the cost to its own security and economic stability. As result, the nation experienced both financial and personal instability. However, following the most recent political and economic crises, which even put the nation's integrity in danger, it appears that Pakistan has had enough of the Afghan Taliban. In order to punish the Kabul administration for continuing to harbor the TTP, it has implemented new measures, like repatriating **Afghan** refugees. compelled to leave the nation.

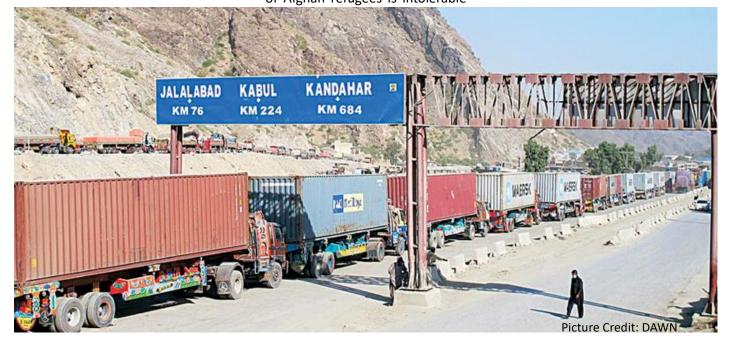
The decision has sparked worries about what would happen to Pakistan's almost 1.7 million undocumented Afghan refugees in the future. By deporting the refugees, Pakistan is taking the necessary safeguards safeguard its interests.

For decades, millions of Afghans have crossed the border to avoid upheaval and bloodshed in their own nation. lived for a long time in Pakistan. More recently, once the Afghan Taliban seized control of Kabul in August 2021, hundreds of people crossed the border into Pakistan. Afghan Taliban have opposed Pakistan's proposal to deport illegal immigrants.

Taliban claim that no refugees from Afghanistan are engaged in any violent operations in Pakistan. According to Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Afghan government, Pakistan's treatment of Afghan refugees is intolerable

and the country should rethink its strategy.

Pakistan is making an effort to implement this economic change. Hoarders and organizations connected to illegal trade are the of harassment. targets nation's borders are being patrolled to stop tax evasion and smuggling. Pakistan has already noticed the advantages of the campaign against Afghan smuggling networks and the individuals who operate them. In September, the currency that performed the best versus the US dollar was the Pakistani rupee. The economic restrictions are intended to stop harm to the domestic and international economies as a result of abuse of Afghan Transit Trade the Agreement (ATTA). Customs officers in Pakistan suspect that



of some the goods that Afghanistan imports through Pakistani ports in accordance with the ATTA are being returned to Pakistan unlawfully. Tax fraud amounting to billions of dollars has been caused by the smuggling of these goods into Pakistan at a time when the country's economy is already under a lot of strain.

The misuse of ATTA has had a negative impact on Pakistan's economy, necessitating corrective action from the government. Pakistan appears to be protecting its economic interests by enforcing tough trade conditions.

In such a situation, the timing of the choice to remove the Afghans living there illegally is notable. This is in line with the nation's adoption of stringent trade regulations with Afghanistan.

Pakistani officials are concerned about the impact and scale of trafficking associated with Afghanistan as well as the Afghan Taliban's reluctance to cooperate with Islamabad to resolve security issues over the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The initiative to expel illegal immigrants and stop their criminal behaviour comes as militant attacks in Pakistan, particularly from Afghanistan, have multiplied. Recent intelligence sources claim that Afghan citizens are actively joining the ranks of the TTP, defying the directives of the militant group's supreme commander, Haibatullah Akhundzada, and taking part in its activities against Pakistan. They are offering comfort.

The Interior Minister of Pakistan has disclosed that Afghan nationals were responsible in 14



of the 24 suicide attacks that took place in Pakistan in 2023. Akhtar Hayat Khan, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, also stated that Afghan nationals were responsible for 75% of the suicide attacks that occurred in the region during the most recent wave of terrorism. These trends primarily indicate that Islamabad is unlikely to sympathize with the Afghan Taliban's demand that Pakistan from refrain deporting mistreating illegal immigrants. Furthermore, none in Islamabad is prepared to accept Kabul's assertion that Afghan citizens are not responsible for compromising Pakistan's security.

When Pakistan harbors terrorist organizations like the TTP, which has repeatedly attacked Pakistan over the years, the Afghan Taliban cannot expect Pakistan to be friendly. The Afghan Taliban needs to understand that their days of sheltering the TTP and other militant groups near the Pakistani border without suffering any consequences are finished. No longer willing to hold negotiations with the TTP, Pakistan. The only course of action remaining is surrender or a fair deal that can

put the TTP in a position where it no longer poses a threat to Pakistan. Pakistan has attempted to negotiate the TTP with the Afghan Taliban for more than two years without success.

To aid Afghanistan's economy, Pakistan has also offered a number of economic concessions. but all of these efforts have been ineffective because Kabul continuously downplays Pakistan's worries. Pakistan's latest punitive actions appear to be motivated by the Taliban regime's failure to cooperate with Pakistan on security matters, visa fate leniency, the undocumented immigrants, and other trade-related issues. Although it has not yet targeted TTP safe havens in Afghanistan, Pakistan is clearly prepared to employ any possible tools to punish the Taliban at this point. Afghanistan's landlocked economy, which depends on Pakistan for foreign trade, could be severely harmed by Pakistan's sanctions. If Kabul continues to shield the TTP at the expense of Pakistan's peace and economy, Pakistan will be forced to take even more drastic action.

#### **NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTIES**

### Nawaz Sharif's Political Comeback **Unpacking the Factors at Play**

Dr. Abdul Rauf

On October 21, 2023, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will make his self-imposed return to Pakistan, and the political scene in Pakistan is teeming excitement. His return to Pakistani politics is marked by this important event, which could lead future political changes. However, given the altered dynamics since 2018 and shifting public perceptions, his return to politics is not without its difficulties.

Nawaz Sharif, who was facing a seven-year prison sentence on corruption-related allegations, escaped to England for medical attention. His loyal members and supporters have been waiting impatiently for his Pakistan, which return to represents a change in the political environment. His return's conditions are still unclear, allowing the public to speculate on whether he wants to reassume his position as a significant political figure, pursue justice, or seize power for the country.

Due to economic hardships and political unrest during Shahbaz Sharif's time as prime minister, the PML-N saw a decline in political popularity and saw Nawaz Sharif's comeback as a chance to rebrand the party and its position. To confront the opposition party, PTI, which currently has a sizable support base, the party must first win back popular support. In order to gain support from the populace, the PML-strategy N's focuses on tackling the country's economic and social issues.

From 2013 to 2018, Nawaz Sharif served as prime minister. During that time, the economy was largely steady, taxes were reasonable, and citizens had access to social services. The PMLhopes to elicit popular sentiment in the face of an elevated poverty rate by relying on these accomplishments. The party plans to concentrate on the economy of Pakistan as well as the pressing social problems, and it has pledged a "agro-industrial

revolution" to reduce unemployment and promote economic growth.

Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan and the PML-rebirth, N's however, depend on a number of variables, such as the PTI's election strategy, Imran Khan's willingness to work with the establishment, and the PML-capacity N's to successfully with the connect public's Whether problems. Nawaz Sharif's return signals a revival for the PML-N or a change in Pakistan's political landscape will demonstrated bν the approaching elections. How this political tale develops influences the future of the country is unknown at this point.





### PAKISTAN'S GEOSTRATEGIC CHESSBOARD A Pragmatic Approach in the Sino-US Power Play

Dr. Azeem

realm the complex of international relations, few regions face as intricate a geopolitical situation as South Asia, particularly when considering the escalating rivalry between two global powers, China and the United States. Pakistan, situated at the heart of this rivalry, grapples with a strategic dilemma that demands a balanced foreign policy approach to secure its interests while fostering stability within the region.

The strategic importance of Pakistan is undisputed, coveted by both the US and China for its geographical location and regional influence. China looks to Pakistan to realize its ambitious initiatives, epitomized by the

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while the US seeks to balance China's expanding influence through strategic cooperation with Pakistan. As a result, Pakistan endeavors to tread a fine line, maintaining strong ties with both nations.

Pakistan's strategic location, often referred to as the "crossroads of major powers' geostrategic interests," places it in a delicate position, historically emphasized during the Nixon era. In response, Pakistan aims to leverage its geographical advantage promote regional prosperity and become a bridge between the interests of the US and China. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration

among states, discouraging the prospect of another Cold War.

Crucially, Pakistan's strategic choices are influenced by the Sino-US rivalry, particularly with regard to its relations with India. The strengthening **US-India** strategic partnership elevates India's importance in the Indo-**Pacific** region, indirectly impacting Pakistan. To navigate these challenges, Pakistan must adopt a neutral stance, avoiding conflict potential safeguarding flagship projects like China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The situation in neighboring Afghanistan further amplifies Pakistan's strategic considerations. The withdrawal of

US forces opens doors for China to play a significant role in Afghanistan, aligning with the broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This move by China bolsters Pakistan's strategic centrality, but it also necessitates careful navigation to ensure Pakistan's interests and regional stability.

In the economic sphere, Pakistan faces a dual challenge. While the US remains an essential trading partner and a source of foreign direct investment, China has emerged as a critical economic ally, particularly with the initiation of the CPEC. Striking a balance

between these economic partnerships is crucial to avoiding overdependence and securing Pakistan's long-term economic interests.

Furthermore, Pakistan's maritime interests are directly impacted by the Sino-US rivalry, notably in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The struggle for dominance in this region influences Pakistan's strategic naval decisions, requiring careful considerations to safeguard its maritime security while managing relationships with the US and China effectively.

In conclusion, Pakistan finds itself at a crossroads, facing a complex strategic dilemma as it balances its relationships with China and the United States amid their rivalry. The escalating way forward for Pakistan lies in adopting a nuanced and balanced strategy that safeguards national interests, promotes regional stability, and fosters mutually beneficial relationships. By doing so, Pakistan can establish itself as a trustworthy actor in its relationships with both the US and China, ultimately ensuring its long-term security and economic prosperity.



#### LEADING WITH GRACE

#### **Empowering Bilateral Trade**

Dr. Sonia Saleem

Exclusive Interview

In an exclusive interview, we explore the remarkable journey of Dr. Sonia Saleem, a trailblazing figure in education and trade. Dr. Saleem, the Director of Trade and Investment at the Pakistan Britain Business Council (PBBC), is driving bilateral trade and investment between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Additionally, she serves as the visionary CEO and Founder of Smart Education Technologies Group, a conglomerate comprising Socio Engineering Technologies in Pakistan, SETI in the UAE, and Xinnovate in the UK. Recognized for her pioneering efforts in introducing international skilled certifications in Pakistan, she was honored by the President of Pakistan for her groundbreaking work in education innovation. Dr. Saleem's multifaceted roles, including her position as Senior Vice President at the Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI), embody resilience and determination in an evolving society. Our conversation with Dr. Sonia Saleem offers insights into her inspiring journey and choices, highlighting her commitment to empowering women in Pakistan as a formidable role model.

What role does Dr. Sonia play as the Director of Trade and Investment at PBBC in achieving the organization's objectives and promoting bilateral trade between Pakistan and the UK?"

My role as the Director of Trade and Investment at the Britain **Business** Pakistan Council (PBBC) centers on advancing the agenda of fostering bilateral trade and investment activities between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. A significant aspect of PBBC's mission involves a strategic emphasis on the educational sector, recognizing its pivotal role within the broader spectrum of Pakistan's economic and societal requisites. This focus

is amplified considering Pakistan's youthful demographic, which represents a burgeoning economically active population. This demographic strength is anticipated to play a crucial role in



propelling Pakistan's economic growth in the foreseeable future.

Can you elaborate on the founding story of Smart Education Technologies Group

### and the motivations behind its creation?

The Smart Education Technologies Group's journey is a testament to transformative power technology in education. It began with Socio Engineering Consultants, where I initially joined as a founder, driven by my passion for education and community development. After further studies abroad, I returned in 2014 as the CEO, driving the company's educational mission. In 2017, I took on the challenge of leading three companies in Pakistan, the UAE, and the UK, all focused on leveraging technology to enhance education. This led to the formation of the Smart

Education Technologies Group, uniting various strengths under a single vision of revolutionizing education with technology. As the sole owner, the group has continued to expand its impact

and transform lives through innovative education.

### Could you share an example of a significant project that you believe has had a transformative impact on education in Pakistan?

Two transformative education projects in Pakistan, spearheaded Socio Engineering by Technologies, have significantly improved the country's educational landscape. The introduction of Interactive White Boards (IWBs) in 150 public schools through the Technology for Education (T4E) initiative in 2014 has had a profound impact. IWBs have not only enhanced student engagement and learning outcomes but also fostered digital literacy and unlocked teacher creativity. In 2016, the of students certification as Microsoft Office Specialists (MOS) under the Education Transformation Agreement (ETA) further empowered the education system. MOS certification has bolstered students' employability, productivity, and competitiveness in the local and global job market, fostering confidence, satisfaction,

and a commitment to lifelong learning. These initiatives exemplify how technology can revolutionize education, aligning with Pakistan's aspirations to become a knowledge-based economy and society.

### What's your vision for tech-enhanced interactive classrooms shaping global learning experiences?

The future of interactive classrooms is brimming with potential. These advanced learning

environments harness state-ofthe-art technology to create dynamic and engaging spaces for students, enabling them to access, create, and share digital content, collaborate with peers and educators, and engage in interactive activities. Interactive classrooms also empower teachers to monitor, assess, and personalize learning experiences. This transformative approach has the capacity to enhance learning outcomes globally, especially in developing regions, by overcoming resource limitations and educational disparities, fostering a culture of innovation, and preparing students for the future. Notable projects countries like India, Sudan, and Afghanistan showcase the tangible impact of interactive classrooms on education.

### Describe the recognized education innovation and its impact, leading to the award from Pakistan's President.

I am honored to have been recognized and awarded by the President of Pakistan for my role in introducing interactive technology education. in Interactive technology encompasses various devices and software, such as Interactive White Boards (IWBs), Interactive Learning Software (ILS), Cloud-Based Solutions (CBS), which enable dynamic interactions between teachers, students, and digital content. This innovation has significantly transformed the education sector in Pakistan, elevating both its quality and accessibility. It has improved student learning outcomes, increased teacher effectiveness, fostered collaboration, and seamlessly integrated digital literacy and essential 21st-century skills into the curriculum. My journey to introduce interactive technology was a challenging but ultimately rewarding one, requiring dedication. hard work, and perseverance from my team and me. Additionally, we focused on enhancing the skills and employability of young individuals by offering them international certifications through partnership with Certiport Pearson VUE, leading



certification organization. These certifications provided the youth valuable skills with and credentials for their future careers.

As a pioneer in introducing international skilled certifications in Pakistan, how do you see these certifications influencing the job market and employment in youth country?

International skilled certifications are esteemed credentials that attest to an individual's expertise across various domains and industries, holding universal recognition among employers and organizations. Notable examples of these certifications encompass the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS), Adobe Certified Associate (ACA), Autodesk Certified User (ACU), and IC3 Digital Literacy Certification. In my role as a trailblazer in the introduction of international skilled certifications in Pakistan, I firmly believe in the far-reaching impact these certifications have on the nation's market and its youth employment landscape. Their advantages are multifaceted. including enhanced employability, boosted confidence, and a culture of lifelong learning.

#### How has your chamber and trade council involvement shaped your approach to edtech and business innovation?

I am dedicated to improving the quality of education in Pakistan through innovative technology solutions. My work in the field of education technology garnered recognition and awards, and I am proud to have played a role in introducing interactive technology to enhance learning outcomes. The journey has been both challenging and rewarding, hard requiring work and dedication from my team and me. We have also empowered the youth by providing them with valuable international certifications, enhancing their skills and employability. With a commitment to lifelong learning and innovation, I believe that education technology is a driving force for progress and development.

#### Could you discuss your role as a Global Advisor with Belobaba Fund, particularly focusing on blockchain and cryptocurrency?

As a Global Advisor at Belobaba Fund, I provide strategic guidance blockchain and cryptocurrency, two groundbreaking technologies reshaping industries. Blockchain, a distributed ledger system, enables secure and transparent transactions. Cryptocurrency, a digital asset, harnesses cryptography for secure transfer and creation. Together, these innovations can revolutionize finance, trade, health, education, and governance. My responsibilities include industry researching trends, identifying investment opportunities, fostering global collaborations, and advocating for blockchain and cryptocurrency adoption in various domains. I'm about passionate harnessing these technologies for positive impact, empowering individuals and organizations to achieve their aspirations.

You've signed MoUs with numerous international institutions. Can you shed light on the significance of these

#### collaborations and how they contribute to Smart Education Technologies Group's mission and operations?

The Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) I've established with international institutions underscore my dedication to advancing smart education technologies in Pakistan and beyond. These technologies enable interactive and personalized learning experiences, fostering digital literacy and 21st-century skills. Collaborating with Microsoft I've introduced Corporation, solutions like Interactive White Boards and Microsoft Office Specialist certification. Partnering with Certiport - Pearson VUE, we've administered international skilled certifications like Adobe Certified Associate, Autodesk Certified User, and IC3 Digital Literacy Certification. As a Global Advisor at Belobaba Fund, I offer insights into disruptive technologies like blockchain and cryptocurrency. These partnerships provide valuable help customize resources, education solutions, expand my network, and reinforce my role as an education technology leader in Pakistan.

Can you discuss the projects you have collaborated on government bodies in Pakistan and the Middle East? How have these collaborations contributed to advancing education and technology in the respective regions?

Collaborating with governmental entities, I've been instrumental in propelling education and technology in Pakistan and the Middle East. These partnerships have opened doors for students and educators to access top-notch content, regardless of their location or background, while also nurturing vital 21st-century skills. collaboration This fosters innovation, creativity, and lifelong learning among these individuals, harnessing technology's transformative potential education and society.

In your role as a mediator for foreign companies, especially in the UK, what strategies do you employ to successfully facilitate their entry and engagement in the educational landscape of Pakistan and the Middle East?

mediator for foreign As companies, particularly in the UK, I employ a strategic approach to enable their successful entry and engagement in the educational landscape of Pakistan and the Middle East. This involves comprehensive market research to identify regional needs and opportunities. Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders is crucial, involving government bodies, regulatory agencies, academic institutions, industry associations, and media outlets. Marketing and branding campaigns are designed and executed to generate interest, and training and consultancy services are provided to ensure customer satisfaction and product success.

As a leader in innovation education tech, what are the key trends or advancements in the education technology sector that you believe will shape the future of education?

The future of education is on the cusp of significant transformation, driven by key trends and technological advancements in the field. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are revolutionizing education with personalized, adaptive learning systems and providing valuable insights for educators to refine

their teaching methods. parallel, Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) creating immersive, interactive learning environments, enhancing learner engagement and retention. Cloud Computing and Web3 are fostering accessible and secure learning platforms, offering flexibility and enabling decentralized, community-driven learning networks. Meanwhile, gamification and nano-learning are making education engaging and enjoyable, catering learners of all ages. Finally, lifelong learning subscription are services promoting continuous skill development, making high-quality education accessible and affordable. These trends collectively promise to elevate the quality and accessibility of education for learners worldwide.

Looking ahead, what are your future goals and aspirations for Smart Education Technologies



### Group and its impact on education in the Middle East, UK, and Pakistan?

In the Middle East, the UK, and Pakistan, my future aspirations for Smart Education Technologies Group encompass a multi-faceted approach. First, we plan to expand our presence by establishing extensive partnerships with key stakeholders in the education including government sector, bodies, academic institutions, industry associations, and media outlets. This expansion will enable us to enhance our products and services further by integrating cutting-edge education technologies like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, gamification, and lifelong learning. Our goal is to offer personalized customized, solutions tailored to the unique context and audience of each region. Furthermore. Our commitment to improvement includes rigorous research to assess the impact and satisfaction of our products and services on learning, student teacher performance, and stakeholder engagement. To ensure the highest quality and effectiveness, we will provide additional training and support for our customers and users. Ultimately, our mission is to contribute to the advancement and transformation of education in these regions, focusing on improving education's quality and accessibility for learners of all backgrounds. By fostering a culture of innovation, creativity, and lifelong learning among students and teachers, we aim to create a brighter future for education.

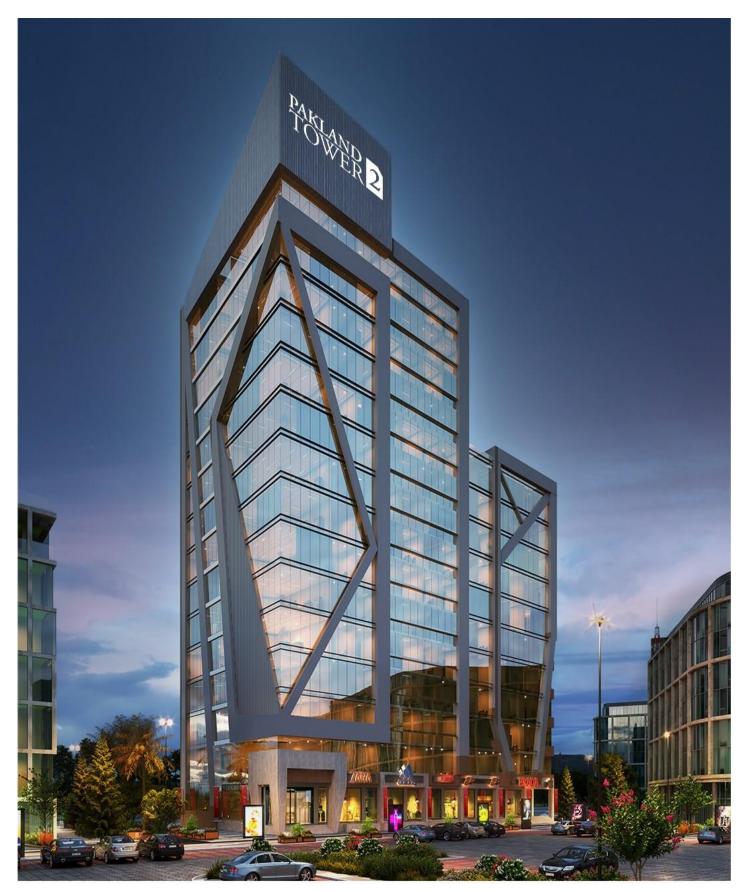
Tablet Academy, a renowned organization, specializes in

providing innovative technology solutions and educational services to educational institutions and businesses. Our shared mission is empower educators institutions with the knowledge and tools needed for effective technology integration in teaching and learning. Together, we offer a wide range of services, including professional development for educators, technology integration access consultancy, and cutting-edge edtech solutions. Our expertise in educational technology makes us a valuable resource for institutions seeking to harness the full potential of digital tools in education. Recognizing the imperative of technology integrating into in today's rapidly education

evolving digital landscape, Socio Engineering Technologies and Tablet Academy collaborate to better support educational institutions, prepare students for success in a tech-driven world, and champion innovation in education.

We sincerely appreciate the time you've dedicated to this interview. Your insights and contributions have made it truly exceptional, and we extend our best wishes for vour continued success in the future. Lastly, on behalf of our team, we'd like to extend our advance warmest birthday greetings. May it be a day filled and memorable with joy moments







We were the first to acquire land in New Blue Area in July 2020. By the Grace of Almighty, construction work of *Pakland Tower 2* has already started. InshaAllah keeping our tradition of timely delivery, we will handover the possesion to our valued investors in July 2023

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the midst of diplomatic tensions, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a startling announcement implicating India in the June assassination of a Sikh Canadian leader. This revelation has reignited longstanding concerns and sparked a heated debate over safety and polarization within Canada's Sikh community.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Canadian Sikh leader and proponent of Khalistan, was fatally shot outside a Sikh temple in Surrey on June 18. The immediate aftermath saw an outpouring of concern within the local Sikh community. However, it was Trudeau's subsequent statement in the House of Commons that elevated the incident into a full-blown diplomatic crisis.

Trudeau's assertion that there might be links between the Indian government and Nijjar's murder drew sharp responses from India, vehemently denying any involvement and branding the allegations as "absurd" and politically driven. This exchange has further strained the already delicate relationship between the two countries, leading to the expulsion of diplomats and

suspension of visa processing. These actions underscore the gravity of the situation and raise crucial questions about the future of India-Canada relations.

The crux of the tension lies in the Khalistan movement, a movement seeking an independent state for Sikhs in India's Punjab region. Rooted in the aftermath of British colonial rule, the movement gained momentum during the 1970s and 1980s, characterized by violent political insurgency among Sikhs in India. The pinnacle of this movement was the tragic military raid on the Golden Temple in June

# CLASH OF NARRATIVES India's Rebuttal and Canada's Stance on Nijjar's Killing

Nadir Abbas





1984 and the subsequent anti-Sikh riots.

Within Canada, the Khalistan movement finds support in the Sikh diaspora, which is the largest outside of India, numbering over 770,000 people. However, it's essential to acknowledge the diversity of opinions within the Sikh community. Not all members are proponents of Khalistan, and there's a range of views on the issue.

Even among Khalistan supporters like Nijjar, the emphasis has been on pursuing their cause through peaceful means, including nonbinding referendums. This nuance is often lost in the heated rhetoric surrounding the movement.

India perceives the Khalistan movement as a significant threat to its national security, with historical concerns stemming from the 1985 bombing of Air India Flight 182, orchestrated by Sikh separatists based in British Columbia. India has consistently urged countries, including to curb activities Canada. associated with Sikh separatism, accusing Canada of providing shelter to Khalistani terrorists.

The recent escalation has polarized the South Asian diaspora in Canada. Inflammatory statements by certain groups have divide. exacerbated the reminiscent of the environment in the 1980s following Operation Blue Star in Punjab.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's public statement implicating Indian agents in the murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. This development has led to a swift escalation, impacting both diplomatic relations and trade interactions. Here is a detailed timeline of events over the past month that have strained the

relationship between the two nations.

On September 1. Canada unexpectedly halted talks on a proposed trade treaty with India, surprising both countries as they had expressed intentions to finalize an initial agreement just three months earlier. The move was followed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi raising serious concerns about Sikh separatist protests in Canada during a meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit in New Delhi on September 10.

Canada further heightened tensions on September 15 by postponing a trade mission to India scheduled for October. The cited was reason concerns surrounding the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen advocating for an independent Sikh homeland separate from India. Nijjar had been shot dead

by unidentified gunmen outside a Sikh gurdwara in a Vancouver suburb on June 18.

September 18, Trudeau On addressed the Canadian Parliament, stating that Canada was actively pursuing credible allegations linking Indian government agents to Nijjar's revelation assassination. This intensified the strain between the two nations. India vehemently rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" on September 19, both resulting in countries expelling each other's diplomats.

India escalated its response on September 22 by suspending the issuance of new visas for Canadian nationals and urging Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in India. Additionally, Indian company JSW Steel Ltd slowed down its process of acquiring a stake in the coal unit

of Canada's Teck Resources as a reaction to the diplomatic tensions. Various trade agreements between the two nations also experienced slowdowns.

As the situation continued to evolve, India informed Canada on October 3 of the need to repatriate 41 diplomats October 10, further exacerbating the diplomatic strain. In response to the escalating situation, Prime Minister Trudeau emphasized that Canada does not seek to escalate tensions with India. He reiterated Canada's commitment responsibly to engage constructively with New Delhi.

The impact of these events on the longstanding relationship between India and Canada remains to be seen, and both nations are being closely watched for further developments

Amidst escalating tensions, Canada has called on India to cooperate in the investigation into Nijjar's assassination. This incident shed light has on of Indian concerns foreign interference in Canada, prompting calls for thorough investigations and accountability.

conclusion, Trudeau's In allegations against India regarding Nijjar's assassination have exacerbated already existing tensions rooted in the Khalistan The movement. situation underscores the need for dialogue, cooperation, and a balanced approach to address the concerns of both nations and promote peace within the Sikh diaspora in Canada. It is a critical moment for diplomacy engagement to pave the way for a harmonious future between India and Canada.





Representatives from all around the world will meet in New York City for the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) 78th annual session to discuss urgent world issues. This year's UNGA session focuses on promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an ambitious decade-old project tackling poverty, education, and other socioeconomic concerns, in addition to

which causes catastrophic weather events that put a strain on resources and uproot entire communities.

Additionally, conflicts like Russia's invasion of Ukraine increased civilian fatalities by 50%, contributed to mass migration, and driven up food underdeveloped costs in countries. Progress was further hampered by the COVID-19 into their planning initiatives, demonstrating potential development. The SDGs can be used by civil society to pressure governments to increase their commitment to sustainability and equity goals.

Despite the difficulties, delayed worldwide development might prompt a reevaluation of the voluntary method. According to experts, there is a need for

### **UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY Revisiting the Progress and Challenges of SDGs**

Desk Report

addressing important issues like the climate catastrophe and the war in Ukraine.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include 17 and objectives 169 specific targets, were approved September 2015 as a path for resolving complex global issues by 2030. They are a tool for tracking development, assisting decision-making, and promoting international cooperation even if they are not legally enforceable. The goals include eradicating poverty and hunger, enhancing educational systems, promoting gender equality, and ensuring access to affordable electricity and clean water.

However, these objectives stand in stark contrast to the world today. If current trends continue, the UN predicts that 600 million people will experience extreme hunger and 575 million people will live in extreme poverty by 2030. These goals are seriously jeopardized by climate change,

epidemic, which increased inequality and drove millions into poverty. According to the 2023 SDG progress report, gender equality growth has likewise been at a standstill for more than ten years.

The **SDGs** have not been successful in encouraging cooperation between nations and policymakers, according experts. The goals' non-binding form enables nations to give some goals top priority while ignoring others without suffering major repercussions. The fact that richer countries with more resources typically perform better achieving these objectives suggests that the existing strategy needs to be reevaluated.

Despite the slow pace of worldwide development toward the SDGs, efforts at the local level and advocacy from civil society organizations provide encouragement. Local governments have made headway incorporating the SDGs

stronger, stricter criteria in some sectors, which may be applied by smaller groupings of countries to increase pressure for substantive change.

The approaching SDG Summit and the broader topic of this year's UNGA underscore the urgency of concerted efforts to accomplish these important sustainability goals while the world struggles with urgent global crises. The onus is on global leaders to regain momentum and make firm commitments that will impact the future for future generations.





### UNITED IN CELEBRATION **Nepal's 9th Constitution Day**

A Joyous Celebration with Warm Wishes from Pakistan

Tanveer Ali Maken

In a jubilant celebration, the Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad commemorated the Constitution Day of Nepal, an event that marks a significant milestone in the nation's democratic history. The Embassy grand reception, showcasing the spirit of unity and diplomacy between Nepal and Pakistan.

distinguished Addressing the guests, H.E. Mr. Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, emphasized the profound impact of Nepal's constitution,

encapsulating fundamental democratic principles, human rights, peace, progress, equality, and equity. He highlighted how this constitution, promulgated on 20th September 2015, is the cornerstone of Nepal's democracy and has been celebrated annually as Nepal's National Day.

Expressing his thoughts on the Nepal-Pakistan relations. Ambassador Adhikari underlined the exceptional bilateral relations characterized by warmth, friendship, and cooperation between the two nations. He also emphasized the need to further broaden and diversify these relations, unlocking their potential for mutual advantages.

H.E. Muhammad Sami Saeed, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his speech, he extended congratulations and best wishes from the Prime Minister and the Government of Pakistan to the Government and people of Nepal. Minister Saeed commended the strong bilateral relations between Nepal and Pakistan.

Senator H.E. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee, also shared his thoughts on Nepal-Pakistan relations, drawing from his extensive experience gained through numerous visits to Nepal.

The event saw a diverse and distinguished gathering including the leader of the opposition in the Senate, senators, Ambassador of **Pakistan** to Nepal, former ministers, high civilian and military officials of the Government of Pakistan, and former ambassadors of Pakistan to Nepal. Also present were Ambassadors/High

Commissioners to Pakistan, representatives of diplomatic and international missions organizations, friends of Nepal, business and media-persons, and of the members Nepali community.

Prior to the reception, the Ambassador hoisted the national flag of Nepal in the Embassy premises, a symbolic gesture echoing national pride and unity. The Nepali community in Islamabad joined this ceremony, exchanging congratulations and best wishes.

The event was not only a testament to the close diplomatic ties between Nepal and Pakistan but also a celebration of democracy and shared values between the two nations. It showcased Nepal's rich cultural heritage, inviting all to explore the natural beauty and adventure tourism that Nepal has to offer.





The pride of the past and the might of the future converging in the present in a spectacle grand enough to put any doubts on China's ability to put on a show to rest - the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games here was as much about China showcasing itself in a post-Covid era as the much-delayed Games and sports themselves.

The show, lasting just over 100

"All the technology, props and programs will help us present the rich history and culture Hangzhou and Zhejiang," the ceremony's chief director Sha Xialan has been quoted as saying and it perfectly sums up the confluence of past and future on Saturday evening.

The 80,000 capacity Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, or the Big Lotus as it is known, impression of having a real person inside, are remotely controlled.

Hangzhou's history was presented through lights and lasers projected on the floor of the stadium and on huge hang-down banner curtains, the entire evening tied together with the theme of water as the eternal nourishing force - ironic, given the constant rain in the city for more than two days now. But the

#### ASIAN GAMES 2023

### Showcasing the past, using the future in the present China displays might and pride in opening ceremony

Desk Report

minutes, was an extension of the all-pervasive technology seen all across the city that prides itself on being the greenest in the country with the tagline 'paradise on Earth'. Not surprisingly, nature in all its forms, including greenery and harvest, figured heavily in the performances.

showcased China's might and ambition across eras - from the traditional dating back to the 9th century to a sustainable and digital future that has been allpervasive across the city. Even the life-size mascots at different places, realistic enough to give an extent of contingency planning can be gauged from the fact that a replacement venue within the same stadium complex had been kept ready, complete with an abridged version of the opening ceremony without some of the more dramatic elements, in case of inclement weather.



While the pre-show began as early as 6 PM, the loudest cheer was unsurprisingly reserved for the arrival of Chinese president Xi Jinping at 7.58 PM - and his officially declaring the Games open later in the evening -marking the official start of the proceedings with an opening performance titled 'Autumn in Golden Glow' followed by the Chinese flag with a backdrop of the Great Wall.

For a Games that prides itself on being "China and Asia having integration of culture" and "Asian people's unity", though, the ceremony also highlighted how politics and sports are inseparable - while every country including the likes of Afghanistan, Indonesia and Jordan were welcomed with loud cheers from the stands during the parade of nations, India's entry was marked by a visible chillness, reflecting the status of relations current between the continental neighbours.

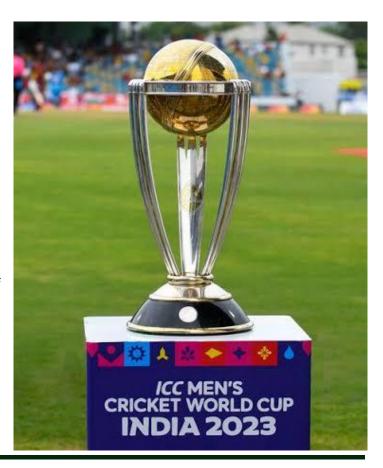
Jinping declared the Games open to the tune of vociferous drum beats and martial music, followed by the Athletes' Oath and a breathtaking closing performance that saw the entire stadium turned into one huge threedimensional canvas of light and sound. With an emphasis on being the first carbon-neutral Games, the traditional fireworks were substituted for a light show with each spark representing one of the 100 million participants of the Hangzhou 2022 online Torch Relay, together forming the shape of a person lighting the main cauldron alongside Tokyo Olympic gold medalist swimmer Wang Shun as the final torchbearer.



With India as the hosting nation, the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup is the 13th edition of the Cricket World Cup. Ten national groups are participating in this quadrennial One Day International (ODI) format administered by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The 2023 ICC World Cup is being hosted by India from 5th October to 19th November 2023. The event is expected to feature ten competing teams and is expected to be contested in the identical format as the 2019 versions, with a round-robin format preceding knockouts. In the round-robin phase, all ten teams will compete versus every other team once.

A triumph arrives for the team that prevails a pair of points in every match-up, while a tie awards both sides one point each. The top four groups from the round-robin competition are headed to the semi-finals. The finalists of the two subsequent semifinals will clash in the final round to decide the tournament winner. The finalists of the two subsequent semifinals will clash in the final round to decide the tournament winner.



## BATTLES, RECORDS, AND GLORY Predicting the Winners of the 2023 ICC World Cup

Desk Report

The Cricket World Cup, or officially the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, is the international one-day international (ODI) cricket competition. Every four years, a contest is governed by the International Cricket Council (ICC), with intermediate eligibility tiers culminating up to a head-to-head tournament at the finale. The series is one of the most-watched athletic competitions worldwide and is touted as the "flagship fixture of the worldwide cricket season" as determined by the ICC.

England staged the inaugural Cricket World Cup in 1975 since it was the sole nation with the financial resources to embark on such an enormous tourney at that moment in time. The initial three stagings were hosted in England and were dubbed the Prudential Cup following the contest's advertisers, Prudential plc. Each match featured 60 six-ball overs for every squad, bowled in a conventional manner throughout the

course of the day, with the athletes outfitted in cricket whites and employing red cricket balls.

From the inaugural World Cup in 1975 to the 2019 World Cup, many participants were featured. This was principally achieved by full fellowship in the ICC until the conclusion of the 2015 World Cup, and for the 2019 World Cup, it was earned through rating spots in the ICC ODI Championship. From the second World Cup in 1979 up to the 2019 World Cup, the squads that progressed instantly were augmented by only a handful of additional groups who entered via a separate qualification approach.

The ICC World Cricket Competition overruled prior prequalifying operations for the 2011 World Cup, and the moniker "ICC Trophy" has been modified to "ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier". The Worldwide Cricket Division was the eligibility mechanism intended to provide the ICC's associate and affiliate teams additional opportunities to become eligible.



Thursday, 5 October	ENGLAND	-	٧	- Bay	NEW ZEALAND	Ahmedabad
Friday, 6 October	PAKISTAN	C	٧		NETHERLANDS	Hyderabad
Saturday, 7 October *	BANGLADESH		٧	101	AFGHANISTAN	Dharamsala
Saturday, 7 October	SOUTH AFRICA	<b>&gt;=</b>	٧		SRI LANKA	Delhi
Sunday, 8 October	INDIA		٧	150	AUSTRALIA	Chennai
Monday, 9 October	NEW ZEALAND	200	٧		NETHERLANDS	Hyderabad
Tuesday, 10 October *	ENGLAND	-	٧		BANGLADESH	Dharamsala
Tuesday, 10 October	PAKISTAN	C	٧	15	SRI LANKA	Hyderabad
Wednesday, 11 October	INDIA		٧	<b>10</b>	AFGHANISTAN	Delhi
Thursday, 12 October	AUSTRALIA	100	٧	<b>&gt;=</b>	SOUTH AFRICA	Lucknow
Friday, 13 October	NEW ZEALAND	-	٧		BANGLADESH	Chennai
Saturday, 14 October	INDIA		٧	TC:	PAKISTAN	Ahmedabad
Sunday, 15 October	ENGLAND		٧	100	AFGHANISTAN	Delhi
Monday, 16 October	AUSTRALIA	- 日本	٧		SRI LANKA	Lucknow
Tuesday, 17 October	SOUTH AFRICA	<b>&gt;=</b>	٧		NETHERLANDS	Dharamsala
Wednesday, 18 October	NEW ZEALAND	<b>24</b> 25	٧		AFGHANISTAN	Chennai
Thursday, 19 October	INDIA		٧		BANGLADESH	Pune
Friday, 20 October	AUSTRALIA	7	٧	C	PAKISTAN	Bengaluru
Saturday, 21 October *	NETHERLANDS		٧	II.	SRI LANKA	Lucknow
Saturday, 21 October	ENGLAND	#	٧	海	SOUTH AFRICA	Mumbai
Sunday, 22 October	INDIA		٧	<b>MA</b>	NEW ZEALAND	Dharamsala
Monday, 23 October	PAKISTAN	C	٧		AFGHANISTAN	Chennai
Tuesday, 24 October	SOUTH AFRICA	≔	٧		BANGLADESH	Mumbai
Wednesday, 25 October	AUSTRALIA	- 開設	٧		NETHERLANDS	Delhi
Thursday, 26 October	ENGLAND	#	٧		SRI LANKA	Bengaluru
Friday, 27 October	PAKISTAN	C	٧	<u>&gt;=</u>	SOUTH AFRICA	Chennai
Saturday, 28 October *	AUSTRALIA	100	٧	- 開発	NEW ZEALAND	Dharamsala
Saturday, 28 October	NETHERLANDS		٧		BANGLADESH	Kolkata
Sunday, 29 October	INDIA		٧	#	ENGLAND	Lucknow
Monday, 30 October	AFGHANISTAN		٧		SRI LANKA	Pune
Tuesday, 31 October	PAKISTAN	C	٧		BANGLADESH	Kolkata
Wednesday, 1 November	NEW ZEALAND	100	٧	<u>&gt;=</u>	SOUTH AFRICA	Pune
Thursday, 2 November	INDIA		٧		SRI LANKA	Mumbai
Friday, 3 November	NETHERLANDS	100	٧		AFGHANISTAN	Lucknow
Saturday, 4 November *	NEW ZEALAND	20	٧	C	PAKISTAN	Bengaluru
Saturday, 4 November	ENGLAND	#	٧	720	AUSTRALIA	Ahmedabad
Sunday, 5 November	INDIA		٧	<u>~</u>	SOUTH AFRICA	Kolkata
Monday, 6 November	BANGLADESH		V	15	SRI LANKA	Delhi
Tuesday, 7 November	AUSTRALIA	100	V		AFGHANISTAN	Mumbai
Wednesday, 8 November	ENGLAND	#	V		NETHERLANDS	Pune
Thursday, 9 November	NEW ZEALAND		٧		SRI LANKA	Bengaluru
Friday, 10 November	SOUTH AFRICA	<u></u>	٧.		AFGHANISTAN	Ahmedabad
Saturday, 11 November *	AUSTRALIA		٧		BANGLADESH	Pune
Saturday, 11 November	ENGLAND	#	V	C	PAKISTAN	Kolkata
Sunday, 12 November	INDIA		٧		NETHERLANDS	Bengaluru
Wednesday, 15 November	SEMI FINAL 1					Mumbai
Thursday, 16 November	SEMI FINAL 2					Kolkata
SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER	FINAL					AHMEDABAD

'Climate change' has transformed in recent years from a remote worry to a present danger that affects every region of the world. As we see more frequent and extreme weather events, rising global temperatures, and the devastation caused by environmental degradation, it is clear that addressing climate change is urgent. We must examine the necessity international cooperation in the battle against climate change and how it is related to the crucial issue of food security. We must comprehend the significance of COP28 in our shared effort to create a sustainable future that guarantees everyone has access to wholesome food.

Every area of our life is impacted by the problem of climate change, which knows no boundaries. This enormous task cannot be taken on by one country alone. To provide a forum for countries to discuss and put climate change mitigation strategies into action, is precisely why Conference of the Parties (COP) was founded. COP28, the 28th iteration of this crucial gathering, is poised to fundamentally alter how we as a world respond to climate change.

The Paris Agreement's implementation is the main item on the COP28 agenda. With the help of this historic agreement, global warming is to be kept far below 2 degrees Celsius above

pre-industrial levels. Significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, a switch to renewable energy sources, and the adoption of sustainable practises across businesses are all necessary to meet this goal. But the success of these initiatives hinges on a planned, international reaction.

The ethos of COP28 is based on idea the of equity. acknowledges that marginalised and vulnerable communities, many of which have made the smallest contributions to the problem, are disproportionately affected by climate change's effects. Therefore, it is crucial for wealthy countries to take the lead in decreasing emissions and helping developing countries

### CLIMATE CRISIS AND FOOD SECURITY The Unbreakable Link Under COP28's Spotlight

Sana Eqbal



to switch cleaner, more sustainable development pathways.

Additionally, COP28 offers a crucial chance to address the critical issue of climate finance. developing countries to successfully adapt to the changing climate and put mitigation policies in place, adequate crucial. finance is **Financial** commitments from wealthy nations must not only be kept, but also promptly honoured. Transparent systems for the effective distribution of funding must also be put in place.

Let's focus on the related issue of food security right now. The difficulties of feeding an expanding global population are worse made by climate change. Agricultural systems are disrupted and crop yields are decreased as result of rising temperatures, unpredictable weather, and catastrophic events. Communities in many places must adjust to new growing conditions to avoid facing food shortages as a result of climate change.

The topic of food security is not one that can be discussed separately from the discussion of climate change. Global food systems are severely impacted by the effects of global warming. The ability of the globe to feed its population is seriously threatened by crop failures, water shortages, and interruptions in food supply systems.

It is impossible to stress the importance of tackling the climate crisis and how closely it relates to food security. We have a little window of time to prevent the most catastrophic effects of climate change, including those on food security, according to a recent Intergovernmental Panel Change Climate (IPCC) This window assessment. shrinking quickly.

This time around, COP28 presents Pakistan with an opportunity, along with other countries, to prioritise climate-smart

agriculture practises. This entails advocating for crop varieties resistant to drought, effective water management, and sustainable farming practises. By **Pakistan** doing this, strengthen its population's food security changing in a environment while also reducing emissions.

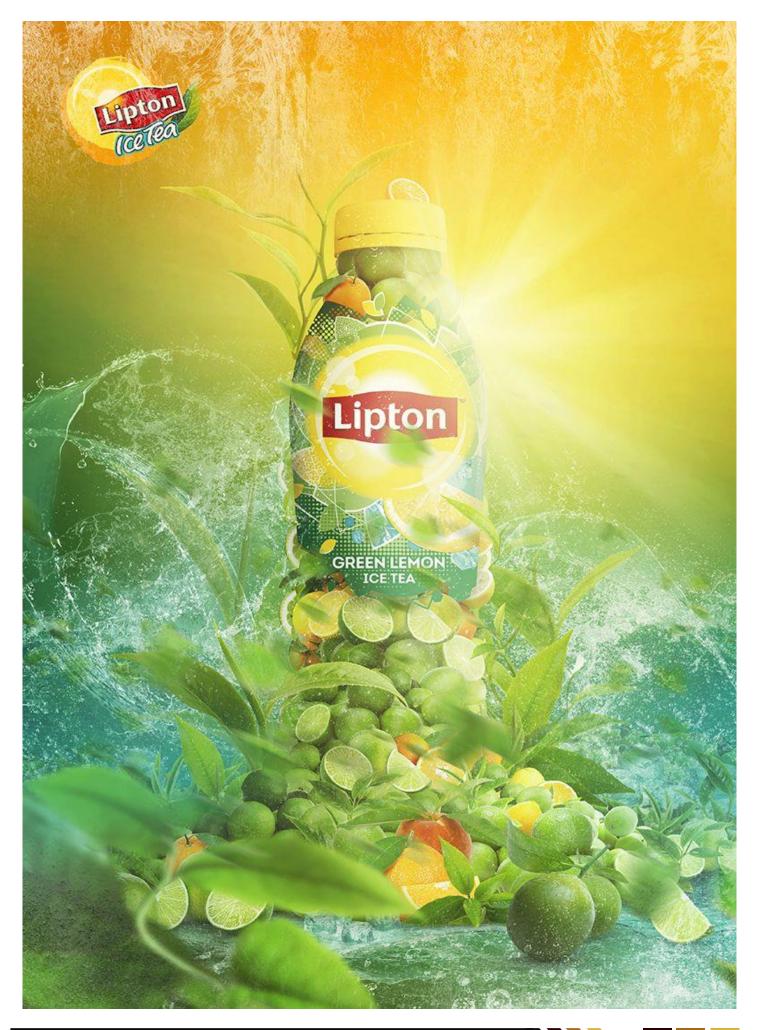
Communities in Pakistan, like many other nations, are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity as a result of climate change. The COP28 can act as a forum for debates about allocating climate finance to these communities, assisting them in the adjusting to changing agricultural environment and ensuring access to wholesome food.

We have a significant impact on how the problem of food waste is handled across the supply chain. The topic of reducing food waste should be discussed at COP28 because doing so can result in better resource management and less strain on the food chain.

Cross-sector cooperation may be encouraged by our nation's participation in COP28 with nations. other This partnership may spark creative answers that help Pakistan and the entire world achieve climate goals while maintaining food security.

Unquestionably, COP28 important is in determining how the world responds to climate change, but we must make sure that it doesn't ignore the growing issues with food security. Pakistan, a country that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change on agriculture, has a crucial role to play in the conversation about these issues. Even in the midst of climate difficulties, it is our joint responsibility to make sure that everyone has access to wholesome food. It is a moral and strategic necessity for the welfare of the people of Pakistan and the entire world to address food security in the context of climate change. (The Nation)







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