

## **A Global Call for Climate Action: Imran Khan's Environmental Discourse and Pakistan's Vision for Green Future**

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### **Abstract**

This research conducted a critical discourse analysis of Prime Minister Imran Khan's climate change speeches and how it relates to nations identity and global climate change mainly with reference to Pakistan. The research was to assess how the disclosed climate discourse of Khan, focusing on nature-based approach including the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan, accords with the principles of the CDA and Framing Theory. A qualitative approach was adopted. The study examined speeches, policy statements, and media performances with CDA to identify relations of power, ideology, and framing. Theoretical framework of Critical Discourse Analysis and Framing Theory were utilized. Data comprised Prime Minister Imran Khan's speeches and statements regarding climate and policy documents concerning climate change. The patterns of emerging themes like powerlessness, leadership, climate change, and climate justice, as well as the common strategies of framing, including efforts to market Pakistan as a leader in climate negotiations. The study shows that through the analyzed corpus, Khan shapes Pakistan's climate image based on both sensitization on climate effects and enacting climate solutions, such as forestation and green energy transformation. The presentation of climate justice and equity is a function of the politics of developed and developing countries, and therefore embeds Pakistan into the climate regime. Additionally, Khan includes human rights and equity that focus on beneficiaries of climate adaptation and encompass participatory justice for minority groups. This research concluded that through employing climate change discourse, Imran Khan build the image of Pakistan as a responsible state in responding to the triple planetary crisis by both advocating for environmental change and prioritizing the socio-economic demands of the grievated population in Pakistan. The findings of the research are relevant to enhancing knowledge about how political rhetoric affects climate policies and international environmental stewardship.

**Keywords:** Imran Khan, climate change discourse, Critical Discourse Analysis, Framing Theory, vulnerability, climate justice, nature-based solutions, Pakistan.

## Introduction

Global warming has become one of the most sensitive issues of the twenty first century and one that greatly impacts ecosystems at the global and local levels, economies, and societies. It is, therefore, not surprising to learn that Pakistan ranks as the fifth most negatively affected country by climate change with a variety of environmental issues such as floods, heat waves, affecting it to date (Khan 2020). In the face of today's climate change, both national and international political and administrative figures have been using their authority to create awareness and advocate for sustainable environment. Of these leaders, the now ex-Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan has stood out on calling climate change as climate change as is 'a defining global challenge,' and promised to start an administration that will start reformation especially through what he tagged as 'Clean and Green Pakistan.'

Climate change as a topic has changed over the past several decades from just being an important social issue that requires intervention to a critical component in the global political agenda that requires intervention by national governments. Climate change is now regarded as a social-political problem that has social, economic, cultural, and human rights implications (Giddens 2009). Leaders such as Imran Khan has sought to set climate change both as morally relevant, and as a development agenda in his country.

In this context, Imran Khan has focused a great deal on the environmental issues giving meaning to general landscape of the "Naya Pakistan" (New Pakistan) which covers social, economic, and environmental reforms. One of the advances has been made under the Khan's leadership of Pakistan, where the government has acknowledged the nature-based solutions in addressing climate change including afforestation and soil conservation and promotion of sustainable agriculture (Khan, 2019). His government started "the 10 billion Tree Tsunami" campaign in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that has been recognized internationally as the best practice for afforestation (Siddique, 2020). It then how the framing of these initiatives and the 'clean and green' buzzword aims at harnessing pride and result in Pakistan being part of the international initiatives in this realm.

Nonetheless, what has been said about Khan's positive and effective policies in environmental issues, has much criticism saying that, though the policy is good, the practice is the opposite. Basically, political rhetoric can provide an opportunity for ideology in how people look at problems and how solutions are delivered. That is why the secondary analysis of Khan's climate change rhetoric by means of CDA will provide a better possibility to investigate how language constructs the perception of environmental problems and, as a result, mobilizes people and political actors.

The manner in which environmental commitment is built into the political discourses is a necessary requirement for the evaluation of the potential benefits of leadership in relation to climate change. In fact, CDA affords a tool to analyze how such a political leader discusses the environmental questions and the values they use to build up support for their actions (Fairclough, 1995). Imran Khan's political rhetoric about climate change also fall under the global politics is climate change agenda in Pakistan. Through the qualitative analysis of his speeches, statements, and policy declarations this paper aims at evaluating whether the way Khan has formulated environmental concerns corresponds to or differs from the global approaches to Climate change, whereas it also intends to evaluate the appropriateness of Khan's environmental discourses in the socio-political context of Pakistan.

Basically, it is high time Pakistan started to address climate change issues, especially when the year 2010 was faced with devastating floods as well as the recent ones of the 2022 that displaced millions of people and severely affected infrastructural development (UNDP, 2022). Khan has also been in the forefront on this issue, especially from programs like the billion-tree project, which has attracted regional and global attention. However, while his administration's environmental policies have been praised, the critical question remains: how far does Khan's rhetoric go towards entailing practical shift on policy within and mass mobilisation without? Through a textual analysis of the discursive practices that Prime Minister Imran Khan has used in his speeches and other public communication, this study will enrich the knowledge of how political rhetoric has influenced climate initiatives in Pakistan and around the world.

This research aims to investigate how Imran Khan has rhetorically framed climate change, with paying particular attention to how he frames the idea of climate change responsibility, both at the international and domestic levels. Within the framework of CDA, this research will analyze how Khan's political rhetoric constructs climate change, national identity, and public perception of environmental policy. Consequently, by analyzing the primary discursive strategies that feature prominently in the analyzed speeches, this research tries to identify the broad ideological framework of Khan's discourse and its possible domestic and transnational consequences.

### **Significance of the Study**

This study's importance is in investigating how political leaders, including Imran Khan, deploy speech to frame, advocate for, and mobilize policies on crucial global issues, including climate change. This paper makes a significant contribution to the study of the role of political language in creating environmental commitment and the ways climate change is presented as an international and national concern with Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of Khan's speech. The paper will focus on the discursive features that underlie Khan's environmental discourse in order to reveal the nature of political leadership in relation to green nationalism. In addition, therefore, by assessing the impact of Khan's rhetoric in mobilizing both national and global support for green projects this scholarship offers a unique possibility to map out how discourse can energize civil society and sway governmental decision-making in historically Pakistan. Specifically, it positions this research within the context of climate change communication, questioning effective strategies with which political actors may galvanize the public into taking more actions to protect the environment.

### **Problem Statement**

Although climate change has been acknowledged as the most impending challenge of the current generation, the ability of political narratives inasmuch as it brings transformation of environmental themes to politics into policy and a call to action are rare researched on. As for Pakistan, Imran Khan's statements and political activities make him an active climate activist, and his government introduced numerous environmental initiatives, including new plantations, the "Billion Tree Tsunami." However, the study of this discrepancy between the firms' celebration of environmental commitment in their policies and actual effects is blurred. To do so, this research sought to undertake a critical analysis of Imran Khan's utterances on climate change regarding climate change and environmental commitment and determine whether the prime minister's speeches match or differ from observable policy measures. The ideology and power relations involved in Khan's climate change discourse will be identify in this research through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of his speeches and public statements

to understand how international and national perceptions of climate action are impacted by political language in a country such Pakistan.

### Research Questions

- 1) What role does climate justice play in Imran Khan's climate discourse, and how does he integrate the issue of equity and human rights, especially for marginalized communities, into Pakistan's climate policies and international climate negotiations?
- 2) In what ways does Imran Khan's commitment to nature-based solutions, such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan initiatives, align with the principles of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), especially in constructing national identity and constructing environmental responsibility as part of Pakistan's political agenda?
- 3) How does Imran Khan's climate change discourse, particularly the framing of Pakistan's vulnerability and leadership in global climate action, reflect the power dynamics between developed and developing nations within the context of the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC?

### Literature Review

#### Theoretical Framework

The purpose of this research is to understand how environmental commitment is discursively constructed within Imran Khan's speeches about climate change using analysis based on Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). To frame this analysis, two key theoretical perspectives will be integrated: As the theoretical framework, CDCA has been employed as the principal methodological framework in the analysis while Framing Theory has been utilized in order comprehend how climate change is framed in political discourse.

#### Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

CDA affirms that language does not only function as a means of exchanging information, and interaction but as a means of reproducing power relations, ideologies and practices that underlie and construct social orders and enshrine power relations at play in a community (Fairclough, 1995). In analyzing the politics of language, CDA reveals how language builds certain social realities, such as environmental responsibility and climate change regulation, and how power conflict over representations is carried out (Fairclough, 1992). As a theoretical framework, CDA presupposes that discursive practice is a reflection of social practice, and the latter influences the former in (re)producing or changing social practice (van Dijk, 2001). In the current research, CDA function as an analytical tool that helps to analyze how the Pakistani Prime minister, Imran Khan, represents environmental stories, and, therefore, the epistemology at play in national and international appreciation of climate change. The framework also facilitates an analysis of the connection between political rhetoric and Pakistani socio-political reality which includes environmental precarity, political volatility, and developmental concerns (Naseem & Bashir, 2020). Thus CDA, focusing on discourse as power, offers instruments by which Khan's discourses on environmental issues and national identity, his construction of the "green" "sustainable" Pakistan, can be evaluated in terms of their conformity to or conflict with the global and local climate change discourses (Fairclough, 1995).

## Framing Theory

Consistent with Framing Theory constructed by Erving Goffman (1974) and elaborated by Robert Entman (1993), this study aims at identifying how political leaders forge public opinion about the climate change process using language. Framing was defined by Goffman, as the act of choosing certain elements of reality and making them more noticeable; this work explains how the Pakistani politician Imran Khan does this to shape how the public perceives the issue of climate change. Entman built on this by stating that framing meant enhancement of some aspects such as the risks of environment or sustainable solutions while diminishing other aspects which in this case served the purpose of interpretation. In Khan's discourse, the victims create the sentiment that Pakistan is a vulnerable nation exposed to climate calamities to support Pakistan's leadership pledge to combat climate change by planting the "Billions Tree Tsunami." Furthermore, through Khan's construction of climate change, Pakistan is not only an unfortunate sufferer of climatic changes but is also a party to the change. This strategic framing stabilizes national agency by connecting environmental issues to ontological and epistemological systems of relevancies (Benford & Snow, 2000). However, by positioning climate change as a "defining global challenge" that is inherently linked with the notion of development in Pakistan, Khan build a narrative that can both, ensure national support for climate measures and establish relevance of climate action on the international stage. Consequently, Framing Theory explains how Khan's political language constructs the perspective of the audience, motivates people to accept or reject policy policies, and situates Pakistan as ready to manage climate change globally.

This paper has used CDA in conjunction with Framing Theory to propose a framework for analyzing Imran Khan's climate change rhetoric. Using CDA would enable the analysis of how his language builds environmental discourses and power relations, analyzing the language of climate change with Framing Theory will reveal how Khan frames climate change as a national and global concern. This combined theoretical framework enables to analyze political leaders' language use to not only report on climate change but also to define and frame it.

## Global Discourse on Climate Change and Political Rhetoric

Climate change is one of the most frequent themes in international politics; it has been defined as an ecological problem of a global scale and at the same time as a complex socio-political phenomenon: justice, sustainability, and governance (Giddens, 2009). The key stakeholders, particularly the political actors, in climate change mitigation employ discursive resources to construct the problem, in the context of layouts for action and definition of the issue as a values-driven global phenomenon (Hulme, 2009). This framing is revealed in international environmental diplomacy most potently in relation to the UNFCCC where terms such as 'sustainability,' 'resilience,' and 'climate justice' are used to draw attention to the importance of collective action and the fact that the 'vulnerabilities' experienced by developing countries are actual violations of their rights (Bulkeley & Newell, 2015, p.728). Even though the political language focuses on collective action and the moral issues of the climate change problem, there is a tendency that there is no actual action that follows the verbal commitments (McDonald, 2014).

## Climate Change Discourse in Developing Countries

In the developing world therefore, the discourse of climate change is premised on themes of risk, coping and on development imperatives given the insecurity that developing

state has as result of scarcity of resources, poverty, and dependency on vulnerable sub sectors such as agriculture due to climate change (Adger et al., 2003). These leaders paint climate change as an eventual end while promoting strategies for its mitigation that are understandable to the locals using local resources and practices such as tree planting and community-based adaptation strategies (Pelling 2011). Global concerns for any country have been shifted to the national level in Pakistan in which Pakistan got the status of one of the most changed countries of the world due to its climate change. This can be seen with Prime Minister Imran Khan's environmental plan where climate change is both framed as an international crisis but also a national issue. This is in concordance with the current body of work that postulates that political leadership plays a central role in constructing such environmental issues as national emergencies that need urgent solutions (Klein, 2009).

### **Pakistan's Environmental Policy and Political Rhetoric**

It is clear that the Pakistani population is at risk from climate change, Pakistan is the fifth most affected country, and is impacted by repeat natural disasters including floods, droughts, and heat waves (UNDP, 2022). In response, political leaders including Imran Khan addressed climate change as a threat to Pakistan's future 'generation' and insisted on local and global solutions. Khan's leadership is well illustrated by the "Billion Tree Tsunami" tied to the more extensive "Clean and Green Pakistan" approach that seems intent on large scale sustainable solutions with the goal of reducing carbon footprint and which does envision green jobs as part and parcel of the plan (Siddique, 2020). His anti-climate change language of green, clean, and sustainable is consistent with global climate discourses but these are also relevant to Pakistan's imminent domestic realities for development and poverty reduction (Amin, 2019). However, scholars state that there is a gap between the policy discourse and the actual results since various obstacles like political instability; economic limitations; and the problems with coordination prevent the policies from being effectively put into practice (Naseem & Bashir, 2020). This gap informs the call for the needed critical understanding of how political rhetoric influences the understanding of the environment and whether this rhetoric fosters change.

### **Critical Discourse Analysis and Political Rhetoric**

Powerful and relevant for the analysis of environmental discourse, CDA identifies that political leaders such as Imran Khan mediate ideological forces which structure language and therefore construct identities, social relations, and knowledge (Fairclough, in CDA, 1995). To demonstrate, in Khan's case CDA can reveal how he positions climate change in the way he talks about it, how he shapes national identity through his language, and how he relates to international discourses of the environment. Analyzing his climate discourse through CDA allows us to examine the discursive and power strategies he employs to garner support for environmental projects in Pakistan as well as internationally, and how his language engages and operates within the power relational ties of the north-south divide of climate politics. The results of previous CDA researches are illustrative of the fact that political discourse concerning climate change can become inherently neoliberal, when it is largely associated with market-oriented solutions and economic development (Hajer, 1995). Since Khan is the subject of this study, it is necessary to consider whether his public discourse, his rhetoric, adheres to these global patterns or if it offers a locally specific perspective that contests or reconfigures the common global climate rhetoric.

The research gap as established in the literature review is wanting on how political rhetoric especially in developing nations such as Pakistan mediates this conceptual divide

between global climate change and parochial, pragmatic solutions. Previous research has explored how climate change is discursively constructed in the international arena including in the UNFCCC and between the Global North and the Global South, however little previous research exists on how political leaders in designated developing countries including Imran Khan, developed climate change as both an international problem and as a domestic concern. Moreover there is evidence from the literature that indicates, while the global discourse is increasingly characterized by formants such as sustainability, resilience and climate justice, there is a lack of translation of these ideas into policy practice in the developing countries owing to challenges like political volatility; economic restraints and policy coherence (McDonald, 2014; Naseem & Bashir, 2020). Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is recognized to be a rather unexplored approach in addressing this. Another tool is identified as Critical Discourse Analysis particularly in terms of how the political postures mediate ideologies and perform the construction of national identities through environmental discourses (Fairclough, 1995). It is important to question to what extent is Khan's discursive strategies similar to international neoliberal trends or different local approach that might help to reconstruct the global climate narrative. This gap requires more studies on how political language in developing countries can be translated into practical policies and actual actions on climate, as well as most important, what local risks they face and what international obligations they have.

## **Methodology**

The analysis in this research will use Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as the main method of studying Imran Khan's discursive construction of climate change and environmentalism discourses. CDA provides a precise insight into how language and power, ideologies, and social practices intermingled, which proposes this framework for analyzing discourses about climate change in politics. The study shall therefore employ qualitative, interpretive research strategy with a view to analyzing speeches, interviews, public statements, and policy documents from Imran Khan. Moreover, analytical frames will be drawn from Framing Theory, which will help capture how Khan tends to situate climate change and environmental action with regard to Pakistan's nation-branding and international obligations.

## **Research Design**

A qualitative research design will be adopted because it aims at decoding the purpose, dominant beliefs, and relations of power embedded in Imran Khan's discourse on climate change. Where politics employs language to create meanings, manipulate the thinking of a population, garner support and actualize realities then it would be logical that a context of study like the political rhetoric is best investigated using qualitative research methods. In moving through different written and spoken discourses, this study will also encompass how and through which strategies Khan builds up environmental problems and how he embeds them into the power networks within the political, social, and economic landscape of Pakistan.

## **Data Collection Method**

The source of data for this study shall include speeches which are open to the public, print media interviews, policies, documents, and statements made by Imran Khan. Based on the following principle the following texts will be chosen related to climate change and will only be used when the text in question is directly about climate change, environmental sustainability, or related polices. Such speeches may include, speeches delivered during climate summits, speech addressed to the nation, or when presenting the speech to the media.

## Sampling Technique and Sample

In this research, purposive sampling will be used to obtain the texts that reveal important stages in Khan's anti climate change discourse including his speech during various COP, national environment related programmes, addresses concerning climate tragedies in Pakistan. The paper examines PM Imran Khan's official discourse on Pakistan's environmental issues during his period in office, 2018-2022.

## Data Analysis Technique

Data for the study will be gathered through primary and secondary research methods that include a textual and visual analysis of Imran Khan's climate change discourse using CDA and framing theory. CDA, following Fairclough's framework, will be applied in three stages: discourse analysis, discursive act, and social act. Discourse will be used in relation to the analysis of the linguistic patterns and key terms – 'sustainability' and 'climate justice,' within Khan's speeches. The discursive practice stage will examine where Khan's rhetoric is produced and disseminated and by whom, discussing media and political environment of Pakistan with regard to climate change. At the social practice level, the study will examine how the ideological forces define Khan's language choice and the extent to which they conform or subvert power dynamics within Pakistan and in the global society. Also, Framing Theory will be employed to analyze how Khan explain climate change, apportions responsibility on it, assesses its ethical standing, and provides recommendations. The research will determine how Khan positions Pakistan in climate change – as a passive victim, aggressor, or an active participant – and the repetitive themes of national resilience, global leadership, and green growth. These key themes remain the primary purposes of thematic coding that will be used to define and argue about how Khan composes the themes of environmental commitment with regards to the notions of the nation and the globe.

## Data Analysis

This study of the speeches and initiatives of Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, helps to understand how the discourse on climate change is conditioned by a complex worldview that is systematic, universal, and adaptive for Pakistan. Analyzing the text with the help of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Framing Theory, the paper investigates how Khan constructs Pakistan as both, a victim and agent in the case of environmental crises. On climate finance, energy transition, reforestation, and the links between climate change and human rights, Khan insists that the problem requires global cooperation, justice, and solidarity NOW. In his speech he underlined the measures Pakistan is taking in spreading awareness regarding sustainability and in the policy of burden sharing between the developed and the developing countries. Thus, employing the discursive ways of representing climate change as an acute issue affecting socio-economic disparities and human rights, Khan points out to the shared goals and the role of common\_synerefic nature-based solutions as well as amplifying voices of vulnerable countries in global climate politics. This detailed assessment makes the argument and its implications for the ideological and pragmatic dimensions of the climate change narrative that Khan provided to the world when he became the leader of Pakistan, important for any definitive account of twenty-first-century environmental leadership.

## Table 1

*Imran Khan's Discourse on Climate Action: World Economic Forum*



<b>Analysis Aspect</b>	<b>CDA Framework</b>	<b>Framing Theory</b>	<b>Ideological Themes</b>	<b>Description of Ideological Themes</b>
Textual Analysis	Emotive language emphasizing urgency and responsibility for climate action.	Khan emphasizes climate change as an urgent crisis requiring immediate action from all sectors.	Environmental Stewardship	Positioning Pakistan as a leader in global climate action and sustainable environmental practices.
Discursive Practice	Positioning Pakistan as a proactive leader in addressing climate change.	Pakistan's leadership in climate action is framed as both a national and global responsibility.	Global Justice	Advocating for global cooperation and financial support for developing countries facing climate change.
Social Practice	Linking Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change with a call for action.	Pakistan's vulnerability is highlighted to urge collective global responsibility for climate action.	National Resilience and Leadership	Positioning Pakistan as a resilient leader in global climate governance, taking proactive steps despite limited resources.
Problem Definition	Framing environmental degradation as a national crisis that requires urgent action.	The problem is framed as a crisis affecting vulnerable countries, with global consequences.	Environmental Stewardship	Highlighting the importance of nature-based solutions like forestation and ecosystem restoration to tackle climate change.
Causal Interpretation	Attributing the cause to global emissions and poor resource management practices.	The causes of the crisis are linked to global emissions, especially from developed countries, and mismanagement.	Global Justice	Emphasizing the need for global solidarity and support for vulnerable countries like Pakistan in mitigating climate impacts.

The discursive construction of the climate action by Imran Khan as viewed through critical analysis of linguistics and semiotics, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Framing Theory has the themes of urgency, responsibility, and global cooperation. Whereas in textual analysis Khan employs poetic language to touch upon climate change as an urgent issue and to underscore the country's activism in the conservation of environment. His discursive practice plays a role of constructing Pakistan as a responsible subject within climate change mitigation both at domestic and international levels, as well as establishing global justice claims in the form of international cooperation and financial aid for developing countries. On social level, Khan links Pakistan to climate change and then asks for international cooperation and action while repeating the sentiment of nationalism and power in face of scarcity. The author, in defining the problem, positions environmental degradation as a national calamity with potential for a global impact, supporting such solutions as afforestation and ecological renewal. Last, in

his causal account, Khan identifies global emissions more broadly and especially from the Global North along with unwise use of natural resources leading to climate change and global injustice and solidarity is needed for countries like Pakistan. It paints an audacious picture of local and global stewardship of the environment, and the need for fair contribution to developing nations experiencing the impacts of climate change.

**Table 2***Imran Khan's Discourse on the D-8 Summit*

<b>Analysis Aspect</b>	<b>CDA Framework</b>	<b>Framing Theory</b>	<b>Ideological Themes</b>	<b>Description of Ideological Themes</b>
Textual Analysis	Emotive language focusing on interconnectivity and shared responsibility in combating climate change.	Khan emphasizes the urgent need for climate action in an interdependent world.	Environmental Stewardship	Pakistan's role as a leader in global climate action and promoting sustainable practices.
Discursive Practice	Khan presents practical solutions to socio-economic issues, focusing on collaboration and technology.	Khan highlights the interconnectedness of the world and the necessity for collaborative action.	Global Justice	Khan critiques the inequities between developed and developing nations and urges equal responsibility for climate action.
Social Practice	Khan calls for global action and positions Pakistan as a key player in global climate governance.	Khan's discourse emphasizes global solidarity and the need for shared responsibility in climate action.	National Resilience and Leadership	Khan constructs Pakistan as resilient, with leadership in climate solutions and national responsibility.
Problem Definition	Climate change and socio-economic vulnerability are defined as interconnected global issues requiring cooperative action.	The problem is framed as a global and national crisis that affects economic and social equity.	Environmental Stewardship	Khan's call for climate finance and technological collaboration to address global climate challenges.
Causal Interpretation	The disparity between developed and developing nations regarding resources and emissions is identified as a cause.	The root causes of the crisis are framed as global inequality and exploitation of resources by wealthier nations.	Global Justice	A call for fair treatment of developing countries, advocating for equitable climate finance and support.

Imran Khan's speech at the D-8 Summit is dedicated to the necessity of climate change mitigation in the context of interconnectedness and presents Pakistan as a country that both actively participates in climate change measures and applies sustainable practices. In textual

analysis, Emotive language as conveyed by Khan raises universal responsibility on the issue of climate change as a Global one thus calling for redress. His discursive practice focuses on cooperation and technology as realistic approaches to socio economic issues, and also urged the developed and the developing countries for an equal deed. In the social sense, Khan builds up Pakistan as a strong country, namely a leader in climate change solutions, and as Pakistan's obligation and duty to lead the climate change world. Where the definition of problems is concerned, he links climate change and socio-economic vulnerability together as an international responsibility requiring climate finance and technology transfer. Last of all, his causal explanation seeks to balance the basic capabilities between developing and developed countries and emissions as well as resource consuming thus presenting global inequality and resource expound as the main factors of climate change. Khan's discourse that is full of humanitarian ideas connected with his voice for the environment, global justice, and national strength to stand up for climate change, points to the fair approach and collective effort in an effort to address climate issues.

**Table 3***Imran Khan's Discourse on Tree-Planting Campaign*

<b>Analysis Aspect</b>	<b>CDA Framework</b>	<b>Framing Theory</b>	<b>Ideological Themes</b>	<b>Description of Ideological Themes</b>
Textual Analysis	Emotive language emphasizing urgency and responsibility for climate action.	Khan emphasizes climate change as an urgent crisis requiring immediate action from all sectors.	Environmental Stewardship	Positioning Pakistan as a leader in global climate action and promoting sustainable practices.
Discursive Practice	Positioning Pakistan as a proactive leader in addressing climate change.	Pakistan's leadership in climate action is framed as both a national and global responsibility.	Global Justice	Advocating for global cooperation and financial support for developing countries in addressing climate change.
Social Practice	Linking Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change with a call for shared responsibility and action.	Pakistan's vulnerability is highlighted to urge global responsibility in tackling the climate crisis.	National Resilience and Leadership	Framing Pakistan as a resilient leader in climate solutions and national responsibility for the environment.
Problem Definition	Framing environmental degradation as a national crisis requiring urgent action.	The problem is framed as an urgent crisis affecting not only Pakistan but the global community.	Environmental Stewardship	Highlighting the importance of nature-based solutions like afforestation and ecosystem restoration in addressing climate change.
Causal Interpretation	Attributing the cause to waste mismanagement,	The causes of the crisis are linked to mismanagement of	Global Justice	Emphasizing the need for global solidarity and

unsustainable practices, and lack of policy enforcement.	resources, unsustainable practices, and poor governance.	financial support for developing countries to mitigate the effects of climate change.
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Examining Imran Khan’s talk on planting trees in Pakistan concerning Pakistan through CDA and Framing Theory develops notion of urgency and responsibility through climate change and frames Pakistan as both, a change-maker and a humanity’s voice needed. In the textual level, Khan appeals to the passion by calling climate change as an exigent issue and demanding the collective actions toward sustainable measures While, at the same time, he paints Pakistan into international initiatives for sustainable development in particular, the afforestation. His discursive practice attempts to put Pakistan in a leadership position in climate change mitigation with emphasis on climate justice and demand for financial and technological assistance for the developing world. In social practice, Khan focuses on how Pakistan is one of the most affected countries by climate change calling for global and equal responsibility to act on it. Hobbesian framing of this issue paints pollution as a severe problem that requires large scale quick fixes as is seen with natural infrastructure restoration and afforestation. The causal perception puts the blame on the poor management of resources, un-sustainability, and weak policy implementation fundamental when support on the part of the Global North is lacking. Based on the environmental management stewardship, justice, and national resilience and resistance, Khan’s rhetoric advocates for global support for a comprehensive approach to address and prevent climate change crisis and paints Pakistan as a responsible role model country in sustainable environmental management.

**Table 4**

*Imran Khan's Discourse on World Environment Day and Climate Finance*

<b>Analysis Aspect</b>	<b>CDA Framework</b>	<b>Framing Theory</b>	<b>Ideological Themes</b>	<b>Description of Ideological Themes</b>
Textual Analysis	Emotive language emphasizing the urgency and responsibility for climate action.	Khan emphasizes climate change as a human rights issue requiring immediate global action.	Environmental Stewardship	Pakistan’s proactive role in global climate action and its leadership in sustainable practices.
Discursive Practice	Positioning Pakistan as a proactive leader in climate change solutions.	Pakistan’s leadership in climate action is framed as global responsibility and sustainability.	Global Justice	Advocating for global climate finance and equitable responsibility for climate mitigation across nations.
Social Practice	Linking Pakistan’s vulnerability to global warming with a call for shared responsibility.	Pakistan’s vulnerability is emphasized to urge global solidarity in addressing climate change.	National Resilience and Leadership	Positioning Pakistan as a leader in global climate governance, taking proactive actions despite limited resources.

<b>Problem Definition</b>	Framing climate change and socio-economic inequalities as urgent crises requiring immediate action.	The problem is framed as a crisis affecting vulnerable nations, requiring global cooperation.	Environmental Stewardship	Highlighting the importance of nature-based solutions like reforestation and ecosystem restoration to mitigate climate change.
<b>Causal Interpretation</b>	Attributing the cause of climate change to global emissions and inequitable resource management.	The causes are linked to global emissions, economic inequality, and political inaction.	Global Justice	Emphasizing the need for global cooperation to combat climate change and the equitable distribution of climate finance.

This critical scrutinization of Imran Khan’s rhetoric on World Environment Day and climate finance using CDA and FT means engaging with the PM’s demand for urgent human rights-based action on climate change. Discursively, Khan employs the use of appeals to emotion adorn climate change as an international emergency in which Pakistan is taking active roles as a climate visionary as well as a sustainable-determination country in the world. In the contexts of his discursive practice, Pakistanis are associated with leadership and advocacy for responsibility and sustainability, particularly in terms of global justice in terms of climate change finance and in terms of distributive justice for climate change mitigation. In social practice, Khan sits in front of Pakistan, which is already feeling the ill effects of global warming, and appeals to nations to act in unison. The problem is here identified as an environmental as well as socio-economic emergency that impacts the most the vulnerable nations globally and needs urgent and massive interventions such as afforestation and ecosystem rehabilitation. According to the causal analysis, the crisis emanates from emissions, the economic divide, and politics of inaction with the focus set on the achievement of concerted effort by countries across the globe, and climate justice regarding climate finance. Pakistan as a climate leader: The speech performing the Afghanistan argument, Khan’s meteor narrative of Pakistan’s climate heroism constructs the country as striving to fight climate change despite resource constraints, while simultaneously calling for equity and collective participation in the global climate regime.

**Table 5**

*Imran Khan's Discourse International Climate Cooperation*

<b>Analysis Aspect</b>	<b>CDA Framework</b>	<b>Framing Theory</b>	<b>Ideological Themes</b>	<b>Description of Ideological Themes</b>
Textual Analysis	Emotive language and framing of environmental crises as urgent global issues.	Khan uses language to highlight the urgent need for global climate action and local responsibility.	Environmental Stewardship	Khan frames Pakistan as a responsible steward of the environment, promoting sustainable practices and leadership.
Discursive Practice	Framing Pakistan’s vulnerability and	Khan emphasizes Pakistan’s	Global Justice	Focus on climate finance and global responsibility

	global injustice in climate change impacts.	vulnerability and urges global solidarity in addressing climate change.		for vulnerable nations facing environmental challenges.
Social Practice	The critique of global power dynamics and local actions within the climate change framework.	Khan’s discourse positions Pakistan as both a victim and a leader in global climate governance.	National Resilience and Leadership	Pakistan is presented as resilient, leading climate action efforts globally while facing internal and external challenges.
Problem Definition	Framing climate change as a global crisis impacting both the environment and socio-economic conditions.	Khan defines climate change as an urgent global issue requiring immediate collective action.	Environmental Stewardship	The call for reforestation and ecosystem restoration to mitigate the environmental crisis is central to his message.
Causal Interpretation	Attributing the cause of climate change to industrial emissions, deforestation, and global inequities.	Khan critiques the historical responsibility of developed nations and their contribution to climate change.	Global Justice	The historical emissions of developed countries and the need for them to support developing nations in climate mitigation.

Imran Khan’s discourse on international climate cooperation through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Framing Theory to underline the significance of the climate fight while also placing the blame at the collective and global table. Analyzed qualitatively, Khan uses appeal to emotions to present climate change with a scant time window and present Pakistan as an active agent seeking sustainable development and change. His discursive practice positions Pakistan within climate change vulnerability as an example of global unfairness and unequal distribution of climate justice and seeks to mobilize support for financial assistance, support for vulnerable countries. Analyzing social practice, power relations in the world, Khan offers information about Pakistan as the sufferer from climate change and as the leader in climate change governance as well as an experience that has inner and outer impacts. The issue is defined in terms of global challenges to both the physical environment and socio-economic states and the solutions emphasize reforestation and restoration of ecosystems. The causal analysis proposed by Khan is readily identifiable and locates the source of the crisis in industrial pollutants, deforestation, and inequality – data disagreements with developed nations’ historical accountability for climate change. He thus challenges developed countries to come in and assist the developing nations in climate mitigation hence the continued theme on global justice.

**Table 6**

*Imran Khan's Discourse Energy Transition and Clean Energy*

<b>Analysis Aspect</b>	<b>CDA Framework</b>	<b>Framing Theory</b>	<b>Ideological Themes</b>	<b>Description of Ideological Themes</b>
Textual Analysis	Emotive language emphasizing urgency and responsibility for climate action.	Khan emphasizes climate change as a human rights issue, requiring immediate global action.	Environmental Stewardship	Positioning Pakistan as a leader in global climate action and promoting sustainable practices.
Discursive Practice	Positioning Pakistan as a proactive leader in climate change solutions.	Pakistan's leadership in climate action is framed as global responsibility and sustainability.	Global Justice	Advocating for global climate finance and equitable responsibility for climate mitigation across nations.
Social Practice	Linking Pakistan's vulnerability to global warming with a call for shared responsibility.	Pakistan's vulnerability is highlighted to urge global solidarity in addressing climate change.	National Resilience and Leadership	Positioning Pakistan as a resilient leader in climate solutions and national responsibility for the environment.
Problem Definition	Framing climate change and socio-economic inequalities as urgent crises requiring immediate action.	The problem is framed as a crisis affecting vulnerable nations, requiring global cooperation.	Environmental Stewardship	Highlighting the importance of nature-based solutions like afforestation and ecosystem restoration to mitigate climate change.
Causal Interpretation	Attributing the cause of climate change to global emissions and inequitable resource management.	The causes of the crisis are linked to global emissions, economic inequality, and political inaction.	Global Justice	Emphasizing the need for global cooperation to combat climate change and the equitable distribution of climate finance.

Imran Khan turned the question of energy transition and clean energy into a human rights and international justice issue. In essence, the Khan uses ethical appeal to appeal for change for climate change since Pakistan is a minute element of the earth. In his speech, he informs about the existing threat to Pakistan with climate change stressing the matters of balance of concern and global unity. However, Khan while framing it makes Pakistan a victim and at the same time a leader in climate solutions – both on a national level and on an international level. Climate change together with socio-economic disparities are established as an urgent global issue and global challenge. Afforestation and restoration of ecosystems are main strategies according to Khan. His causal interpretation assigns climate change to global emissions, resource mismanagement; and economic injustice; his appellate calls for global justice especially in climate finance and climate debt wherein he emphasizes for shared responsibilities for climate change amongst nations.

**Table 7**

*Imran Khan's Discourse Global Financing and Debt Relief*

Analysis Aspect	CDA Framework	Framing Theory	Ideological Themes	Description of Ideological Themes
Textual Analysis	Emotive language and framing of environmental crises as urgent global issues.	Khan uses language to highlight the urgent need for global climate action and local responsibility.	Environmental Stewardship	Khan frames Pakistan as a responsible steward of the environment, promoting sustainable practices and leadership.
Discursive Practice	Framing Pakistan's vulnerability and global injustice in climate change impacts.	Khan emphasizes Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change and urges global solidarity in addressing the issue.	Global Justice	Focus on climate finance and global responsibility for addressing climate change impacts in vulnerable countries.
Social Practice	The critique of global power dynamics and local actions within the climate change framework.	Khan's discourse positions Pakistan as both a victim and a leader in climate governance.	National Resilience and Leadership	Pakistan is presented as resilient, with leadership in climate solutions and national responsibility for the environment.
Problem Definition	Framing climate change and socio-economic inequalities as urgent crises requiring immediate action.	The problem is framed as a global crisis requiring cooperative action across nations.	Environmental Stewardship	The call for reforestation and ecosystem restoration to mitigate the environmental crisis.
Causal Interpretation	Attributing the cause of climate change to industrial emissions, deforestation, and global inequities.	Khan critiques historical emissions from developed nations and the need for them to take responsibility for the crisis.	Global Justice	Emphasizing the need for global cooperation and equitable climate finance for developing nations.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Framing Theory applied to Imran Khan's speech on global financing and debt relief make him to shift focus on climate change, where Pakistan is both a victim and a leader in combating the challenge. Rhetorically, Khan conjures up a picture of a climate emergency imminent and appealing to the international community for an urgent response, insisting on Pakistan's precarity and for climate reparations, predatory debt relief for developing countries. His ways of talking portray Pakistan as an environmental-friendly nation that is ready to practice sustainable manners and fight climate change. Khan condemns power relations where developed states as the main culprits of climate change now expect the vulnerable countries to suffer alone for failing to reduce their pollutive emissions without providing financial support of fund for the adaptation process. The issue is presented



as a socio-economic issue that requires intensive international collaboration, reforestation, and computer ecosystems restoration among the necessary solutions to the environmental issue. He has causal explanation between climate change and industrial emissions, deforestation, and unfair bargains identifying climate finance as the balancing regime between developed and developing nations in addressing the loss and damage impacts of climate change.

**Table 8***Imran Khan's Discourse on Climate Change and Human Rights*

<b>Analysis Aspect</b>	<b>CDA Framework</b>	<b>Framing Theory</b>	<b>Ideological Themes</b>	<b>Description of Ideological Themes</b>
Textual Analysis	Emotive language highlighting the human rights implications of climate change.	Khan emphasizes the interconnectedness of climate change and human rights, urging a global response.	Environmental Stewardship	Positioning Pakistan as a leader in global climate action and human rights advocacy for climate justice.
Discursive Practice	Positioning Pakistan as a proactive leader in addressing both climate change and human rights challenges.	Khan calls for collective action, emphasizing shared responsibility in combating climate change and ensuring human rights.	Global Justice	Advocating for global justice, calling for fair resource distribution and international cooperation.
Social Practice	Linking climate change to socio-economic vulnerabilities, particularly for marginalized communities.	Khan frames Pakistan's role as active and proactive, focusing on local action with global implications.	National Resilience and Leadership	Pakistan is framed as a resilient nation, emphasizing the importance of domestic leadership in global climate action.
Problem Definition	Climate change and socio-economic inequalities are positioned as interlinked global crises that require immediate action.	The problem is defined as global climate change, requiring global cooperation to address the urgent crisis.	Environmental Stewardship	Emphasizing ecosystem restoration and sustainable solutions to tackle both environmental degradation and human rights violations.
Causal Interpretation	Climate change caused by global emissions, deforestation, and political inaction.	The crisis is attributed to historical emissions from developed countries, with a call for climate justice and fair responsibility sharing.	Global Justice	Khan's call for climate finance and fair burden-sharing among developed and developing nations in combating climate change.

Using CDA and Framing Theory, the current study seeks to show how Imran Khan's speech on climate change and human rights was intertwined where climate change is considered as a human rights violation. Rhetorically, Khan writes emotionally, having emphasized call for global action on humanity's universal matter of climate change and division of responsibility. Thus the building blocks of discourse make Pakistan more assertive, more pro-active on climate change and human rights action and stress on nation power and rights for global justice. To him, climate change is associated with socio-economic risks, opportunities and threats particularly affecting participatory decision-making; and board's governance for susceptible and desperate people and nations such as Pakistan. The problem is framed as an emergent, coupled global crisis which requires collective action, with solutions such as ecosystems recovery and sustainable solutions as the goals. According to Khan, the sources of climate change were global emissions and politically inactive deforestation while demanding climate justice and equitable distribution of burdens, especially appealing to developed countries for international climate finance and support to developing countries.

## Discussion

Imran Khan's climate discourse underscores climate justice as a central theme, emphasizing that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect marginalized communities, particularly in the Global South. This is especially relevant in the context of Pakistan, a country that, despite being one of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, contributes minimally to global carbon emissions. Khan's rhetoric on climate justice is informed by the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), as highlighted in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. Through his speeches and policy initiatives, Khan frames climate change not only as an environmental issue but also as a human rights crisis, one that exacerbates existing inequalities and poses a direct threat to vulnerable populations.

Khan emphasizes that climate change is "not just an environmental issue," but a human rights issue. In his discourse, he consistently draws attention to how marginalized communities—such as women, daily wage earners, and Indigenous peoples—are disproportionately affected by climate change. SafeScience, in the context of his Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan initiatives, Khan acknowledges that climate change "affects the right to life, water, food, housing, health, sanitation, and adequate standards of living". He notes that these communities often have limited access to financial resources and technical expertise to adapt to the changing climate, making them more vulnerable to extreme weather events like floods and droughts.

Moreover, Khan's integration of climate justice is evident in his call for developed nations—which bear a significantly larger share of global emissions—to "take responsibility" and provide funding to developing countries like Pakistan. This is critical for ensuring that Pakistan and other vulnerable countries have the means to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Khan's stance on this is rooted in the CBDR principle, which posits that developed countries, due to their historical role in climate change, should bear a greater responsibility in addressing its impacts.

Khan's government has made clear strides in integrating equity and human rights into its climate policies. The Ten Billion Tree Tsunami initiative is a flagship program aimed at mitigating climate change while simultaneously benefiting marginalized communities. By targeting tree plantation in rural and underserved areas, the initiative not only addresses environmental degradation but also creates green jobs for women, youth, and local communities. This aligns with the broader objective of making climate action inclusive and

equitable. Khan's rhetoric about creating "green jobs" in forest management and conservation, such as the 85,000 jobs created during the pandemic through tree planting and environmental protection, is indicative of his approach to blending climate action with social justice.

Additionally, Khan's Clean Green Pakistan initiative further emphasizes equity by targeting urban and rural communities equally, aiming to provide clean environments and sanitation services for the entire population, including the most disadvantaged. In this context, the Clean Green Pakistan campaign also seeks to incorporate marginalized groups, including women, into the decision-making process regarding environmental conservation. This participatory approach ensures that the voices of those most impacted by climate change are not sidelined but are instead empowered to contribute to shaping climate policies.

Khan's government also recognizes the crucial role of marginalized communities in environmental adaptation and emphasizes that climate adaptation policies should not exclude them. His nature-based solutions, such as the Recharge Pakistan initiative, aim to integrate communities in water management strategies, where they can directly benefit from ecosystem restoration projects. By focusing on ecological restoration and community-driven environmental projects, Khan ensures that the climate policies not only mitigate environmental risks but also contribute to social resilience.

On the international stage, Imran Khan's climate justice narrative becomes even more evident as he calls for financial support and technology transfer from the Global North. In his speeches, Khan consistently underscores the inequitable distribution of the climate crisis, where developing countries, despite contributing the least to global warming, bear the brunt of its adverse effects. At the 2021 UN Climate Ambition Summit, Khan emphasized Pakistan's commitment to climate action but also stressed that developed nations must fulfill their \$100 billion pledge to support developing countries in their climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. This request for global solidarity is a key element of the climate justice framework, where Khan seeks to hold the wealthier nations accountable for their historical responsibility in causing the crisis and their failure to adequately support the vulnerable nations.

Furthermore, Pakistan's commitment to "Debt for Nature" swaps and other innovative financing mechanisms for climate action showcases the country's attempt to bridge the gap between environmental needs and financial constraints. These mechanisms aim to ease the financial burden on countries like Pakistan, ensuring that climate adaptation and mitigation strategies are not hindered by economic limitations.

In conclusion, climate justice plays a central role in Imran Khan's climate discourse. His emphasis on equity and human rights is clear from the policies and rhetoric he promotes. He consistently seeks to highlight the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities, both within Pakistan and globally. By integrating marginalized communities into Pakistan's climate policies—such as through the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan—and by pushing for financial and technological support from wealthier nations, Khan aims to create a more equitable and just approach to climate action. His discourse not only reflects the challenges of climate change but also offers a roadmap for a green and just future, emphasizing that climate action must be inclusive and fair in order to be truly effective.

Imran Khan's commitment to nature-based solutions, such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan initiatives, plays a significant role in shaping Pakistan's national identity and promoting environmental responsibility. These initiatives not only address the urgent environmental challenges faced by the country but also serve as powerful tools for constructing Pakistan's identity both domestically and in the international community. When analyzed through the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), these initiatives reflect

the use of discourse as a tool for constructing social realities and reinforcing power relations, particularly with respect to the political and environmental narratives Khan seeks to promote.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), as articulated by scholars like Fairclough (1995), views discourse as a tool through which power dynamics and social identities are constructed. Imran Khan's climate discourse, particularly surrounding the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan initiatives, constructs a national identity that is both progressive and environmentally responsible. By framing these initiatives as "national efforts" aimed at combating climate change, Khan positions Pakistan as a leader in environmental stewardship, particularly in the Global South. His rhetoric highlights Pakistan's commitment to sustainability and green growth, thus constructing a new national identity that is rooted in environmental responsibility and global leadership on climate action.

In line with CDA's focus on how language constructs power relations, Khan uses the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami as a symbolic national project that unites the country around a common goal of environmental restoration. Through repeated references to national pride and the collective effort required to tackle climate change, Khan aligns the country's climate agenda with Pakistan's political sovereignty and nationalistic pride. This discursive framing not only reinforces the idea of Pakistan as a climate leader but also emphasizes the nation's agency in addressing its own environmental issues, despite being one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

The construction of this environmental national identity also serves to counter narratives that portray Pakistan as a victim of climate change, shifting the focus instead to the empowerment of local communities through initiatives like the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami. These initiatives symbolize collective action that transcends political divisions within Pakistan, thereby constructing a unified identity around climate action.

From a CDA perspective, Imran Khan's climate discourse reflects his effort to construct environmental responsibility as an integral part of Pakistan's political agenda. CDA emphasizes how discourse shapes societal norms, behaviors, and responsibilities. Khan frames environmental responsibility as a core aspect of Pakistan's political project—not just in terms of national development, but also as a commitment to future generations. He portrays the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami as an initiative that will benefit the people by providing green jobs, combating deforestation, and addressing air pollution. Through these discursive strategies, Khan constructs the environmental responsibility as a national duty that is essential for the survival and prosperity of the nation.

One significant aspect of this construction is Khan's appeal to the public's participation in environmental protection. His discourses around the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan highlight how ordinary citizens, especially youth and marginalized groups, are integral to these nature-based solutions. The rhetoric of "green jobs", "public participation", and "empowerment" aligns with the notion of environmental justice and the active role of the Pakistani public in climate action. This representation of shared responsibility not only democratizes environmental stewardship but also links national identity with a sense of ethical duty toward future generations.

Furthermore, Khan's framing of nature-based solutions through initiatives like Recharge Pakistan aligns with CDA's concept of ideological control—the way language is used to promote particular ideologies. Khan's environmental agenda challenges traditional industrialization and fossil fuel reliance by emphasizing sustainable development and green technologies. By positioning these initiatives within the broader context of Pakistan's political

agenda, Khan makes environmental responsibility central to the political narrative, effectively integrating green politics into the country's development framework.

CDA also highlights the role of power relations in discourse, particularly how language constructs social hierarchies. Khan's climate discourse, particularly in his discussions on Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, global responsibility, and the need for climate finance, draws attention to the unequal distribution of power in global climate negotiations. By calling on developed countries to provide financial assistance and technology transfer, Khan critiques the historical injustices that have led to the current climate crisis. This appeals to the Global North's responsibility to support countries like Pakistan in their climate adaptation efforts.

Khan's discursive construction of Pakistan as a climate leader, despite its minimal contribution to global emissions, also reflects a form of ideological struggle where Pakistan seeks to assert its position on the global stage as a leader in nature-based solutions. This framing not only challenges the traditional narrative of the Global South as mere recipients of aid but also empowers Pakistan to advocate for climate justice and equity in international climate negotiations.

Imran Khan's commitment to nature-based solutions like the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan aligns with the principles of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) by shaping Pakistan's national identity and constructing environmental responsibility as key elements of the country's political agenda. Through strategic discourse, Khan frames these initiatives as national imperatives, green jobs, and global leadership, which serve to elevate Pakistan's position as a leader in climate action, while also constructing equitable and participatory environmental responsibility. Moreover, through his emphasis on global cooperation and climate justice, Khan positions Pakistan as an advocate for equity, challenging the inequitable power structures that perpetuate the climate crisis.

Imran Khan's climate change discourse, particularly his framing of Pakistan's vulnerability and leadership in global climate action, critically reflects the power dynamics between developed and developing nations within the context of the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC. His rhetoric serves to illuminate the unequal relationships between these nations, while also positioning Pakistan as an advocate for climate justice. Through his discourse, Khan not only highlights the disproportionate vulnerability of developing nations like Pakistan to the impacts of climate change but also underscores their limited capacity to combat these challenges without the support of wealthier nations. This framing reflects the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR-RC) as outlined in the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC.

In his climate discourse, Imran Khan frequently frames Pakistan as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, despite its minimal contribution to global carbon emissions. This is a critical aspect of the power dynamics between developed and developing countries, as it underscores the disproportionate burden faced by countries that have historically contributed least to climate change. Khan emphasizes that Pakistan is the fifth most climate-impacted country, as highlighted by the German watch Global Climate Risk Index (2020), and that it suffers from extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and shifting monsoons, which have devastating effects on the country's economy, agriculture, and infrastructure.

By framing Pakistan's vulnerability, Khan critiques the unjust nature of the global climate crisis, where developing countries bear the brunt of the environmental damages caused by industrialized nations. This framing is consistent with the CBDR-RC principle, which recognizes that developed countries, having historically contributed more to global emissions,

have a greater responsibility to support the climate adaptation and mitigation efforts of developing countries. In this way, Khan's discourse highlights structural inequalities within international climate negotiations, positioning Pakistan as a victim of these imbalances.

While Pakistan is framed as vulnerable, Khan also positions the country as a leader in climate action. Through initiatives like the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and the Recharge Pakistan program, Khan presents Pakistan not just as a victim of climate change, but also as an active player in global efforts to address the climate crisis. This framing serves two purposes: it asserts Pakistan's agency in tackling climate change, and it challenges the idea that developing countries are passive participants in climate negotiations.

By emphasizing nature-based solutions and sustainable development, Khan seeks to redefine the narrative of Pakistan's role in climate action. He advocates for equitable global cooperation, urging that developed countries, which have the financial and technological means, support the efforts of countries like Pakistan. Khan's discourse reflects the CBDR-RC principle, which is central to the Paris Agreement. This principle demands that wealthier nations provide financial and technological assistance to poorer nations, thereby acknowledging the historical emissions disparity and the unequal capacity of countries to combat climate change.

Khan also frames climate finance as a critical element of global climate negotiations, particularly in the context of developing countries' reliance on external support to implement effective climate actions. His appeal for financial assistance and technology transfer underscores the global power imbalance—a key aspect of the power dynamics between the Global North and the Global South. This highlights that climate action cannot be achieved in isolation, and global solidarity is needed to ensure that the world's most vulnerable nations can meet the challenges posed by climate change.

A crucial aspect of Khan's climate discourse is his criticism of developed countries, which, despite being the largest historical emitters of greenhouse gases, have failed to adequately support developing nations in their climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Khan critiques the unfulfilled pledge by developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion annually in climate finance, as promised under the Paris Agreement. He argues that the rich nations, who are responsible for the lion's share of global emissions, have a moral obligation to provide financial resources to the Global South, which is disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Khan's discourse reflects a critical perspective on the neocolonial aspects of global climate governance, where developed countries are seen to control the narrative and resources related to climate action. His call for climate justice is a direct challenge to the existing global power structures that prioritize the interests of wealthy nations while marginalizing the voices of vulnerable and developing countries. In this regard, Khan's advocacy for equity in climate negotiations not only aligns with the CBDR-RC principle but also highlights the ethical and political dimensions of global climate action.

In his climate discourse, Khan continually refers to the Paris Agreement and its climate finance provisions, positioning Pakistan's climate policies in alignment with international frameworks. However, he also critiques the lack of tangible actions from developed nations to fulfill their climate finance commitments. This critique highlights the power dynamics at play within the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement—where developing nations, while having binding responsibilities to mitigate and adapt to climate change, are often hindered by financial and technological barriers.

Khan's framing of Pakistan as a climate leader also aligns with the principles of climate justice and fairness embedded in the Paris Agreement. By emphasizing the country's commitment to nature-based solutions and the restoration of ecosystems, Khan situates Pakistan as a model for the Global South, showing that climate action is possible even with limited resources, as long as there is political will and global support.

Imran Khan's climate change discourse, particularly his framing of Pakistan's vulnerability and leadership in global climate action, reflects the power dynamics between developed and developing nations within the context of the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC. Through his rhetoric, Khan highlights the disproportionate burden borne by countries like Pakistan, who, despite being minor contributors to global emissions, face the brunt of the climate crisis. His discourse critiques the failure of developed countries to fulfill their climate finance obligations and positions Pakistan as a leader in climate action, advocating for global equity and cooperation. Khan's framing, therefore, reveals the power imbalances inherent in global climate governance and calls for a reformed approach to climate justice—one that prioritizes solidarity, financial support, and equitable responsibility for climate action.

### **Findings of the Study**

The analysis of Imran Khan's climate change discourse reveals a complex narrative that critically examines the power dynamics between developed and developing nations within the framework of the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC. Khan frames Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change as a result of historical emissions by wealthier nations, despite the country's minimal contribution to global greenhouse gases. This framing underscores Pakistan's position as a victim of global climate injustice, yet also as a proactive leader in climate action through initiatives like the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan. These nature-based solutions reflect Pakistan's commitment to climate justice and sustainable development, aligning with global goals but also highlighting the need for equitable support from wealthier nations to ensure the success of such initiatives. Khan's critique of the unfulfilled climate finance pledges by developed countries emphasizes the persistent inequity in global climate negotiations. His call for enhanced financial and technological assistance from the Global North aligns with the CBDR-RC principle, advocating for a more just and collaborative global framework. Despite Pakistan's commitment to ambitious climate adaptation and mitigation goals, including the transition to clean energy and electric vehicles, the lack of adequate climate finance remains a significant challenge. Thus, Khan's discourse not only reflects Pakistan's climate leadership but also highlights the critical need for global solidarity and financial commitments to address the disproportionate impacts faced by the Global South in the fight against climate change.

The findings from the analysis of Imran Khan's climate change discourse align closely with existing studies on climate justice, power dynamics in international climate negotiations, and the role of nature-based solutions in addressing climate change. Previous studies have highlighted the inequitable burden that developing countries bear due to historical emissions by industrialized nations (Roberts & Parks, 2007; Klein et al., 2015). Khan's discourse about Pakistan's vulnerability, despite its minimal emissions, resonates with the findings of Parks and Roberts (2008), who argue that the Global South is often the victim of climate injustice, yet it carries the responsibility of climate adaptation and mitigation with limited resources.

Furthermore, Khan's emphasis on nature-based solutions, such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan initiatives, aligns with the growing body of research that supports ecosystem restoration as an effective response to climate challenges, especially in developing countries (Barton et al., 2019; IUCN, 2020). Nature-based solutions, as McGinnis

(2021) and Seddon et al. (2020) emphasize, can deliver multiple dividends, including carbon sequestration, job creation, and disaster risk reduction, all of which are integral to Pakistan's climate policies. Khan's focus on green jobs and eco-tourism highlights the potential for climate action to be economically beneficial while also promoting environmental sustainability, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action.

Khan's framing of Pakistan as both vulnerable and a leader in global climate action further reinforces the power dynamics discussed by Peet (2017), who critiques the historical and ongoing disparities between developed and developing nations in terms of climate change responsibility and finance access. Khan's calls for equitable financial support and technology transfer mirror Fankhauser et al. (2013), who argue that the Global North must provide climate finance to developing countries, as stipulated by the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. Despite Pakistan's ambitious climate plans, the persistent financial gaps emphasize the findings of Biermann et al. (2012), who argue that climate finance commitments have been insufficient and unfulfilled, impeding the capacity of developing nations to fully implement their climate goals.

Imran Khan's climate discourse, framed through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Framing Theory, strategically constructs Pakistan's national identity as both vulnerable to climate change and a proactive leader in global climate action. By emphasizing the country's minimal contribution to global emissions yet highlighting its ambitious nature-based solutions like the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan, Khan positions Pakistan as a responsible global actor, calling for equitable support from developed nations. This aligns with CDA's focus on power dynamics and ideological construction, where Khan challenges the dominant narratives by framing climate justice as a shared responsibility between developed and developing nations. His emphasis on climate finance, technology transfer, and green jobs underpins a vision of sustainable development that ties economic growth with environmental responsibility, reflecting the principles of the Paris Agreement and addressing inequities within global climate governance. Through these strategies, Khan's discourse seeks to reshape global climate negotiations, advocating for fairer distribution of climate action responsibilities and highlighting the need for international cooperation.

Thus, Imran Khan's climate change discourse aligns with a broader academic discourse that underscores the need for equity, financial justice, and sustainable climate solutions for developing countries. His critique of the unfulfilled financial commitments from developed countries and advocacy for nature-based solutions reflect global concerns about climate justice and the role of international cooperation in addressing climate impacts.

## **Conclusion**

The study of Imran Khan's climate change discourse, analyzed through Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Framing Theory, highlights the strategic use of language in constructing a national and international identity for Pakistan within the global climate framework. Khan's climate rhetoric not only emphasizes Pakistan's vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change but also positions the country as a proactive leader in addressing environmental challenges, despite its minimal contribution to global emissions. His commitment to nature-based solutions such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami and Recharge Pakistan initiatives reflects a deep alignment with CDA's focus on constructing ideologies and power dynamics, positioning Pakistan as an active player in shaping global climate action.

Through his discourse, Khan integrates the principles of climate justice, calling for developed nations to take responsibility for their historical contributions to climate change and to provide financial and technological support to developing countries like Pakistan. This



reflects the core tenets of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities within the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC. Moreover, Khan's framing of Pakistan's climate policies—focused on green jobs, clean energy transition, and environmental resilience—aligns with the broader narrative of creating sustainable development pathways that balance environmental and economic needs.

Khan's framing also strategically constructs environmental responsibility as part of Pakistan's political agenda, reinforcing the idea that climate change is not merely an environmental issue but a national priority with direct socio-economic and human rights implications. His call for an inclusive, participatory approach to climate action, especially for marginalized communities, showcases his recognition of the need for a just transition, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations are not left behind in the country's shift towards sustainability.

In conclusion, Khan's climate discourse is a powerful tool for shaping public perception both within Pakistan and internationally. It frames climate change as a critical issue that transcends political borders, calling for international cooperation and emphasizing the importance of equity in climate action. By positioning Pakistan as a leader in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, particularly through nature-based solutions, Khan seeks to create a narrative of environmental leadership, resilience, and justice that resonates with global climate agendas while addressing the pressing needs of vulnerable communities in Pakistan. This study reveals how political discourse can shape national policies, influence global negotiations, and construct collective identities in the context of climate change, demonstrating the intricate relationship between language, power, and environmental governance.

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