



**Jamil Janjua,**  
ceo, Octara & Chief Editor  
janjua05@gmail.com

*Dear Reader,*

A New Year is upon us and in our lead article **Peter Diamandis** makes some startling predictions for the New Year and talks of a world in which technology has gained the kind of critical mass that yields exponential change which even our wildest dreams may not succeed in fathoming, leaving us gob-smacked as the future unfolds before our very eyes. Read on, and be bewildered!

**Eddy Quan** is up next and bowls a reverse swing with his 3 reasons NOT to build a Mailing List in which he really takes the mickey out of people partial to social media, and who wind up replacing their 9-5 job with an all the time job. He claims to have made over \$500,000 from his email list after first investing four years in sending emails. I'm still trying to figure out how he does it, and will probably need to attend his workshop. That appears like a really long shot given that I'm quite content in my comfort zone in which less is more and my nickel and dime trade quite sufficient to get me by in admirable fashion.

**Jason MA** contributes an intriguing read, and writes about Nassim Nicholas Taleb, author of *The Black Swan* about unpredictable events, who is worried about the role of the U.S. dollar in global finance. His concern over the dollar stems from its weaponization through Western sanctions that froze Russian assets after Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The sanctions on Russia sparked a rush to alternatives, with Gold in particular snapped up by central banks around the world as they look to diversify away from the dollar. "People nominally conduct transactions in dollars, but they don't store it in dollars, and that is what the problem is."

**Eddy Quan** makes a second appearance in this edition with a very meaningful piece of advice applicable across the board in this relentless age of social media where scrolling is the name of the game and information overload a clear and present danger. "Your brain is powerful," he says. "Just one good idea could change your life. So stop drowning it with garbage content. Instead, give it space to breathe and do its job. Capture every idea you have. Make it a goal to write down at least 10 a day. One of them will fly and when it does..... Boy is it beautiful to watch."

2025 is upon us, and the good news is that people are generally beginning to see the virtue in lighting a candle rather than cursing the darkness. The UN has called for \$2.6tn investment to reverse land degradation, and that's one gargantuan candle to light, but it must be lit if the future of mankind is to be assured. Back-of-the-book we have covered the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), known as COP16, that lays bare the daunting task in hand.

May the New Year bring with it the choicest of health, wealth and happiness for all, Insha'Allah 🙏🙏



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## INSIDE:



**Making predictions is tough, but let's give it a try. This is what I expect we will see in 2025...**

**Peter Diamandis** | 10 min read



**3 reasons to NOT build an emailing list**

**Eddy Quan** | 7 min read

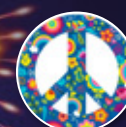


**'The Black Swan' author is really afraid of what's happening to the U.S. dollar**

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**Why scrolling is self-destructive**

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**Nature Calling for ACTION STATIONS!**

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# Making predictions is tough, but let's give it a try. This is what I expect we will see in 2025...

Peter Diamandis | 10 min read

## #1. Grok 3.0 Reaches IQ of 140+

xAI was founded in 2024, rapidly raising a \$6 billion seed round. Then it built the Colossus cluster – the world's most powerful AI training system with 100,000 liquid-cooled Nvidia H100 GPUs. Then the company raised a follow-on \$5 billion round and announced plans to double again (150,000 H100 + 50,000 H200 GPUs).

Grok 3.0 is poised to redefine the AI landscape in 2025. While OpenAI's breakthrough o1 model recently achieved a remarkable 120 IQ on the Norway Mensa test, I'm predicting we'll see Grok 3.0 smash this with an IQ exceeding 140.

As Elon boldly declared, "Grok 3.0 will be the most powerful A.I. in the world," and given his track record of disrupting industries from rockets to electric vehicles, as I've said before, I would never bet against him.

## #2. Starship Demonstrates Full Reusability

2025 is set to witness the first-ever capture of both the Super Heavy Booster and Starship, marking the dawn of the first fully reusable orbital spaceship.

SpaceX will be launching more than 150 Falcon 9 vehicles in 2025 and is planning an



ambitious 24 Starship test flights in 2025. Starship delivers 250% the thrust of Saturn V that took us to the Moon.

By way of comparison, the Saturn V would cost ~\$1.4 billion in 2022 dollars per launch, while the Space Shuttle would cost ~\$1.5 billion in 2022 dollars. Incredibly, once



Starship is fully reusable, it's expected to cost just \$2 million per launch – 1,000x cheaper!

### #3. Trump Announces “Boots on Mars by 2030”

In a dramatic acceleration of NASA's 2040 timeline, I believe the Trump White House will issue an audacious challenge in 2025: putting boots on Mars before the end of the year 2030. The announcement will echo the 1961 proclamation of President John F. Kennedy challenging America to land humans on the Moon by 1969.

But here's the twist – those first boots on Mars won't be human, they'll likely be robotic, specifically a few Optimus humanoid robots.

Towards this end, on September 7, 2024, SpaceX announced that it would launch the first uncrewed Starship missions to Mars in two years, aligning with the next Earth-Mars transfer window.

### #4. Scientists “Upload” 1 Million Neurons of a Honey Bee

Earlier this year, researchers at Howard Hughes Medical Institute used AI to accurately map all 140,000 neurons and 54.5 million synapses in a fruit fly's brain creating an accurate computer “upload” of that organism.

In 2025, the world will witness another neural cartography breakthrough as this technology is used to 10x brain mapping, uploading the brain of a honey bee (960,000 neurons).

In parallel, researchers like Dr. Hongkui Zeng at the Allen Institute are already setting their sights on a mouse brain (with 1,000 times more neurons than a fruit fly). As Dr. Zeng emphasized, “We can't wait 10,000 years” –

and with the convergence of AI precision we won't have to.

### #5. Humanoid Robot Population Hits 1,000

The global humanoid robot population will surpass 1,000 units next year, marking the beginning of an exponential growth curve that will take us to 10 billion robots by 2040.

With both Optimus (Tesla) and Figure (Figure AI) targeting a \$30,000 price point for each robot, this translates to a monthly lease price of \$300 or \$10 per day or \$0.40 per hour. And with such technology in place, we are seeing the beginning of what Elon calls “a future of abundance.”

The timing couldn't be more critical – with nearly 8 million U.S. job openings in Q3 2024 and a projected 25% “dependency ratio” of people over 70 by 2030, humanoid robots are emerging as a crucial solution to global labor shortages.

### #6. Epigenetic Reprogramming Reaches Human Trials

Next year, we'll reach a historic milestone in longevity science as Life Biosciences launches the first human clinical trials of cellular rejuvenation through partial epigenetic reprogramming.

The company's groundbreaking gene therapy, ER-100, represents the convergence of three revolutionary Yamanaka factors that effectively “reset” cellular age.

While Life Biosciences targets optic neuropathies, this is just the beginning...

With NewLimit's innovative T-cell restoration approach backed by Coinbase's Brian Armstrong, and Retro Bio's ambitious goal to add 10 years to human lifespan, we're entering

an era where aging becomes programmable.

By manipulating the epigenome—the “software” controlling our genetic hardware—we’re unlocking the potential to reverse not just disease, but aging itself.

## #7. Bitcoin Surges to \$250,000 per Coin

Bitcoin will shatter records, surging to the \$250,000 barrier, as hundreds of companies adopt what we might call “The Saylor Strategy” or “the Bitcoin Standard” – converting their balance sheets to Bitcoin.

The catalysts are perfectly aligned: the 2024 Bitcoin halving reducing supply, record-breaking ETF inflows creating unprecedented demand, and President-elect Trump’s proposed 1-million-Bitcoin strategic reserve potentially transforming U.S. monetary policy.

As Saylor has pointed out, Bitcoin’s surge past \$100,000 emphatically confirms its status as an institutional-grade asset embraced by the world’s wealth and power.

## #8. The Year that Gen-IV Nuclear Power Takes Off

In 2025, we’ll see an unprecedented wave of Gen-IV nuclear power plant announcements worldwide as governments and tech giants race to meet AI’s staggering energy demands.

Goldman Sachs projects a 160% surge in data center electricity consumption by 2030, and Big Tech is responding dramatically.

Following Google’s groundbreaking deal with Kairos Power for small module reactors (SMRs), Amazon’s investment in four nuclear reactors, and Meta’s bold plan for 4GW of nuclear capacity, hundreds of next-generation plants will be announced globally.

## #9. Lightweight AR Glasses Become

## Reality

We’ll experience the arrival of the first consumer-ready lightweight AR glasses weighing less than 50 grams – signaling the emergence of truly wearable computing.

Meta’s Orion glasses are leading the charge with their groundbreaking 70-degree field of view and neural wristband control system, while Apple’s long-rumored glasses, building on Vision Pro’s technology, are poised to leverage their advanced metalens production and eye-tracking capabilities.

Both promise to seamlessly overlay digital information onto our physical world, from real-time navigation to instant message displays.

## #10. AI Assistants (Siri & Alexa) Stop Sucking!

Siri and Alexa will finally stop sucking, transforming from frustrating digital butlers into genuinely intelligent assistants. Amazon’s next-gen Alexa, powered by Anthropic, will be deployed across half a billion devices which will stop delivering the same old “jokes” and “fun facts” and branch out.

Meanwhile, Apple’s “Siri 2.0,” powered by Apple Intelligence, will revolutionize how we interact with our devices, offering seamless cross-app functionality and truly conversational interactions.

In this 2025 future, Siri will stop spelling my name “Pieter,” and will take the time to check who I’m actually texting when spelling their name... So, when I’m texting my friend “Marc” it will stop spelling his name “Mark.” (One can only hope!) ■

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Peter Diamandis <[peter@diamandis.com](mailto:peter@diamandis.com)>

# 3 REASONS to NOT build an...



**Eddy Quan** | 7 min read

I'll always be long on email lists.

Why? Because I value my time and freedom.

My email list is the number one reason why I've been able to escape the 9-5 grind and make more money than I could ever dream of while working less than 20 hours a week.

BUT....

As much as I love email, it's NOT for everyone.

There are some downsides.

Here are the three biggest ones that come to mind as I listen to Bach..

## 1 You need to enjoy writing

Some people hate writing and that's something I simply don't understand since I've been writing pretty much my entire life.

And when I'm not writing, I'm either reading books or thinking about writing.

So when I learned that emails were a way for me to GET PAID CASH MUNNY to do something I already enjoy for free?

I went all in on building and mailing my list.

The best part is since having an email list means you have to write everyday.....

Not only are you improving your writing skills, you're also getting paid to do it every day.

And as your writing skills improve, your emails get better and your bank account gets bigger. So if you don't enjoy writing?

Definitely don't sign up for my email building training next Wednesday.

## 2 You're a long term thinker

This means you need to be committed to sending emails to your list for a long period of time.

An email-based business is NOT for you if you're just here for a quick buck.

If making fast money is your thing, I recommend you apply for a job (I hear McDonald's has an opening for a fry cook after Trump quit to become President).

I've made over \$500,000 from my list. But I've also been sending emails for four years.

It took me a few months before I made my first \$1. But now I can pull \$10,000 in one weekend.

So yes, as much as I enjoy making thousands of dollars every time I press send...

I paid my price in time to get here.

But as I always tell people, time is going to pass anyway. You can use it to build an asset that pays you for the rest of your life....

Or you can do nothing and wind up in the same spot 12 months from now.

As always, the choice is yours.

The final downside is....

## 3 You're addicted to social media

I get it. I am somewhat addicted to social media too.

Which is why I built an email list. So that when I go on vacations or do my "dopamine detoxes"....

I'm still getting paid.

Most creators on the other hand?

They HAVE to be on social media because that's how they get traffic and sales. Instead of building an asset they own (a simple email list)..... They prefer to work for Twitter. Or Instagram. Or YouTube. Etc.

And I don't get it because a lot of these creators always bang on about how much they hated having a boss in a 9-5 job.....

But they're more than happy to work for a boss that's literally a robot which never sleeps (the algorithm).

So in essence, they've replaced their 9-5 job with an all the time job.

All I know is when you spend so much time online.... You eventually get burnt out.

But if you love social media and prefer to spend 12+ hours a day glued to a screen?

By all means keep doing what you're doing ■

Your man

Eddy "email isn't for everyone" Quan

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Eddy Quan <[eddy@eddyquan.com](mailto:eddy@eddyquan.com)>



# 'The Black Swan' author is really afraid of what's happening to the U.S. dollar



'The Black Swan' author Nassim Nicholas Taleb, in June 2023

By Jason MA | 5 min read

Nassim Nicholas Taleb, who wrote the book [The Black Swan](#) about unpredictable events, is worried about the role of the U.S. dollar in global finance.

His concern over the dollar stems from Western sanctions that froze Russian assets after Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. In an [interview on Bloomberg TV](#) on Friday, he called the move a “confiscation” and said it’s one of the top two biggest financial mistakes in the 21st century.

“It may make sense from a justice standpoint, but you’ve got to remember, it’s not going to encourage people to invest in the system,” Taleb warned.

The dollar remains dominant as a method of payment, and is used in [88% of foreign exchange transactions](#).

But its position as the top reserve currency has been eroded. While the trend has been going on for decades, with the [greenback accounting for 58% today versus 71% in 2000](#), the sanctions on Russia sparked a rush to alternatives.

Gold in particular has been snapped up by central banks around the world as they look to diversify away from the dollar.

“So I’m really afraid of a progressive loss of the role of the dollar,” Taleb said, adding that “people nominally conduct transactions in dollars, but they don’t store it in dollars, and that is what the problem is.”

This de-dollarization trend comes as the U.S. government is going deeper into debt, with interest expenses alone skyrocketing and worsening the budget deficit.

As federal spending continues to far outpace revenue, the Treasury Department must issue greater volumes of bonds, many of which are bought by foreign investors. But if they’re worried

about the safety of dollar-denominated assets, will they keep financing U.S. debt?

“That’s exactly why I’m afraid,” Taleb added. “I’m afraid of what the current administration has done in 2022 when they confiscated assets. It doesn’t encourage people to invest in your currency.”

He said later, “That is harming the United States enormously.”

Taleb, who serves as distinguished scientific advisor at Mark Spitznagel’s Universa Investments, also warned markets are more fragile than they have been at any point in the past 20 to 30 years.

He cited the handful of tech giants that have driven the S&P 500’s rally on AI hopes. While AI in general could turn out to be a great investment opportunity, the companies that have been surging may not be the ones that represent the sector’s long-term growth, he explained.

The current environment is similar to what existed during previous collapses, Taleb said, pointing to complacency in the market and the earlier era of low rates that taught people to avoid conservative investments.

Now, valuations are “crazy” and built on a lot of hope, while the economy looks “very confusing” as data have been sending mixed signals lately.

Similarly, his colleague [Spitznagel warned](#) recently that the [uninversion of the yield curve](#) after years of being inverted, is the opening signal for big reversals down the line as a recession nears.

“That’s when you enter black swan territory,” he told [Bloomberg TV](#) last month. “Black swans always lurk, but now we’re in their territory ■”

## Source:

<https://fortune.com/2024/10/13/black-swan-nassim-taleb-dedollarization-dollar-dominance-russia-sanctions-us-debt/>

# why scrolling is self-destructive



By Eddy Quan | 5 min read

Before podcasts dominated our listening attention, I had a habit of walking around with a piece of A4 paper folded into quarters which I would keep in my back pocket and a blue bic pen.

On any given day, I would go about my day and by the time I got home, I would have at least half of that piece of paper riddled with cryptic notes that made sense to anyone else but me.

90% of my scribbles went into the rubbish bin, but 5% would be used some meaningful way and 5% were life changing.

The point is this; ideas are incredibly powerful but in order to find the gold in the sand, you have to sift through a shytload of sand.

Which brings me to the confession of today;

Lately I've allowed my brain to turn to scramble. I've never spent as much time as I have this past month or so doom scrolling Twitter.

Part of it is because the US election is successfully stealing my attention but another part is because I've just let myself slip and slide into the scroll.

## The result?

All those great ideas that I would normally capture on paper.... They don't even appear in my head anymore.

At first I thought it's because I'm getting old and slipping in some way but after some heavy reflection I've discovered the root cause is....

## Excess consumption.

And I ain't just talking about doom scrolling political Twitter. I'm talking about all of it:

Podcasts. YouTube interviews. Music. Twitter. Instagram. TV shows.

It's like I've drowned out my creative muscles.

Which is why this morning when I woke up, instead of firing up Twitter like I have been these past few months....

I dusted off my Freedom app and blocked out half of my day. This will now give my creative muscle some breathing space to work itself back to where it was in it's glory days....

A lean, mean idea generating machine!

Anyway, that's my little warning of the day:

Your brain is powerful. Just one good idea could change your life. So stop drowning it with garbage content.

Instead, give it space to breathe and do its job. Capture every idea you have. Make it a goal to write down at least 10 a day.

One of them will fly and when it does..... Boy is it beautiful to watch ■

Your man

Eddy "recovering scrollerholic" Quan

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Eddy Quan <[eddy@eddyquan.com](mailto:eddy@eddyquan.com)>



# Frugal Lifestyles & Prudent Policies in the Age of Drought & Desertification



## World falls short of drought deal at talks in Riyadh

## UN calls for \$2.6tn investment to reverse land degradation

## Public & Private Sectors in Mortal Combat

**“The bulk of the investments on land restoration in the world is coming from public money. And that is not right. Because essentially the main driver of land degradation in the world is food production... which is in the hands of the private sector”**  
 – United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Executive Secretary Ibrahim Thiaw.

The 12-day meeting of parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), known as COP16, saw negotiators fail to produce an agreement on how to respond to drought at Saudi-hosted UN talks (*Dawn, December 15th, 2024*). Drought, described as the most pervasive and the most disruptive environmental disaster, will now have to be tackled afresh at COP17 in Mongolia in 2026.

## Failure NOT an option

The Riyadh talks came after the partial failure of biodiversity talks in Colombia, the failure to reach a UN deal on plastics pollution in South Korea, and a climate finance deal that disappointed developing nations at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

## \$300 billion per year cost

Droughts “fuelled by human destruction of the environment” cost the world more than \$300 billion each year, the UN said in a report published on December 3, the second day of the talks in Riyadh. Droughts are projected to affect 75 per cent of the world’s population by 2050, it said. A press

release said the parties, comprising 196 countries and the European Union, had “made significant progress in laying the groundwork for a future global drought regime, which they intend to complete.”

There was some consolation to be had from seeing Africa, for the first time, presenting a strong united front on the demand for producing a binding protocol on drought that would ensure every government being held responsible for devising stronger preparation and response plans.

## Moonshot moment

The UN talks aimed at halting the degradation and desertification of vast swathes of land started in Saudi Arabia after scientists fired a stark warning over unsustainable farming and deforestation. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has called it a “moonshot moment”: a 12-day meeting for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), looking to protect and restore land and respond to drought amid the onslaught of climate change (*Dawn, December 3rd, 2024*).

## 3.7 billion acres must be restored by decade’s end

The last such meeting, or “Conference of the Parties” (COP) to the convention, held in Ivory Coast in 2022, produced a commitment to “accelerating the restoration of one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030”. But the UNCCD, which brings together 196 countries and the European Union, now says 1.5 billion hectares (3.7 billion acres) must be restored by decade’s end to combat crises including escalating droughts. A day before the COP16 talks in Saudi Arabia, home to one of the world’s biggest deserts, a new UN report warned that forest loss and degraded soils were reducing resilience to climate change and biodiversity loss. “If we fail to acknowledge the pivotal role of land and take appropriate action, the consequences will ripple through every aspect of life and extend well into the future,” UNCCD Executive Secretary Ibrahim Thiaw said in the report.

**“Droughts “fuelled by human destruction of the environment” cost the world more than \$300 billion each year”**

– UN Report



## Food shortages spur migration

Land degradation disrupts ecosystems and makes land less productive for agriculture, leading to food shortages and spurring migration. Land is considered degraded when its productivity has been harmed by human activities like pollution or deforestation. Desertification is an extreme form of degradation.

## Quantifying the cost

Restoring the world's degraded land and holding back its deserts will require at least \$2.6 trillion in investment by the end of the decade, the UN executive overseeing global talks on the issue said, quantifying the cost for the first time.

## Societies at greater risk of upheaval

More frequent and severe droughts as a result of climate change combined with the food needs of a rising population meant societies were at greater risk of upheaval unless action was taken, Thiaw said ahead of talks in Riyadh this week. The two-week meeting aims to strengthen the world's drought resilience, including by toughening up the legal obligations of states, laying out strategic next steps and securing finance.

**“Droughts are projected to affect 75 per cent of the world’s population by 2050”**  
– UN Report

## Private Sector in the Crosshairs

A large chunk of the around \$1 billion a day that is required will need to come from the private sector, said Thiaw. “The bulk of the investments on land restoration in the world is coming from public money. And that is not right. Because

essentially the main driver of land degradation in the world is food production... which is in the hands of the private sector that, as of now, provides only 6 per cent of the money needed to rehabilitate damaged land.”

“How come that one hand is degrading the land and the other hand has the charge of restoring it and repairing it?” said Thiaw, whilst acknowledging the responsibility of governments to set and enforce good land-use policies and regulations.

With a growing population the world needs to produce twice as much food on the same amount of land. Private sector investment is critical. “To hit \$2.6 trillion — approaching the annual economic output of France — the world needs to close an annual gap of \$278 billion, after just \$66 billion was invested in 2022,” the UN said.

## Big Bro in the dock

Activists accused Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, of trying to water down calls to phase out fossil fuels at last month's COP29 UN climate talks in Azerbaijan. However, desertification is a perennial issue for the arid kingdom.

“We are a desert country. We are exposed to the harshest mode of land degradation, which is desertification,” said deputy environment minister Osama Faqeeha. “Saudi Arabia is aiming to restore 40 million hectares of degraded land.” But Faqeeha did not specify a timeline, saying instead that Riyadh anticipated restoring “several million hectares of land” by 2030. So far 240,000 hectares have been recovered using measures including a ban on illegal logging and expanding the number of national parks from 19 in 2016 to more than 500. Other ways to restore land include planting trees, crop rotation, managing grazing and restoring wetlands.



**“Restoring the world’s degraded land and holding back its deserts will require at least \$2.6 trillion in investment by the end of the decade” – UN executive overseeing global talks**

## Indus Delta up the creek... in urgent need of robust paddle

Meanwhile, back home on the ranch in Pakistan the Indus Delta is in dire straits, and the reference is not to the rock band that ruled the roost between 1978 and 1992. Since the Sutlej Valley project (1922-30), the rivers of the Indus basin have become entangled with three major dams, 23 barrages, 12 inter-river canals and 45 main canals, writes Naseer Memon, a civil society professional, in his op-ed *Decaying Delta* (Dawn, December 21, 2024). “This web of canals has sprawled a massive irrigation system that has drastically curtailed flows to the delta area.”

The massive upstream diversion that continued over a century has culminated in an ecological disaster in the Indus delta. The Indus delta was spread over an area of 600,000 hectares between Sir Creek to the east and Phitti Creek to the west. It had 17 active creeks, which have now shrunk to just two — Khobar and Khar.

## Abject poverty, food insecurity and morbidity rampant

THE Indus delta, once a pristine ecosystem, has lost its glory. Listed amongst the 40 most biologically rich ecoregions in the world, it is also a Ramsar site. Unfortunately, its mangrove forests and fish stock in its estuaries are dwindling and communities are abandoning their abodes due to scarce livelihood resources. Abject poverty, food insecurity and morbidity are rampant. The prosperous past of the area has given way to deprivation over the decades.

**“1.5 billion hectares (3.7 billion acres) must be restored by decade’s end to combat crises including escalating droughts” – UNCCD**

According to Census 2023, three deltaic districts of Sindh (Thatta, Sujawal and Badin) have eight talukas with a population of about two million people. This population is directly affected by the degradation of the delta. Declining fish catch, degraded farmland, increased frequency of cyclones and the malfunctioning Left Bank Outfall Drain have together aggravated poverty, unemployment, malnourishment and migration to other areas.

## Sea encroachment clear and present danger

The declined river flow has had a detrimental effect on the delta. It has curtailed sediment transportation, which is a

critical ingredient of the deltaic ecosystem. The silt forms the bed that hinders sea encroachment along its shoreline and also provides fertile soil to grow and sustain the mangrove forests.

In 2001, the government of Sindh estimated that up to 0.5 million hectares of fertile land in the coastal districts (12 per cent of the total cultivated area in the entire province) was affected by seawater intrusion. The report of the International Panel of Experts in 2005 mentioned that coastal accretion was about 30 metres every year.

## Mangroves squarely on back foot

The mangroves are a breeding ground for several species

**“If we fail to acknowledge the pivotal role of land and take appropriate action, the consequences will ripple through every aspect of life and extend well into the future,” – UNCCD Executive Secretary Ibrahim Thiaw**

of fish. The flow data of the last 25 years shows that for 12 years, flows below Kotri Barrage were less than 10 million acre feet (MAF) that was provisionally agreed on in the inter-provincial Water Apportionment Accord of 1991. Consequently, sediment transport to the delta has declined. The Indus delta would receive 400 million tonnes of silt in the pre-Tarbela years, which has declined to about 125Mt per year.

According to a report by the International Panel of Experts, 5,000 cusecs is the minimum flow required below Kotri Barrage to sustain the deltaic ecosystem. However, water flow data reveals that except for the two monsoon months (mid-July to mid-September), the desired quantum of water doesn’t cross the gates of Kotri Barrage. In other words, no silt reaches the coastline for most of the months, paving the way for sea intrusion.

## Treading the straight and narrow

Mankind’s many follies have caused Nature to declare war simultaneously on several fronts, and unless the Global North and the Global South forge an ironclad alliance to reinvent their mindsets from apathy to empathy, the disruptions will gain in magnitude, and the wrath of Nature will prevail, decimating civilizations that refuse to yield. May Allah have mercy upon us and keep us in His Protection, and provide the powerful amongst us with the good sense to tread the straight and narrow that leads to abundance, ameen ■