

Q# 6

One of the most serious dilemmas of the South-Asian politics is the contentious relations between Pakistan and India. What measures would you consider for normalization between the two neighbors?

"Pakistan and India are the prisoners of Geography. They can agree on one thing; Neither wants the other around."

Tim Marshall

### ➤ Introduction:

Pakistan and India are the key players in South-Asian region as the stability of the region depends on the mutual relationship of both countries. The grievances between both India and Pakistan date back to the partition. Although the leaders back then from both sides did not desired for tense relations, things turned upside down for a number of reasons like Kashmir issue, the water dispute, the Nuclear programs and the



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rising trust-deficient- between both states. However with rational choices of foreign policy like Dialogue, Trade efforts, Confidence building Measures and for water dispute correct implementation of IWRM i.e. Integrated Water resource Management, both states can come up with a peaceful environment and co-exist without intensifying the fears and insecurities of one another.

## 2) Contentious Relations between India and Pakistan:

a- Severely of relations between India and Pakistan at the time of Partition. Pakistan and India inherit the hostility since the partition. Although situation was not always like this in the beginning as both leaders from India and Pakistan did not envisage permanent hostility between the states of India and Pakistan.

I sincerely hope that relations between India and Pakistan will be friendly and cordial. We have a great deal to do, and think that we can be of use to

WaRQ



each other and to the world:

### Muhammad Ali Jinnah

But things didn't remain the same.

Soon after the partition the conflict of Kashmir arose among both nations.

b. Kashmir as a bone of contention between India and Pakistan:

Kashmir has always been the central cause of conflict between India and Pakistan. Both India and Pakistan

has contrasting claims over it. Kashmir

is a Muslim majority region and

according to the partition plan it

had to join Pakistan based on

population's ethnicity. But, India has

illegally occupied the territory denying

the right of self determination to the

Kashmiri people. Both India and Pakistan

had fought three wars over Kashmir. Kashmir

is not the only contentious reason for

tensions between Pakistan and India.

c. Water Dispute between India and Pakistan:

In her article, IWRM and the

Indus River Basin: Principles, frameworks,

and strategies for effective implementation

Dr. Bushra Bibi emphasizes that fresh



Water is a limited and precious resource indispensable for sustaining life, development, and the environment.

Based on this assertion, it is obvious to conclude why would there be dispute over water sharing. India and Pakistan have contentious claims over Indus waters. Both signed an agreement in 1960 known as Indus water treaty. Pakistan claims that India is violating the treaty.

### 3) Hostility between India and Pakistan and implications on South Asia:

South Asia is a region of densely populated states of the world, the tensed relations between India and Pakistan impact the whole region economically and politically.

#### a- Failure of SAARC and hostility between India and Pakistan:

In any region, regional organizations play vital role in the integration, trade and well-being of the states.

SAARC; South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was established with same purpose in 1985, however had badly failed in achieving its objectives. One of the major causes of its failure is hostility.



between India and Pakistan.

b- Nuclear Weapons of Pakistan and India and the stability of South-Asia;

Being densely populated region and having two arch rival states in the region South Asia is <sup>one of</sup> the most-vulnerable regions of the world. Both India and Pakistan possess nuclear weapons. And in case of a nuclear war whole region will be devastated. Therefore in order to avoid all these threats profound measures are required.

#### 4) Possible measures for the normalization of ties between India and Pakistan:

a- Trust building between India and Pakistan;

All the prevailing and lingering issues between India and Pakistan are because of the trust deficit between both. Both states should work on dialogue and Peace building and address grievances of one another.

b- SAARC forum can help establish Trust between India and Pakistan.

As SAARC is subjected to failure because of hostility between India and Pakistan, Both states can cooperate with each other, boosting SAARC initiatives.



like those of trade and integration.

c. Pakistan and India should allow more and more trade in order to normalize ties:

Trade is one of major reasons for tense relations between India and Pakistan. If trade facilitation is boosted it will help in positive image projection and trust-building and help reduce cooler ties. However along with trade, CBMs, Composite Dialogue. Pakistan and India need to resolve another major issue that is of water.

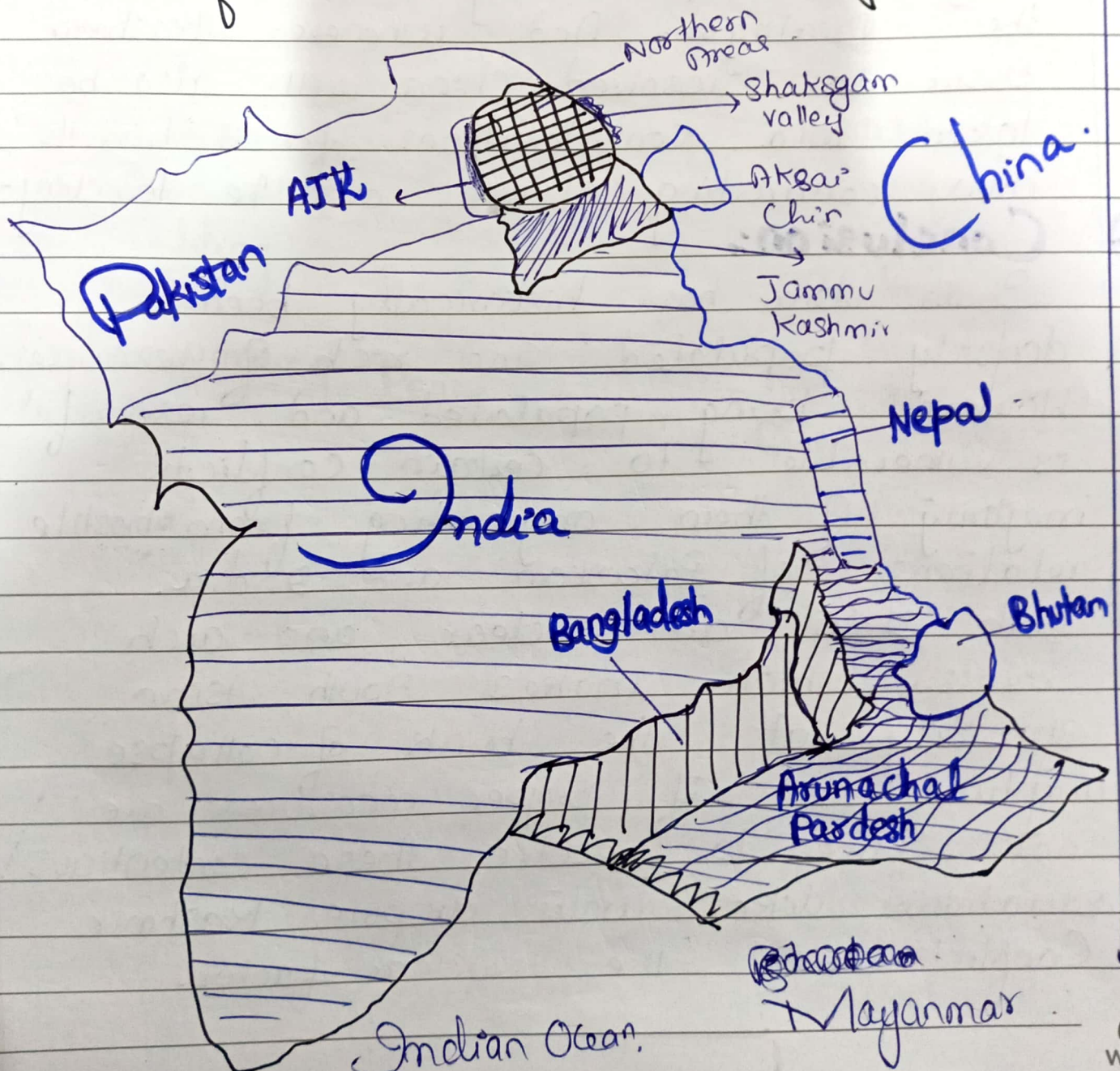
d. Implementation of IWRM for the normalization of water dispute between India and Pakistan:

Water is one of the scarce resources of the world and source of contention between India and Pakistan. It has potential to cause bloody conflict between both states. However proper implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management approach will prove quite effective in resolving the dispute. As, it focuses on coordination among states, economic, social and environmental well being and



also emphasizes on scientific data and tools emphasizing authentic monitoring system in order to avoid any trust deficit between states. Therefore it is in sole interests of Pakistan and India to consider this approach.

e- Resolving the Kashmir Dispute is a must for South-Asian Stability :-





Kashmir is a bone of contention between not only Pakistan and India but also China. Therefore it is of utmost importance to be resolved in order to establish peace in South-Asia. However it requires abiding by International Law, the regulations passed by the UN and the Dialogue. And whenever Kashmir Issue be resolved China will also be taken into considerations for it has its own contrasting claims over the territory.



India and Pakistan should reduce their Nuclear Arsenal.

As both states are nuclear therefore it is a threat to South Asian stability. Both states continue stockpiling weapons for their survival but are undermining the fact that it increases the instability of not only South-Asian region but the world as a whole because of its far reaching implications. Hence both states should sign NPT and work on trust-building so that South-Asia peace could be restored. In his book

"A working Peace System" David Mitrany says

States can create peaceful world, society, through gradualistic and pragmatic cooperation with each other in technical and economic levels of life.

According to Bernard Brodie

"Before Nuclear weapons our energies were devoted to win the warfare. But, after nuclear weapons our energies are devoted to prevent the warfare."



## 5) Conclusion:

South Asia has historically been densely populated and rich of resources. However, being populated and resourceful is vulnerable to certain conflicts majority of them originating from hostile relations of Pakistan and India. Both states are nuclear and arch rivals, which makes South-Asian stability at the brink of collapse any time soon if proper measures are not taken to resolve these contentious situations like water dispute, Kashmir Conflict and the nuclear factor.