

Question: Explain the concept of Hydro Politics and how India has weaponized the water against Pakistan.

Answer:

I. INTRODUCTION

Pakistan has been the victim of hydro politics since its independence. Pakistan was once a water abundant country. In recent times, Pakistan is going towards water scarcity. Among other issues, hydro politics is one major reason for that. Hydro politics of Pakistan is mainly with India. Afghanistan can also become a threat in terms of hydro politics for Pakistan. ~~Indus~~ River Kabul of Afghanistan can be an issue for Pakistan in terms of hydro politics. In terms of India, the violation of India on western rivers is not something new. Since Indus Water Treaty, India has been violating that treaty continuously. All three rivers, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum, of Pakistan under Indus Water Treaty are not safe from hydro politics of India. India is building hydro-electric dams on these rivers. This poses a serious threat for Pakistan. Serious strategic actions need to be taken against India for these violations.

II. Pakistan, India and Afghanistan - A History of Hydro politics.

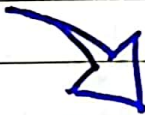
i- Hydro Politics

Hydro Politics or water politics is the conflict over water. In other words when water resources get affected politically, it is known as hydro politics.

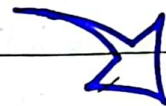
ii- Pakistan and Afghanistan Hydro Politics

Pakistan and Afghanistan are not currently in hydro politics. The chances are that they can be in future over river Kabul. This poses a threat for Pakistan.

River Kabul of
Afghanistan



Investment by India
on dams



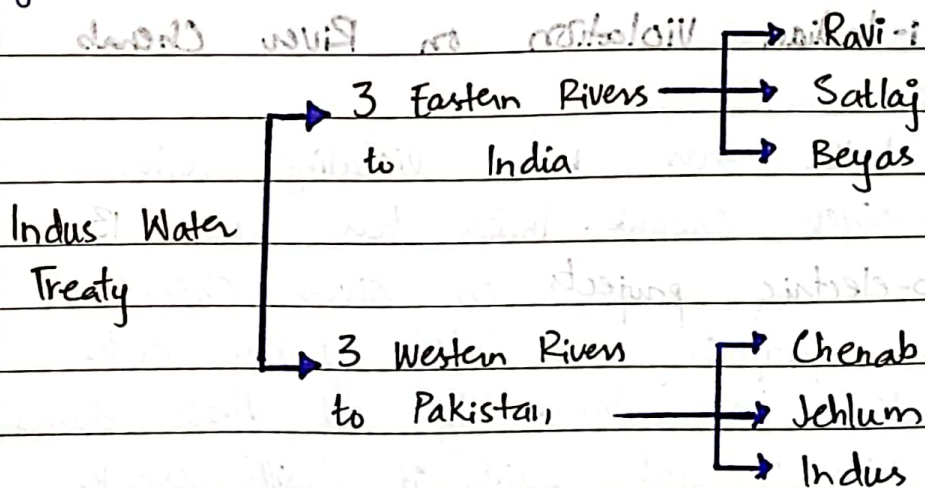
Threat for
Pakistan

iii. Pakistan and India Hydro Politics

Pakistan and India has been in hydro politics since independence. Temporary adjustments were made in 1952. But those did not work very effectively. Pakistan went to World Bank with this issue. The Indus Water Treaty happened in 1960 between India and Pakistan mediated by World Bank.

Indus Water Treaty 1960

According to Indus Water treaty, 3 eastern rivers were given to India exclusively. 3 western rivers were exclusively given to Pakistan.



A transition period of 10 years was also given to Pakistan. So Pakistan can make linked canals from eastern rivers to western rivers.

Pakistan will also get one time

4,
 payment by India for its loss of waters from eastern rivers. India or Pakistan cannot make man-made dams etc to divert the flow of water. India did not pay the payment to Pakistan for its loss of eastern waters. World Bank provided long term loans to Pakistan to build canals.

III. India has Weaponized water against Pakistan.

India has been violating rules of Indus Water treaty since long. Basically, India is weaponizing water against Pakistan.

i- Indian Violation on River Chenab

India has been violating rules on river Chenab. India has built 13 hydro-electric projects on river Chenab. Other projects are also under work by India on Chenab. If all those dams are going to get built, it will create huge impact for Pakistan.

The major dams by India on River Chenab are

→ Baglihar Dam

→ Salala Dam

→ Dul Hasti Dam

If all the dams that India is trying to build get completed, India would be able to block water to Pakistan for 20-25 days.

ii. Indian Violation on River Jhelum

River Jhelum is another river given to Pakistan by Indus Water Treaty. India has been building dams on this river as well. The major dam that has been built by India on river Jhelum is Mullar Beraj.

iii. Indian Violation on River Indus

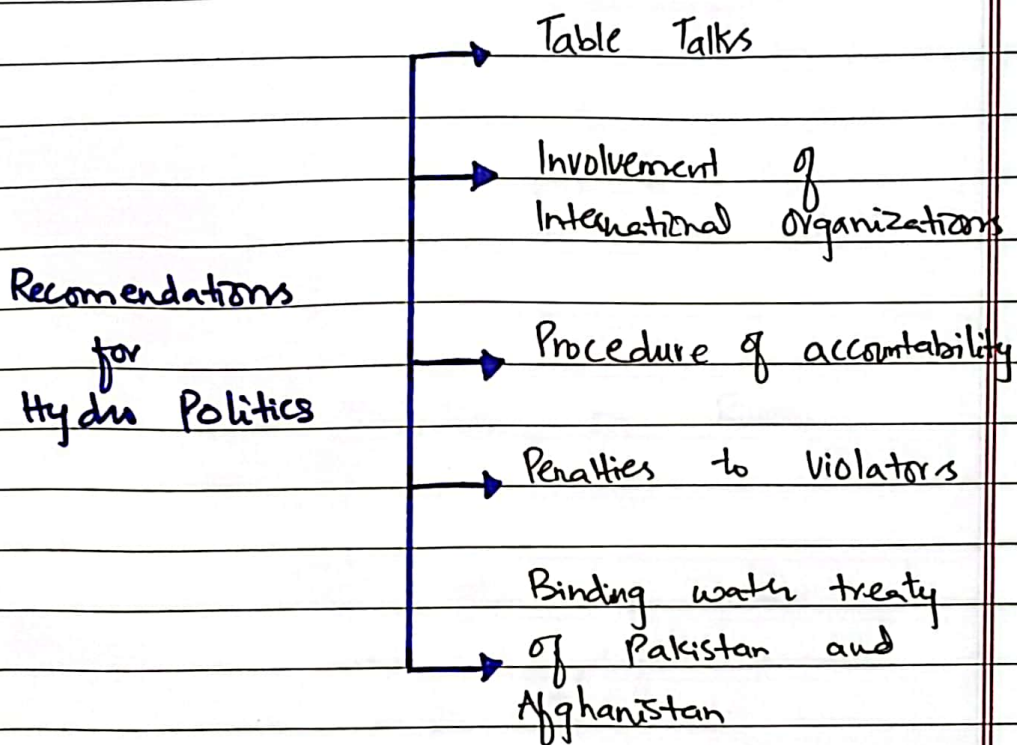
Just like other two rivers, this river is also not safe from hydro politics of India. The major hydro-electric projects by India on river Indus are:

- Nimoe Buzgo hydro-electric project
- Chutak hydro-electric project
- Dumkhan hydro-electric project

All these dams by India on western rivers are illegal. India cannot make these dams on Pakistani water under law.

V. Steps needed to be taken for this Hydro Politics

With the current situation, Pakistan will face serious water issues in the near future. So strategic actions need to be taken to sort out the ongoing violations.



If Pakistan do not take these recommendations seriously, a country who is dependent on agriculture will suffer a lot. Table talks, involvement of international organizations, accountability and penalties seem to be the peaceful methods to solve this issue of water.

In terms of Afghanistan, Pakistan needs to have a binding treaty.

VI. Conclusion

Hydro Politics have effected Pakistan since its birth. India has effected the most Pakistan the most in this regard. It is high time that these violations come under consideration of these dams continue to get built Pakistan will become water scarce country. The country whose major chunk of population rely on agriculture cannot survive under such violations so, Strategic actions need to be taken.