

{ Current Affairs }

Question # 1

India, like always, has blamed Pakistan for the recent attack on tourist in Pahalgam, occupied Kashmir. Making an excuse, India unilaterally moved out of Indus Water Treaty. Critically evaluate the situation and give policy recommendations for Pakistan to follow

① Introduction

In the early 2025 a terrorist attack occurred in Indian occupied Kashmir. India without any investigation blamed it on Pakistan. It also backed out of Indus Water Treaty. The suspension of treaty can have numerous impacts on Pakistan. India can alter the flow, construct dam on the rivers allocated to Pakistan and can even abolish Indus water commission. In the face of such a situation Pakistan can appoint a neutral arbitrator, take the issue in international court of justice, and even appoint a neutral

arbitrator to probe into Pahalgam issue.

2) Impacts of Suspension of Indus Water Treaty

Following are the impacts of suspension of Indus Water Treaty

a) India can alter the flow of river Indus

Pakistan is an agricultural country. Its economy is based on agriculture. Using the Pahalgam attack as an opportunity India has already unilaterally suspended the Indus Water Treaty. It can now alter the flow of river Indus and even dug out canals in order to reduce the amount of water entering in Pakistan. Diverting the flow of Indus river can have devastating impact on the agriculture based economy of Pakistan.

b) India can construct a dam on river Indus

India has already attempted to construct dam on rivers allocated to Pakistan. The issue of Bajighar dam has already been taken to the

Court of arbitration by Pakistan. By creating a dam on river Indus, India aims to control the flow of water towards Pakistan. Prime minister Modi after the Uri attack 2016 stated

"Blood and water cannot flow together"

c) Abolition of Indus water commission

Under the article VIII of Indus Water Treaty an Indus Water Commission was established. It consisted of water commissioners from both sides. It was created as a platform which was used as a means of communication on water sharing between both countries.

relate your headings and arguments to the qs statement.....

d) India can intentionally flood the rivers of Pakistan

India can open the spillways of its dams without informing Pakistan. It could result in flooding of rivers in Pakistan. It can even cause loss of property and life.

e) Pretext of aggression on Pakistan

The Pahalgam attack has already provided India with the pretext of showing aggression towards Pakistan. The suspension of Indus Water Treaty is only the first step of hostility towards Pakistan.

3) Policy recommendation for Pakistan

Following are the policy recommendations for Pakistan

a) Appoint a neutral arbitrator to solve this issue

The Indus Water Treaty has provided both the countries to appoint a neutral arbitrator in case of any conflict. However, the World Bank cannot be appointed as an arbitrator.

b) Bilateral dialogue with India

In order to resolve the issue in a peaceful manner, Pakistan and India can enter into bilateral dialogue with each other. As both

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.....

Countries are nuclear powers. It would be a wise strategy to resolve this issue in a peaceful manner.

c) Resolving the issue through international court of arbitration

In order to resolve the conflict the treaty has allowed both the countries to take the matter into court of arbitration.

The issue of Balighar dam has already been solved through court of arbitration.

d) Enhance FFC to deal with floods caused by India

Pakistan should strengthen Federal flood commission in order to deal with floods caused by India.

Early warning system should be enhanced and FFC should enhance its coordination with PDMA and NDMA

e) Appoint a neutral investigator to probe into Pahalgam issue

Pakistan has already announced that it is willing to cooperate with any neutral investigator to probe into Pahalgam issue. It has

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

Rejected all the baseless accusations by India. However, India seems reluctant to appoint any neutral investigator.

4) Conclusion

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The Indus water treaty has been the most successful water sharing treaty even between two hostile nations. India has suspended the treaty on mere accusations. It has enhanced the hostility on both sides. In order to resolve the issue peacefully, Pakistan can appoint a neutral arbitrator or enter into bilateral dialogue with India.

improve the references and the paper presentation part.....