

Question

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

Ans: Introduction:

The unilateral suspension of Indus Water Treaty has influenced the regional stability, internal peace and individual's lives.

The neighbouring country, India has long been wished for renegotiating the treaty and threatened Pakistan several times for putting the treaty in abeyance. The recent attack on Pahalgam is used as an excuse to fulfill ~~then~~ its desire to utilize western Rivers allocated to Pakistan in IWT.

However, given the situation, it is mandatory for Pakistan to take effective actions against these measures

to uphold the sovereignty and protect the national reservoirs.

Historical view of IWT

The Indus Water Treaty was signed in 1960 - two main privacies are India and Pakistan brokered by World Bank. In this treaty, it was established that three Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Satluj, Beas) belong to India, while three Western River (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) are allocated to Pakistan.

A permanent Indus Commission was formed, with member from each country to resolve dispute and share water data. The treaty endured for over 60 years even in wars between two nuclear-armed force.

However, India's recent move is more political

Critical evaluation:

1- Credibility of claims:

India's accusation of Pakistan's involvement in

Pahalgam attack without presenting evidence has no credibility. Moreover, water-suspension as counter-terrorism measure appears disproportionate.

2. Strategic implications:

2.1. Regional stability:

The recent move of India destabilizes the regional stability, escalating the tension between two-nuclear armed force. Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan called the IWT suspension an "act of war", with more regional instability.

2.2. Humanitarian consequences:

Pakistan, an agricultural country relies on Indus Water. Unilateral suspension of IWT affects million of people residing in Pakistan, exacerbating the poor living condition of the people.

2.3. Legal precedent setting:

India's unilateral

Water treaty suspension sets a legal precedent. India being the lower riparian of China could suffer the consequences of treaty violation against it.

3- Legal dimensions:

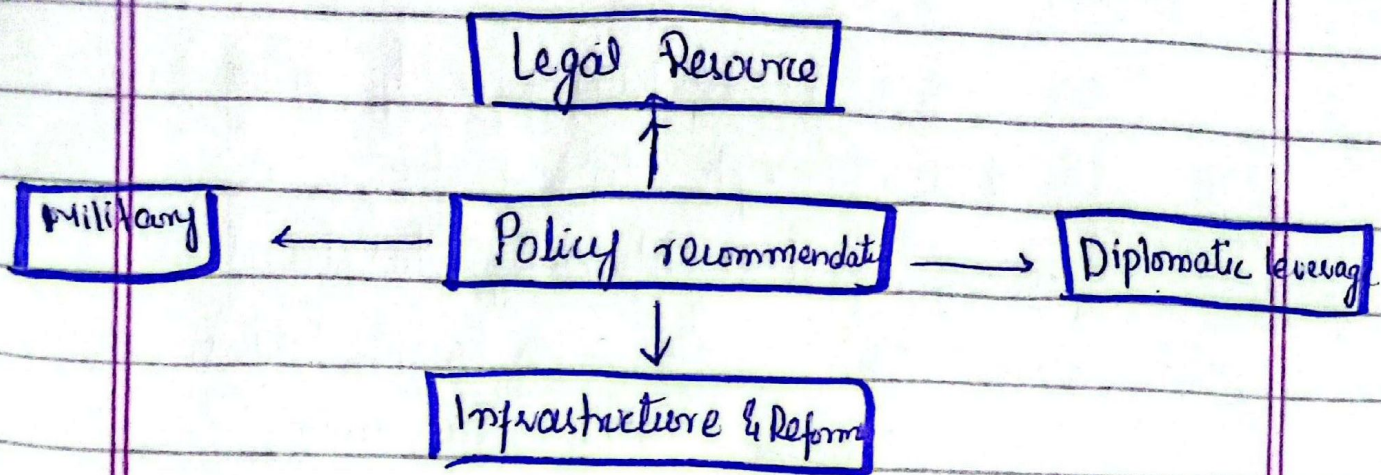
3.1- Dispute Resolution:

Article XI of Indus Water treaty states that modification could only be done by mutual agreement. No single country can suspend or modify the treaty. India's recent action is against the rules of IWT.

3.2- International law

Unilateral suspension or put the treaty is against the law of Vienna convention. Vienna convention abides the countries to follow and implement its rules.

Policy Recommendations:



1- Legal Resource:

Vienna Convention:

Article 60 (material breach) - challenges India's suspension as a treaty violation.
Article 62 (change of circumstances) - Pakistan counters India climate change claims and prove it as a political gain.

Internationalizes the issue:

Pakistan needs to present its case to International Court of Justice, United Nation Security Council and World Bank.

B. Diplomatic leeways:

1- China's role:

Pakistan should resolve the matter through diplomatic strategy. By strengthening bilateral relation, Pakistan can pressurize India through China's Brahmaputra river.

2- OIC / Global South:

Through Organisation of Islamic countries or global South alliance, it is the need of the hour for adopting diplomatic ameliorative measure.

C. Infrastructure and Reforms:

1. Urgent dam construction:

Pakistan needs to construct dams to store water to prevent the country from water crisis. It is imperative to increase the water storage efficiency to lead the country out of crisis.

Agricultural modernization:

It is pertinent to modernize agricultural practices to conserve water. Use of water sprinklers and spray must be adopted in this escalating crisis.

Energy diversification:

About 33% of energy production is dependent on water projects. Pakistan must initiate projects dependent on solar or wind energy.

C- Military Deterrence:

If the diplomacy fails, Pakistan must have military deterrence.

As former India's Commissioner stated:

"India's actions are hydro warfare. If diplomacy fails, Pakistan must have strike back hard"

Pakistan must declare red line defence and take ameliorative potential measures.

Conclution:

Following the Pahalgam attack, the escalating tensions between Pakistan and India took a new turn leading to unilateral IWT suspension. This move is for more political gain rather than counter-terrorism measure. Pakistan needs to adopt pragmatic measure to combat the crisis. If this tension has not resolved, the region would face drastic consequences.