

DATE: ___/___/___

DAY: ___/___/___

Name: Noor Manahil
Batch: 74

India - Pakistan Water Dispute - An Alarming Issue

Outline

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Attention Grabber

1.2 General Statement

1.3 Thesis Statement

The India-Pakistan water dispute has transformed into an alarming national security challenge, threatening agriculture, economy, and stability, and demands urgent diplomatic, technical, and strategic solutions.

2. WATER AS A STRATEGIC WEAPON

2.1 India's upper-riparian advantage and frequent threats of treaty suspension.

2.2 Use of water projects as leverage in political and military crisis.

2.3 Narendra Modi's statement:

"Blood and water cannot flow together."

3- IMPACT ON PAKISTAN'S AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMY

- 3.1 Indus Basin as lifelines for Pakistan's crops and food security.
- 3.2 Decline in agriculture productivity due to reduced water flow.
- 3.3 Rising water scarcity leading to rural poverty and urban migration.

4- ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN SECURITY DIMENSIONS

- 4.1 Shrinking rivers and desertification in Sindh and Balochistan.
- 4.2 Groundwater depletion due to reduced river inflows.
- 4.3 Water stress fueling inter-provincial disputes within Pakistan.

5- A TRIGGER FOR REGIONAL INSTABILITY

- 5.1 Violation of treaty as a breach of international law.
- 5.2 Water disputes aggravating hostile bilateral relations.

5.3 Risk of water conflict escalating into larger regional tensions.

6- PATHWAYS TO RESOLUTION

6.1 Strengthening Indus Water Treaty through modern frameworks.

6.2 Investing in dams, reservoirs and efficient irrigation system.

6.3 Regional cooperation for climate adaptation and water management.

7- CONCLUSION

7.1 Ending statement.

The Essay

Water may soon replace oil as the most contested resource in South Asia, and for Pakistan, the threat is already real. As the Indus Basin, shared by India and Pakistan, is the lifeline of nearly 250 million people. Governed by the Indus Water Treaty (1960), a model of cooperation between two hostile neighbours. The Indus

Water Treaty, was signed under World Bank mediation to regulate its usage. According to this treaty, India was given control over eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) while Pakistan secured rights over the three western rivers (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum). For decades the agreement functioned as a rare symbol of cooperation, but rising political hostility and environmental pressure have exposed its limitations. India's construction of dams and hydroelectric projects on western rivers has raised fears in Pakistan of reduced flow, threatening its agriculture based-economy. For Pakistan, an agrarian economy where nearly 90% of food production depends on the Indus system, such threats are existential. Thus, the India-Pakistan water dispute stands as one of the most alarming national security challenges of our time. This alarming issue demands cooperative water management, strong institutions and sustainable solution otherwise, Pakistan will face grave consequences.