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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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PART II

Q NO 1

India like always --- Pakistan to follow?

ANSWER:

Hindus and Muslims have different ideologies, religion, beliefs. The Indo-Pak relationship has remained adversarial since partition in 1947, with Kashmir being the core unresolved issue. India has repeatedly accused Pakistan for sponsoring cross border terrorism, for instance the Pulwama bombing in 2019 and now the recent attack on tourists in Pahalgam (2025) in Indian administered Kashmir. India once again has alleged Pakistan for sponsoring this terrorist attack and used this as a pretext to unilaterally suspend the Indus Waters Treaty. Indus Water Treaty was signed in 1960 and has survived wars, near conflicts and complete diplomatic breakdowns in the past as well. This sudden unprecedented move by India is quite alarming as it has politicized the historically apolitical and cooperative water sharing framework.

→ Pulwama to Pahalgam: A Pattern of Blame

On February 14, 2019, a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of Indian paramilitary forces in Pulwama. India blamed the Pakistan based group Jaish-e-Mohammad, leading to cross-border airstrikes and spike in tensions. Similarly, in 2025, a deadly attack targeting tourists in Pahalgam claiming life of 26

tourists. Pahalgam is a region under heavy military control in Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir.

India once again has blamed Pakistan without any conclusive evidence or international investigation.

India's narrative is repeated after every such incident. It has become a diplomatic tool to divert attention from its internal failures in managing dissent in Kashmir and to isolate and defame Pakistan on the global platforms.

⇒ India's Withdrawal from Indus Water Treaty

Indus Waters Treaty was brokered by World Bank and was signed by then Indian Prime Minister Nehru and Pakistan President Ayub Khan in 1960. This treaty fixed

and delimited the rights and obligations of both countries concerning the use of the waters of the Indus river system. It gave control of the waters of the western rivers - The Indus, Jhelum and Chenab to Pakistan and those of the eastern rivers - The Ravi, Beas and Sutlej to India. Indus waters Treaty has long been considered one of the most successful examples of water diplomacy.

India's unilateral suspension of the treaty obligations is violation of the Article XII, which states that the treaty cannot be altered or terminated unilaterally.

Furthermore, this move threatens the livelihoods of over 80% of the Pakistan's population, which depends on the Indus basin for agriculture.

⇒ Politicizing Water Amid Hostility:

By linking terrorism allegations to water diplomacy, India has shifted from cooperative engagement to a forced leverage by attempting to destabilize Pakistan economically and ecologically.

⇒ Violating International law:

India's unilateral suspension of Treaty is a clear violation of international law. It undermines the credibility of the treaties. It sets a global precedent where bilateral agreements can be scrapped for political gain.

⇒ Threat to Regional stability:

This move is a threat and negatively impacts the regional stability. South Asia is already one of the most water stressed regions in the world. Weaponizing water may push the region towards environmental conflict, impacting millions across both countries.

⇒ Policy Recommendations for Pakistan:

- = Pakistan should call for an independent investigation into the Pahalgam Incident. Thereby, demonstrating willingness for transparency and rejecting terrorism in all forms.

Water Policy Reforms:

Pakistan should improve its water storage and reduce irrigation losses. and promote water-efficient agriculture. Investment in

Projects like Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand Dam to strengthen internal water security.

⇒ Strengthen Geopolitical Alliances:

As India has deepened its ties with western allies, Pakistan must strategically strengthen its relationship with China, Central Asia, and neutral European states while maintaining diplomatic channels with India.

India's decision to suspend the Indus waters treaty in the aftermath of the Balakrishnan attack represents a serious challenge to regional peace and international law. By conflating terrorism allegations with water rights, India risks undermining decades of stable cooperation. This puts the regional peace, water security and international credibility at stake. Pakistan must act with prudence, preparation and purpose to protect its sovereignty, national interest and regional stability.

Q No 5

Trump has launched ----- policy measures

US - CHINA TRADE WAR:

The Presidency of Donald J. Trump from 2017-2021 marked a dramatic shift in US foreign and economic policy, particularly in realm of international trade. Under the Banner of "America First" Trump launched a series of aggressive tariffs measures targeting China, also affecting allies like European union, Canada and Mexico. Characterized by Unilateralism and Protectionism, this conflict was labeled by economists as the largest and most dangerous trade war. Now during his second term, President Donald Trump has initiated a series of aggressive trade policies that have escalated tensions with China and other global trading partners. The implications of this trade war are profound, affecting not only the US and China but also the broader global political economy.

⇒ Escalation of Trade Tension:

In early 2025, President Trump Imposed a 10% tariff on all imports to the United States, citing a national

emergency due to trade imbalances. This was followed by additional tariffs targeting specific countries and sectors. In response to this China implemented retaliatory tariffs and export restrictions leading to a significant deterioration in trade relations between the two nations.

Implications for the US:

1 Economic Impact:

The imposition of tariffs has led to increased costs ~~at~~ for American consumers and businesses. Economists warn that these policies could trigger a recession if trade uncertainties continue. Former US Senator Phil Gramm expressed concerns that the tariffs could derail the economy unless corrected swiftly.

2 Agriculture sector Strains

U.S. farmers have been adversely affected by the retaliatory tariffs on agricultural exports. China's tariffs on U.S. agricultural products have led to decreased demand impacting the livelihoods of American farmers as China is one of the biggest importer of agricultural goods.

IMPLICATIONS FOR CHINA

1 Economic slowdown

China's economy has experienced a slowdown as a result of reduced export orders and increased tariffs. The official manufacturing purchasing managers index fell to a 16-month low, indicating contractions in the manufacturing sector.

2 Strategic Resource controls

In Retaliation, China has restricted exports of key strategic minerals such as rare earths, which are critical to high tech industries. This move has disrupted global supply chains and highlighted China's leverage in the trade dispute.

3 Diplomatic Isolation:

China has sought to strengthen ties with other nations, including South Korea, and Japan, in response to U.S. trade policies. These efforts aim to mitigate the impact of the trade war and reduce dependence on the U.S. market.

IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY:

1 Disruption of Global Trade:

The trade war has led to significant disruptions in global supply chains, affecting industries such as electronics. Companies are reevaluating their supply chains to mitigate risks associated with trade uncertainties.

2 Rise of Protectionism:

The United States protectionist policies have prompted other countries to reconsider their trade strategies. There is a growing trend toward regional trade agreements and a reevaluation of global trade norms.

3 Economic Uncertainty:

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has downgraded global growth forecasts for 2025, citing the impact of the US-China Trade War on global economic stability. The escalating trade tensions contribute to a climate of economic uncertainty world wide.

President Trump's second term trade policies have introduced significant challenges to the US, China and the global political economy. While aimed at addressing trade imbalances and protecting domestic industries, these measures have led to economic disruptions, strained diplomatic relations, and increased global uncertainty. The long term implications of this trade war will depend on the willingness of all parties to engage in dialogue and seek mutually beneficial solutions.