

Subject:

Current Affairs

Question No 1:

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1. INTRODUCTION

In April 2025, a terrorist attack in Pabalgam, located in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, resulted in the deaths of several Indian and foreign tourists. India, in a now familiar pattern, swiftly blamed Pakistan without credible evidence or international verification. Using this incident as a pretext, the Indian Govt announced its unilateral withdrawal from the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), a move that has been widely criticized as a violation of IIL and a serious threat to regional stability. This development marks a critical juncture in South Asian water politics and bilateral relations b/w 2 nuclear armed neighbors.

2- Historical and Strategic Context

2.1 - IWT: A pillar of water cooperation

The IWT, signed in 1960 with World Bank mediation, has endured multiple wars and conflicts.

It allocated 3 eastern rivers to India & 3 western rivers to Pakistan. It is one of the most successful water treaties in history and a rare example of Indo-Pak cooperation.

Phadgam Attack & the Shift in Indian Posture:

The April 2025 attack on tourists in Phadgam came amidst increased militarization and civil unrest in occupied Kashmir. Without hours, Indian media and political circles blamed Pakistan-backed groups, despite the absence of a transparent probe. Some days later, India declared its "suspension of obligation" under the TWT, a move seen as part of its aggressive regional doctrine.

3-Critical evaluation of the situation

Politicization of Security Incidents:

India's swift attribution of blame to Pakistan follows a pattern seen after Pulwama (2019) and Uri (2016). This reflects a political tactic to deflect

attention from internal dissent in
Nashville and rising domestic unrest
due to economic and governance issues.
**Violation of international legal
Norms:**

(DWT) is a bilateral treaty under (IL)
and cannot be revoked unilaterally.
Article XII of the treaty clearly
states that it "shall remain in force
until terminated by mutual agreement".
India's withdrawal undermines global
norms of treaty sanctity & peaceful
conflict resolution.

Weaponization of water:

The move to exit DWT represents a
dangerous weaponization of water turning
a humanitarian and environmental issue
into a strategic tool. This could create
a water crisis for Pak, which depends
on the Indus Basin for 90% of
its agricultural needs.

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Proactive water diplomacy:

Launch a global campaign to highlight India's unilateralism at the UN, OIC, and (WFP). Build coalitions with other dipaxion countries like nepal, Bangla-desh and china to counter india's regional hegemony.

National water security framework:

Accelerate the construction of dams Reservoirs, and irrigation efficiency programs. Invest in glacier monitoring, groundwater recharge system, and climate-resilient agriculture to mitigate external dependencies

4- Conclusion

India Post-Pahalgam policy shift represents not just a bilateral dispute but a dangerous precedent of using water as leverage in geopolitical conflicts