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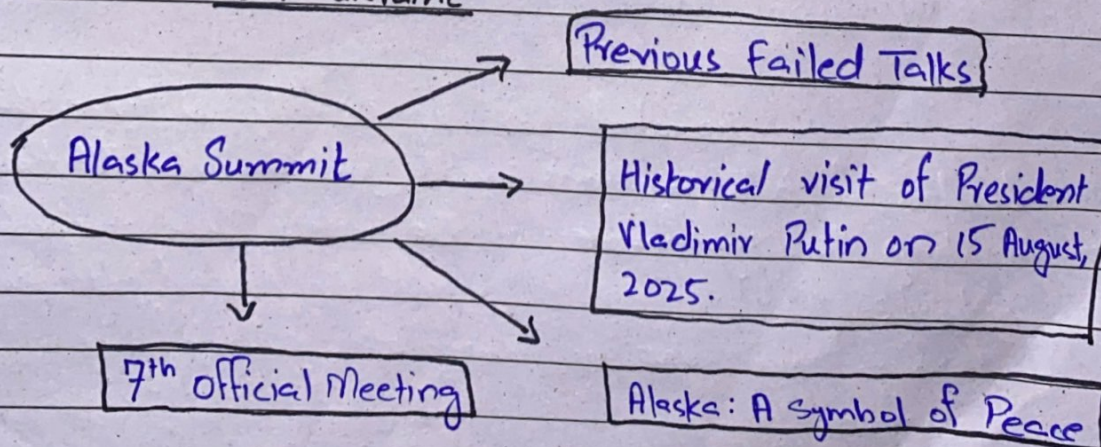
CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q.2]

(i) Introduction

The peace that followed the second world war is seen to be deteriorating. There is intensity in conflicts with no single solution. Russia and Ukraine are under war started on 24 February, 2022 when the Russian forces entered the country from Belarus, Russia and Crimea. International community has been trying to pressure Russia since then, but it leads to no conclusion and the Russians have been penetrating deep. Recently, after the Donald Trump assumed the Presidency, his only objective, that he says, is the America first policy and worldwide peace. The US has smashed Russia with tariffs but, she pays no heed. US, along with direct pressure inerts pressure on nations that are engaged in trade with Russia. The developments lead to negotiations between the President of USA and Russia face to face.

(ii) Chances of Success of US-Russia Negotiations on Ukraine



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a) Alaska: A symbol of peace

Alaska holds a lot of significance for both the US and Russia. It was an area of Russia. The Russians sold Alaska to US back on March 30, 1867 for \$7.2m. The sale of this vast land marks the importance of both nations being peaceful. Alaska is just 55 miles from Russia and the reason to hold the summit in this place instead of any other was firstly, to show commonalities and secondly, to show military might that everyone experienced on the day of 15th August.

b) Historical Visit

The visit of Russian President marks to be historic and it was seen on media and news that Putin and Trump liked each other's company. However, no immediate solution for the issue of Ukraine came forward instead of exchanges of smiles.

c) 7th Official Meeting

Separated just by 55 miles distance, the leaders of both nations met just for the 7th time marking the significance of the issue. These prospects indicate that the conflict might be turned into peace. However, there was no immediate orders of any ceasefire.

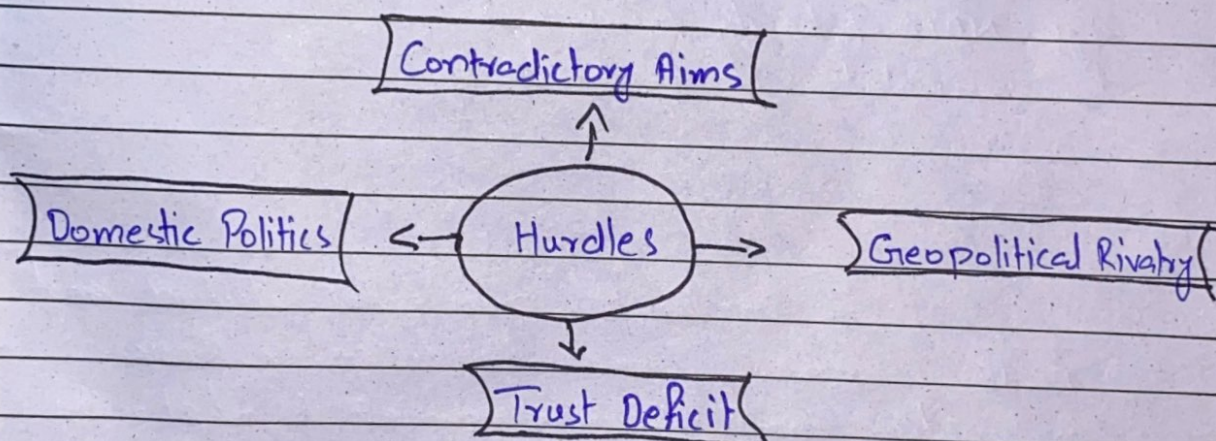
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d) Previous failed talks

Both leaders of the respected countries held talks back in 2022 known as Istanbul talks. There was not positive outcome of that, therefore the Alaskan visit to seems to be just talks and no actual actions.

(iii) Key Hurdles in US-Russia Negotiations



a) Contradictory Aims

The US/NATO (their key ally) has different goals for the world order, they want Ukraine's sovereignty to be protected and wants its alignment with the west to prevent any communist ideology entering the west. Russia, however, want to prevent the expansion of NATO and maintain its influence. Another reason Russia cannot back or withdraw Ukraine is because of its access to warm waters which Russia needs for its trade.

b) Geopolitical Rivalry

The war seems to be increasing because the West uses its pretext to supply weapons to Ukraine making it a proxy. This makes compromise harder to achieve.

c) Trust Deficit

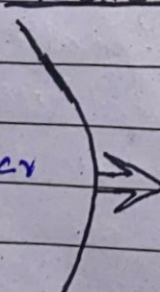
Both sides cite past betrayals. Russia says NATO broke its promise, while the West cites Russia's violations of the Minsk Agreement.

d) Domestic Politics

In the US, presidential elections and public pressure influence the policy; in Russia, nationalism forces the government to adopt more strict measures against Ukraine.

(IV) Practical Recommendations to End the War

To End War

- 
- Ceasefire
 - Revival of Dialogue
 - Security Guarantees
 - Economic Incentives

a) Ceasefire

The first and foremost action that should be taken is to halt fighting. This should

be done under UN supervision.

b) Revival of Dialogue

The leaders of both nations should be brought to table. Both leaders of Russia and that of Ukraine should be forced by the international community as a whole to hold talks.

c) Security Guarantees

The cries of both nations are clear to the world. Russia doesnot want expansion of NATO and the Ukraine wants it sovereignty to be protected. Therefore, both countries should be given guarantees on their concerns.

d) Economic Incentives

It should be guaranteed to Russia that with ending the conflicts, the restrictions imposed by the international community will be lifted.

(V) Critical Evaluation

While diplomacy seems the way to resolve the conflict, the issue of Russia and Ukraine is multi-dimensional. Both nations face threats on all fronts from one another. Both sides currently pursue a zero-sum game, victory for one is seen as defeat for the other.

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However, if battlefield statements continued and external actors like China and EU push for talks, negotiations may become more realistic.

(vi) Conclusion

To sum up, the US-Russia negotiations on Ukraine face major hurdles, including mistrust, incompatible goals, and geopolitical rivalry. Yet, in the long run, no side can claim total victory without massive costs. A balanced settlement addressing Ukrainians' sovereignty and Russia's security concerns is the only way to end this dangerous war.

03

(i) Introduction

Despite grave threats faced by the world. The most prominent in the sight of whole international community is nuclearization of a Muslim country. Iran has been enriching itself for so long according to western media. However, these claims have always been refuted by Iran which gives it pretext that its use of nuclear energy is just for peaceful civilian purposes. In spite of this claim, Israel attacked Iran on 13 June, 2025. The attack was carried in late hours and resulted in casualties of top Iranian leaders and army general. Following the attack, USA launched strikes on Iran on June 22, 2025 named Operation Midnight Hammer. This set a precedent on the world and the middle East on the politics of nuclear.

(ii) Prospects of Attack by US and Israel on Iran over Middle East

- No Negotiation on Nuclear Proliferation.
- No Respect to Territorial Sovereignty
- US-Israel Indifference
- Mockery of International law

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a) No Negotiations on Nuclear Proliferation

The strikes conducted by the US and Israel on Iran set a precedent that nuclearization by any nation in the region will be dealt with severity and there will be no negotiations.

b) No Respect for Territorial Sovereignty

The unprovoked attack by the US and Israel cleared it that the Zionist regime does not care for respect of sovereignty on any state and can target civilians and top commanders instead of negotiating.

c) US-Israel Indifference

Another precedent set by the attacks is that any aggression against Israel which was being dealt heavily by Iran's retaliation will not be acceptable to the US and the US will jump like it is her own war.

d) Mockery of International Law

The attacks proved that the US along with Israel does not care for international law which prohibits such attacks on civilians and specially attacks

on nuclear sites as the US did on Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan. International Atomic Energy Agency is clear on its directions that nuclear sites should never be hit.

(iii) Conclusion

The attack carried by Israel and IAEA on Iran sets clear precedent on the future of nuclear politics in the Middle East. It made clear that there will be no negotiations on nuclear proliferation, no respect of international norms and law and there is no difference between US and Israel making the Zionist regime more stronger.

Q4)

(i) Introduction

We are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and the last who can do something about it.

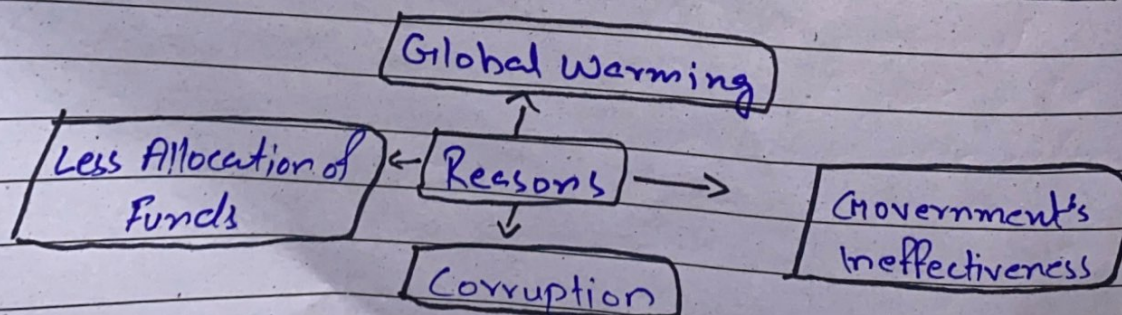
- Barack Obama,

Former U.S. President

Pakistan has been hit by devastating floods once again in the ~~last~~ August of 2025, while it has not properly recovered from the impacts faced by floods of 2022. According to a report by World Bank, Pakistan is most vulnerable to climate change and the report seems to be proving itself.

The 2022 floods incurred a total loss of around \$15.2bn according to world bank. Multiple reasons lead to Pakistan being vulnerable. ~~that~~

(ii) Reasons Behind Failure to mitigate Floods



a) Global Warming

Global warming is the increasing global temperature. The main reason behind frequent floods is global warming. Pakistan is home to more than 3000 glaciers. Due to the rising temperature of heat, these glaciers are melting at a rapid speed resulting in floods. Moreover, the heavy rainfalls that have increased in intensity is also caused by global warming. The water cycle where water evaporates to form clouds has been enhanced due to rising temperatures.

b) Government's Ineffectiveness

The government has failed to adopt policies that focus on climate change. The government if it devises policies fail to properly implement it. As per report Sustainable development Goals, Pakistan ranks 140 on the chart and over all it can be estimated that on 17% of the SDGs were accomplished.

c) Low Allocation of Funds

The government's spending on climate change and weather was so low in the year 2024-25 budget and the same goes in budget FY2025-26. Only Rs. 85.43 bn

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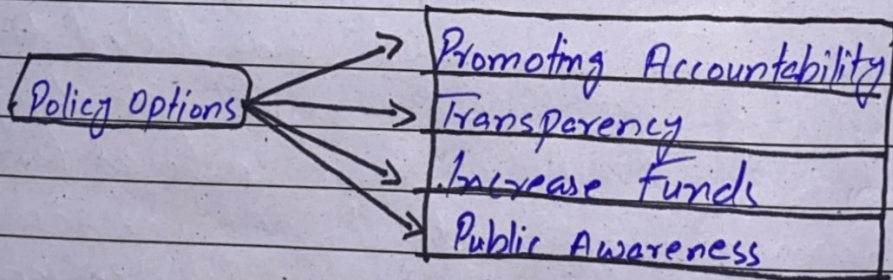
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spent for adaptation and Rs. 603bn for mitigation. Thus, showcasing the government's focus on other areas -

d) Corruption

Corruption is the root cause of all evils and same goes here while dealing with serious climate threats. Pakistan ranks 135 in Corruption Perception Index. The government's allocation on climate is mismanaged and leads to devastating impacts.

(iii) Recommended Policy Options



a) Promoting Accountability

People should hold government accountable, media should play its role in the proper spending of budget on climate action. Government should keep an eye on the relevant bodies responsible for dealing with such crisis.

b) Transparency

Government should promote public sector transparency. All the spendings should be made public and open audits and criticisms should not be banned on part of government.

c) Increase Funds

Pakistan should increase its allocation for climate and make sure to fulfill Nationally Determined Contributions made under Paris Agreement. Instead of focusing on mitigation, the government should focus on adaptation.

d) Public Awareness

State should make sure to aware the public of the overall reasons and prepare people at local levels, Local Government, to cope with any calamity.

(IV) Critical Evaluation

Floods cause devastating loss to the exchequer of Pakistan. Floods are a new norm and it is necessary for government to realize that without infrastructure and people, the state or defense is nothing. The government of Pakistan has never taken the issue of climate serious and now should

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start taking measures to prevent future calamities.

(v) Conclusion

Floods are a new norm in Pakistan. After every 2 years, the nation is covered with water. The reasons are many but the action is none. Government's unwillingness to adopt proper policies, lack of funds, corruption and the changing natural patterns lead to floods in Pakistan. The state should adopt strict measures to tackle the problem of floods by improving governance, spending more on adaptation and by creating awareness among public.

"Climate change is not just an environmental issue but, a human rights and peace issue."

- Kofi Annan,
(Former UN Secretary)

End.