

Subject: Current Affairs

Date: 27th August, 2025

QUESTION: 2

The prospect of a successful resolution to the war in Ukraine through Russia-US negotiations is currently very complex and faces significant hurdles. While recent reports indicate that some discussions are taking place, a comprehensive peace deal seems distant due to fundamental disagreements and lack of trust between the two parties.

Take a stance on chances

• Critical Evaluation of Hurdles.

The primary obstacles to successful negotiations can be categorized as three main areas: political, territorial and strategic.

1. Political and Diplomatic Stalemate

• Lack of Direct Communication

and Trust: The relationship between the US and Russia is at a historical low. While there have been high-level meetings, they often fail to result in concrete agreements.

Russia's foreign Minister has stated that the agenda for a direct meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy "is not ready at all" despite the US push for such a summit. This highlights the deep distrust and unwillingness to engage in meaningful dialogue.

• Differing Objectives: The core goals of each side are fundamentally incompatible. Ukraine seeks to restore its territorial integrity within its 1991 borders, secure its sovereignty, and gain credible security guarantees, that prevent

figure future Russian Aggression.

Russia, on the other hand, seeks to consolidate its control over the territories it has seized, prevent Ukraine from joining NATO and secure a "neutral" status for Kyiv. These diametrically opposed goals make a mutually acceptable compromise incredibly difficult.

- **Domestic Political Pressures:** Both leaders faced significant domestic constraints. Ukrainian President Zelensky is under pressure to not cede any territory, as doing so would be politically disastrous and seen as rewarding Russian aggression. Russian President Putin needs to demonstrate a "victory" to his domestic audience. In the US, the political landscape, particularly with a presidential

election, creates uncertainty and affects the willingness and ability to commit to long-term strategies.

2. Territorial and Military Realities:

- **Occupied Territories:** A major stumbling block is the status of the territories currently occupied by Russia, including Crimea and parts of the Donbas, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. Ukraine insists on the full restoration of its internationally recognized borders. Russia has annexed these territories and considers them part of its sovereign state, making their return non-negotiable from Moscow's perspective.

- **Security Guarantees:** Ukraine demands for robust, long-term security guarantees is a critical point / point of contention while

Western allies are discussing options, including NATO-like security pacts. Russia has made it clear it will not accept the deployment of any NATO troops on Ukrainian soil.

- Military Dynamics: The current military situation is a state of grinding attrition, often described as a deadlock. Neither side has a decisive military advantage that would force the other to capitulate. This military stalemate gives both sides a reason to believe they can gain more on the battlefield, which reduces the incentive to negotiate in good faith. A ceasefire without a broader political agreement is unlikely, as Russia could use it to regroup and rearm. No one knows how long it stays.

3. Economic and Strategic Divides

• Sanctions and Economic Leverage

The US and its allies have used sanctions to exert economic pressure on Russia. While these have had an effect, they have not been severe enough to force a change in Russian policy. The recent discussions about potential energy deals with and easing of sanctions in exchange for peace highlight this as a potential bargaining chip, but it also reveals a desire on the US side to find alternative leverage. The risk is that Russia could use such discussions to buy time while deepening its economic ties with other countries like China and India, thereby weakening the West's leverage.

• Hybrid Warfare

Russia is actively engaged in broader hybrid warfare against Europe; including cyberattacks, disinformation and sabotage.

This ongoing destabilization effort makes it difficult to emerge and complicates the West's position.

* Practical Recommendations to End the Dangerous War

Ending the War will require multiple approach that addresses the core security concerns of all parties, incentivizes de-escalation and build a foundation for long term stability:

1) Re-establish a credible and consistent Diplomatic Channel.

* By creating a Track II or Shuttle diplomacy framework.

* By focusing on incremental,

and non-controversial wins.

2) Develop a Phased and Conditional Peace framework.

* Conditional ceasefire proposed.

* By Frozen Conflict as a Transitional model.

3) Address **Build Readings 4-5** concerns and Provide Guarantees.

* To build a powerful, self sufficient and well-resourced military.

* International Guarantees.

1) Leverage Economic Pressure with a Clear off-ramp:

* Targeted Sanctions with clear conditions

* Incentivize reconstruction and investment.

In conclusion, the breakthrough is low due to the profound political and strategic divisions. However by adopting a more realistic approach, a path towards ending conflict

Conclusion??

First part is ignored

could be forged.

QUESTION: 3

The future of nuclear politics in the Middle East following an US and Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear sites is highly volatile and fraught with unpredictable consequences. Such a military action, which would mark a dramatic escalation, would fundamentally reshape the regional power balance and international proliferation landscape.

- Iran's response: a stronger

Push for Nuclear Capability:

An attack on Iran's nuclear facility even if successful in setting back its program would likely have the opposite of its intended long term effects; it would strengthen the resolve of hardliners in Iran.

to pursue a nuclear weapon.

* **Erosion of Nuclear Opacity:** For years Iran has maintained a policy of "nuclear opacity", advancing its program to the brink of weapons capability without overtly building a bomb.

Avoid using stars

* **Withdrawal from the NPT:** Iran's Parliament, dominated by hardliners, has already threatened to withdraw from the NPT if snapback sanctions are triggered. An armed attack would make this a near certainty. Leaving the NPT would remove any remaining legal obligation for Iran to cooperate with the IAEA and would signal an unambiguous intent to pursue a nuclear weapon.

* **Clandestine Program:** While an attack might damage known nuclear sites, it would also incentivize Iran to

disperse its program and build more clandestine, hardened facilities.

The intelligence community has already debated the effectiveness of such strikes, with some reports suggesting they may only delay the program by a few months.

• Regional and International Fallout:

An attack on Iran's nuclear site would not happen in vacuum. It would have widespread and destabilizing repercussions throughout the Middle East and globally.

- Escalation of Regional Conflict

- End of Diplomacy

- Redrawing Alliances

- The Nuclear Domino Effect

All these actions would almost certainly trigger a regional war with Iran using its proxies to retaliate against Israel and U.S. bases. Such an escalation

would shut down any hope for a diplomatic solution, disrupt global energy markets, and risk sparking a nuclear arms race among other regional powers like Saudi Arabia and Turkey. The attack would not only fail to stop Iran's nuclear program in the long run but would also create a far more dangerous and unstable Middle East.

• The Role of US and Israel:

The decision would be calculated risk, with both the US and Israel weighing the short-term goal of delaying Iran's program against the long-term strategic costs. It will lead to US political divide, Impacts Israel's Security Posture
A Peace through war Paradox that will trap the region in cycle

of Instability and Conflict:

Imbalance

Discuss your paper in tutorial

Substantially low

In summary, an alliance on Iranian nuclear sites would directly to be a high-stakes gamble with a low probability of achieving a lasting peace.

QUESTION: 4

The decisions by India and China concerning the Indus and Brahmaputra rivers respectively, have created a highly volatile and dangerous water politics environment in South Asia. This unilateral relation have dismantled existing frameworks of cooperation and replaced them with a zero-sum game of water control, increasing the risk of conflict b/w nuclear armed nations.

• Indus Water Politics:

India's decision to suspend the

TWT in April, 2025, a treaty that has survived multiple wars and decades of hostility, has been a dramatic departure from the past. While India cites Pakistan's support for cross border terrorism as justification, the move is powerful and dangerous form of "water weaponization".

• Heightened Water Geopolitical Tensions

- Legal Diplomatic Uncertainty
- Practical Consequences

India's decision to suspend the Indus water treaty has fundamentally destabilized a fragile peace.

The move removes the core mechanism for resolving water disputes b/w two nuclear armed nations, turning water into a potential flashpoint. With no legal exit clause in the treaty, this unilateral action

undermines international norms and trust. This could lead to future humanitarian crisis and push the region toward greater instability.

• Brahmaputra River Politics:

Simultaneously, China's decision to build the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra has created a parallel set of water security fears for its downstream neighbors India and Bangladesh.

- i) Strategic leverage for China.
- ii) Lack of cooperative framework
- iii) Domestic and regional instability.

China's this decision will cause severe floods or droughts.

Since, so comprehensive, water sharing treaty exists, China's

unilateral actions set a dangerous precedent, fueling a lack of trust and raising fears of

environmental and social instability.

The dam's location in a seismically active area also poses a "water bomb" risk adding another layer of danger and increasing domestic pressure on India to respond, which could lead to another and further environmental change and damage on its sides of the border.

Seem like an article
Break into headings and sub headings

In a nutshell, the combined impact of India's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty and China's Brahmaputra dam project has created a new, more confrontational era of water politics in South Asia. The longer principle of shared responsibility for transboundary rivers has been abandoned in favor of unilateral actions.

QUESTION: 5

Pakistan's recurring and devastating floods are primarily due to a combination of floods, climate change, geographical vulnerabilities and systematic governance failures.

The nation's unique geography with Indus River Basin running through it and thousands of glaciers in its Northern regions, makes it particularly susceptible to extreme weather events.

Reasons of Floods.

i) Climate Change.

This is the most significant factor. Global warming has led to more intense and unpredictable monsoon seasons, with rainfall far exceeding historical averages. Additionally, rising temperatures are causing

a rapid melting of glaciers in the Himalayas.

• Geographical Vulnerability:

As a country is situated on a major river basin, Pakistan is naturally prone to floods. The Indus River and its tributaries fed by monsoon rains and melting glaciers, have a limited capacity to handle the increased water volume.

• Weak Infrastructure and Poor Urban Planning:

Decades of underinvestment in infrastructure have left Pakistan with an outdated and inadequate flood management system. Many dams, barrages, and canals are not properly maintained or are not equipped to handle the increased water flow. In urban areas, unplanned

constructions and illegal encroachments on riverbeds and natural drainage paths have severely worsened the problem.

• Governance Failure:

A lack of coordinated policy and a reactive, rather than proactive, approach to disaster management has exacerbated the impact of floods.

* Policy recommendations:

To mitigate the devastating effects of future floods, Pakistan needs a long-term, comprehensive strategy that integrates climate adaptation with sustainable development.

i) Invest in Flood-Resilient Infrastructure:

1) Build and maintain Dams and Reservoirs

2) Upgrade drainage system

General instructions to get good marks in current affairs paper

3) Important concept
Sponge City

Important Note:

Marks would be given on the following parameters

Strengthen Governance and Institutional Capacity:

a- Content 60% References 15%

Subject specific language 15%

Graphs and charts 10%

Establish a proactive national flood management authority

Add 12-13 headings in each question

Develop a watershed early warning system

the questions carry 3_4 parts... each part has equal weightage so discuss all equally

Implement Nature Based Solutions:

Give examples from present events to justify answers

1) Reforestation and watershed Management

Give attractive introduction and Conclusion as well

2) Promote International Cooperation

always give headings from the question statement.. take words from the statement

1) Transboundary water management
2) Climate diplomacy.

link each of the argument to the asked part in the question... if you fail to do so, no matter how accurate content is, if your heading is not align with what is asked in the question, it won't be accurate