Q8: WATER SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA:-

1. INTRODUCTION:-

Water security has emerged as a critical issue in South Asia particularly in the context of rising population, climate change and inter state competition. The Indus Water Treaty (1960), once hailed as successful example of cooperation between India and Pakistan, faces renewed challenges amid unilateral abrogation threats and hydro-aggression. Such disputes threatens regional stability, exacerbate tensions and intertwine with broader political, economic and security concerns. From an International Relation perspective, water conflicts illustrates how natural resources can become instruments of power, influence and coercion, demanding a ~~cooperation~~ combination of cooperative and realist strategies to ensure sustainable management and peace.

ISSUE AND EVOLUTION OF WATER SECURITY;

2. DEFINITION OF WATER SECURITY:-

Water security entails sustainable access to adequate quantities of clean water for human

consumption, agriculture, and industrial needs, while safeguarding ecosystem and mitigating conflict potential. GWP emphasizes that water security is both developmental and strategic concern, linking human security to state survival.

3. IMPORTANCE OF INDUS RIVER SYSTEM:

The Indus River System and its tributaries provide over 90% of Pakistan's water needs and are vital for agriculture, industry and energy. The river also sustains livelihoods of over 250 million people in South Asia. Control, access, and equitable distribution are therefore central to regional stability.

4. HISTORICAL COOPERATION OF INDUS WATER TREATY (1960):

The Indus Water Treaty brokered by the World Bank (WB) in 1960 allocated waters of the Indus Basin between India and Pakistan. It allowed for limited conflict resolution through a neutral mechanism. For decades it remained a benchmark for cooperative water management despite political hostilities.

5. HYDRO AGRESSION AND UNILATERAL ACTIONS:

Recent years have experienced India constructing dams and hydropower projects on Pakistan rivers without consensus. These unilateral measures have been described as "hydro agression" according to Pakistan, threatening water flow and usage. Scholars note that such resource-based conflict often combine technical, environmental and geopolitical dimensions.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER SECURITY:

Rising temperature, glacial melts and erratic rainfall patterns intensify water stress. The 2022 floods in Pakistan and shrinking Himalayan glaciers highlights the vulnerability of Indus Basin. Climate induced security increases the potential for inter-state competition and conflicts.

7. POPULATION GROWTH AND RISING DEMAND:

South Asia's increasing population has significantly increased agricultural, industrial and domestic water demand. Pakistan faces an impending water deficit projected to reach 50% by 2030. Rising demands heightens the stakes in bilateral

water negotiations, making cooperation urgent yet challenging.

8. STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER IN IR:-

Water resources in transboundary rivers acts as instrument of national power. Realist IR scholars argue that control over water can serve as leverage, bargaining power or coercive tool in broader political disputes. This has direct implications for Pakistan-India relations.

IMPACTS OF WATER CONFLICTS ON REGIONAL SECURITY AND POLICY MEASURES TO ENSURE STABILITY IN REGION:-

1. IMPACT ON REGIONAL SECURITY:-

Water disputes exacerbate political tensions, increases military alertness along border regions, and create avenues for asymmetric conflicts. Pakistan views Indian hydropower as strategic threat, heightening mistrust

and fueling national narratives.

2. ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS:-

Water security affects agriculture, hydroelectric production and industrial growth in Pakistan. Reduced river flows or unilateral dams projects risks food insecurity, economic slowdown and potential internal unrest. These economic dimensions are integral to understanding regional conflict dynamics.

3. SOCIAL AND HUMAN SECURITY CONFLICTS

Communities dependant on Indus water face displacement, loss of livelihood and increased poverty. Social unrest triggered by water scarcity can exacerbate domestic instability, which in turn can escalate cross border tensions creating a feedback loop between state security and human.

4. INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TREATY MECHANISM:-

While the Indus water Treaty include dispute resolution frameworks, its

efficiency depends on adherence by both the parties. Pakistan advocates for World Bank mediation and independent arbitration. IR's perspective highlights the perspective of multilateral norms and institutional frameworks in mitigating resource conflicts.

5. COOPERATIVE MEASURES AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING:

Regular bilateral dialogues, joint technical commissions, and shared hydrological data can built trust. Cooperation on flood management, climate adaptation and infrastructure development exemplifies how states can turn potential conflicts into partnerships, aligning with liberal IR theories on inter dependence.

6. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STABILITY:

1) Strengthen enforcement of the Indus water Treaty obligations.

2) Expand climate resilient water infrastructure.

3) Promote regional water sharing frameworks including Afghanistan for the entire Indus Basin.

4) Engage multilateral actors for transparent arbitration.

5) Integrate water security into broader South Asian regional security dialogues.

6) Pakistan should advance early warning systems to predict and prepare for the upcoming floods.

7) Built dams and river banks to lower the intensity of damage caused by floods.

CONCLUSION:

Water security in South Asia is not merely an environmental concern but a core strategic and political challenge. Hydro-aggression, unilateral abrogation attempts and climate stress exacerbate Pakistan-India tension and threaten regional stability. Ensuring water security requires a multi pronged approach — adherence to IWT, climate adaptation, cooperative institutions and responsible governance. From IR's perspective water disputes reflects both realist power dynamics and potential for liberal cooperative solution, emphasizing sustainable management of shared resource is essential for peace and stability in region.

Q5: PAKISTAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS POST DEESCALATION 2025.

INTRODUCTION:-

The deescalation of tensions between India and Pakistan in May 2025 represents a significant diplomatic breakthrough, with ramification for security, trade and regional cooperation. Historically, Pakistan's foreign policy has been constrained by India-centric conflicts, impacting its global image, investment climate and other alliances. The easing of hostalities have allowed Pakistan to refocus on economic partnership, strengthen its international standing and project itself as responsible regional actor. From an International Relations perspective, this episode highlighted how conflict resolution, confidence building measures, and diplomacy enhances both soft power and strategic leverage.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND GLOBAL STANDING OF PAKISTAN:

1. ENHANCED REGIONAL SECURITY:-

The May 2025 ceasefire and deescalation reduced immediate military threats along the LoC and border areas. This has lowered the risk of conventional warfare, allowing Pakistan to divert resources towards development and economic priorities. As GIUP emphasizes that regional stability is pre requisite for sustainable diplomacy and multilateral engagements.

2. STRENGTHENED DIPLOMATIC CREDIBILITY:-

By engaging in measured diplomacy and demonstrating restraint, Pakistan its international credibility. Neutral mediators and UN convoy recognized Pakistan's constructive approach. Scholars such as Baylis and Smith argue that consistent, peaceful engagements enhances a states legitimacy in the global arena.

3. IMPROVED GLOBAL PERCEPTION:-

International medias and global think tanks have highlighted Pakistan's moderation & countering long standing narrative of persistent conflicts. This perception shift strengthens Pakistan's soft power and opens door for greater political and economic collaboration.

4. REVIVED CONFIDENCE IN INVESTMENT:

The deescalation has reassured investors about regional instability. The reduction of the conflict risk boosts foreign direct investment (FDI), encourages infrastructure projects, and promotes private sectors. Realist scholars note that security stability directly corelates with economic growth opportunities.

5. OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN MULTILATERAL TIES:

Pakistan leveraged this period to actively engage with SAARC & SCO, OIC mechanisms. Constructive diplomacy during deescalation demonstrates Pakistan's potential as a stabilizing regional actor, enhancing its participation in multilateral forums, consistent with liberal IR theories on institutional cooperation.

6. SOFT POWER GAIN THROUGH CULTURAL DIPLOMACY:

Initiatives in sports, trade fairs, and cultural exchanges with India and neighbouring states showcased Pakistan's willingness to normalize relations. Such soft power tools are essential to enhance influence without coercision, aligning with Joseph Nye's concepts of soft power.

OPPORTUNITIES AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS:-

1. ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AND TRADE EXPANSION:-

With reduced tensions, cross border trade corridors and bilateral commerce has gained momentum. Pakistan can diversify trade partnership, attract regional investors and strengthen trades with China, Central Asia and Middle Eastern countries & economies.

2. ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:

Peaceful relations allow joint energy projects, including hydropower and renewable energy initiatives to progress. Collaboration with India, Central Asian states and multilateral lenders enhances Pakistan's energy security, a critical determinant of economic stability.

3. STRATEGIC ALLIANCE AND DEFENSE DIPLOMACY:

Deescalation ~~relate~~ enable Pakistan to recalibrate defense expenditures and focus on the strategic alliances. Confidence-building measures with India reduce the need for high military alertness, freeing resources for modernization and regional security initiatives.

4. HUMANITARIAN AND CLIMATE COOPERATION:

Reduced hostalities provides space for collaborative disaster management, water sharing and climate adaptation

projects. The Indus Basin and cross border flood mitigation projects benefit from diplomacy led cooperation reflecting the liberal IR emphasis on interdependence.

5. POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR LEVERAGING THE SITUATION:

Pakistan can adopt 3 fold policy strategy:

1) Diplomatic Engagement: Involving proactive bilateral and multilateral dialogues.

2) Economic Integration: Regional trade facilitation, FDI incentives and infrastructure developments

3) Soft Power Projection: Cultural, Educational and humanitarian initiatives to build positive global perception.

6. RISK MITIGATION AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING:

Despite deescalation Pakistan must maintain contingency strategies for unexpected flare-ups. Realist theory stresses that

preparedness enhances bargaining power, ensuring that diplomatic gains are not undermined by sudden conflicts.

7. LONG TERM VISION FOR FOREIGN POLICY:-

A comprehensive vision involves combining realist security awareness with liberal cooperation opportunities. Pakistan can strengthen regional stability, attract investment and improve its global image, creating sustainable economic and diplomatic dividends over next decade.

CONCLUSION:-
The May 2025 conflict with India has offered Pakistan a rare opportunity to enhance its global standing, promote economic growth and strengthen regional security through strategic diplomacy, economic integration and soft power initiatives. Pakistan can leverage this window to built alliances and fortify its foreign policy framework. Scholars of IR highlights that peace oriented actions, combined with prudent realism allow states to convert crisis in long term advantages ensuring both security and prosperity for Pakistan in complex regional environment.

Q4: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GLOBALIZATION AND SECURITY:-

INTRODUCTION.

Globalization has transformed the international system by integrating economies, societies and political processes across the borders. While it has facilitated trade, communication and cooperation, it has simultaneously altered the landscape of security. Traditional state-centric threats such as military aggressions remain relevant but non-traditional challenges, including cyber attacks, pandemics, terrorism, climate change, and financial crisis have gained prominence. Global interconnectedness has created new vulnerabilities and dependencies, making security a multidimensional concept. As highlighted in Globalization of World Politics; Baylis et al, understanding contemporary security requires analyzing both material and ideational forces with globalization framework.

GLOBALIZATION AND TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS:-

1. MILITARY AND GEOPOLITICAL CONFLICT:
While globalization promotes interdependence, conventional interstate conflicts persist, eg: Russia-Ukraine War (2022-2025). Trade and communication network allows rapid military mobalization and intelligence sharing, increasing both the scale and speed of traditional conflicts.

2. SHIFT IN POWER DYNAMICS:
Global economics integration empowers rising powers, such as China and India altering strategic balances. GWP scholars argue that rising powers influence security architecture, requiring traditional military alliances to adapt in response to globalized capabilities.

3. NUCLEAR AND STRATEGIC DETTERENCE:
Globalization enables proliferation concerns through advanced technologies and knowledge transfers. Non-proliferation regimes such as NPT, are tested as technological diffusion spreads nuclear capabilities beyond traditional powers.

4. TRANSITIONAL ALLIANCES:-
Globalized defense partnership like NATO, integrate multinational cooperation, intelligence sharing and joint exercises. These alliances reflect how interconnectedness strengthen collective defense while also raising tensions with rival states.

GLOBALIZATION AND NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS:

1. TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM:
Global communication networks and cross border financial flows have amplified transnational terrorism. Events like the 2023 Middle East conflict show how ideology and ~~media~~ global media conflicts can internationalize local conflicts, increasing threat perception worldwide.

2. CYBER SECURITY THREATS:

Interconnected digital networks create vulnerabilities for states and societies. Cyber attacks on critical infrastructures like 2024 ransomware attack on European energy grids, examplify how globalization transform traditional borders into virtual battle grounds.

3. PANDEMIC AND HEALTH SECURITY:

Covid-19 highlighted how global trade and travel accelerate the spread of disease. Health security is now a key dimension of global security, with WHO coordinating multinational responses, a non-traditional security challenge emerging from interconnectedness.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS:

Global emission resource exploitation, and climate reduced mitigation affect both developed and developing states. The 2022 floods in Pakistan and Europe's heatwaves demonstrates how environmental threats transcends borders, requiring multilateral solution.

5. ECONOMIC CRISIS AND FINANCIAL INTERDEPENDENCE:

Globalization link national economies, financial shocks in one region can propagate rapidly. The 2023 banking crisis in the US and its global ripple effect shows how economic interdependence creates systemic vulnerabilities to non-traditional security.

6. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CHALLENGE:

Global mobility facilitate cross border migration in response to conflict or environmental stress. Refugee flows from Afghanistan, Ukraine and Middle East illustrate how interconnectedness amplifies humanitarian and security concerns in host nations.

7. ENERGY AND RESOURCE SECURITY:

Globalized energy markets tie national

security to resource availability. Russia
Ukraine tensions disrupted global oil and
gas supply, highlighting vulnerabilities of
countries dependant on external resources
consistent with liberal IR analysis on
interdependences.

8. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND GOVERNANCE:

Addressing both traditional and non-traditional
threats require multilateral framework.
UN, NATO, SCO, and G20 mechanism
demonstrate the global governance is
increasingly central to security, reflecting
liberalist argument on institutional cooperation.

9. POLICY IMPLICATION FOR STATES:

States must balance realist concerns of
sovereignty and defense with liberal cooperation
mechanism. Investment in cyber security,
disaster resillence, climate adaptation
and cross border diplomacy are
essential for managing global threats.

CONCLUSION:-

Globalization has fundamentally reshaped
the security landscape amplifying both traditional
and emerging non traditional challenges.
IR theory emphasizes that hybrid nature of
contemporary security: states must combine
realist strong defense priorities with liberal
cooperation, multilateralism and global governance
mechanism.

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Q6: STRATEGIC CULTURE AND STATE DECISION MAKING.

INTRODUCTION:.

Strategic culture is critical concept in International Relations, helps explain how states perceive threats, define national interest and make security decisions. It encompasses historical experience, societal norms, institutional legacies and elite perceptions. In many states particularly in Pakistan, military plays a dominant role in shaping culture, influencing defense, foreign policy and national security choices. Understanding strategic culture provide insight into rational behind state decisions and persistent patterns of civil military relations. Scholars highlight that strategic culture mediates between material capabilities and normative expectations, shaping both reactive and proactive strategies.

UNDERSTANDING STRATEGIC CULTURE:-

1. DEFINITION:.

Strategic culture refers to the set of shared beliefs, attitude and practices that guide how a state approaches use of force and security policy. It incorporates historical experience, geography, threats, perceptions and societal values. As Gray notes, it shapes state behavior beyond mere structural and material determinants.

2. HISTORICAL AND SOCIETAL INFLUENCES:

Historical conflicts, colonial legacies and threat perception contribute to strategic culture. Pakistan wars with India, Afghan conflict and nuclear development illustrates how past experiences shape contemporary threat assessment and defense postures.

3. INFLUENCE ON STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING

Strategic culture informs rationals behind

key policy decisions, including military mobilization, alliances and deterrence strategies. It explains why to adopt certain strategies and doctrines such as Pakistan's strategic restraint with nuclear weapons or emphasis on assymetric warfare.

4. MATERIAL AND IDEATIONAL INTERPLAY

GWR emphasizes that strategic culture mediates between material capabilities (weapons and technology) and ideational factors (norms, perceptions). State with strong military institutions often interpret threat through the lense of force projection and deterrence.

STRATEGIC ELITES AND MILITARY DOMINANCE:

1. STRATEGIC ELITES:

Strategic elites are policy makers, senior military officials and influential bureaucrats shaping security and defense policy. They interpret threat and formulate doctrine and influence national priorities. In Pakistan strategic elites primarily include military leaders and defense advisors.

2. MILITARY DOMINANCE

Military dominates Pakistan's strategic culture due to historic wars, security centric policies and institutional continuity. This reinforces military primacy in national security and decision making.

3. CIVIL MILITARY RELATIONS IN PRACTICE:

Civil military relation substance is evident in policy making budget allocations and foreign relations. Pakistan's interventions in Afghanistan, Kashmir policy and nuclear posture illustrate how military preference dominates strategic choices.

MEASURES TO BALANCE CIVIL MILITARY RELATIONS:-

1. INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS:

Strengthening civilian Oversight through parliamentary committees, defense ministries and statutory framework can rebalance strategic decision making. Transparency in defense budgets and policy formulation ensures Inclusive governance.

2. STRATEGIC POLICY INTEGRATION:-

Incorporate civilian expertise in national security councils, think tanks, Intelligence assessment creates a broader perspective. This reduces military monoculture in decision making-

3. PROFESSIONALIZATION OF CIVIL BUREAUCRACY:

Enhancing training, expertise and policy research in civil institutions enables reformed engagement in defense and foreign policy. Civilian elites must develop technical and analytical capacity to engage with military professional effectively.

4. PROMOTING NORMATIVE CIVILIAN SUPREMACY:

Public accountability, media oversight and democratic norms reinforce civilian authority. IR theory suggest that legitimacy and institutional checks can balance security prerogatives with democratic controls.

5. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COOPERATION:

Engagement with international institution, treaties and multilateral security framework reduces over-reliance on unilateral military decisions. Cooperative security arrangement encourage joint security planning and civilian oversight.

CONCLUSION:

Strategic culture shapes decision making through historical, societal and institutional norms. In Pakistan military dominated strategic elites guide security policy often sidelining civilians. Balancing civil-military relation require reforms, civilian expertise, democratic oversight to ensure stable national security.

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