

## Q. no. 8

### Introduction:

The shared waters of the Indus River Basin represent one of the most volatile geopolitical fault line in South Asia. The long standing Indus Water Treaty (IWT), a foundation of stability, is increasingly strained by emerging trends of "hydro-aggression" and threat of unilateral abrogation, posing a grave risk to regional security between nuclear armed adversaries, India and Pakistan.

### The Indus water Treaty and threat of Hydro-Aggression:

The 1960 IWT, facilitated by the World Bank, is a unique example of successful transboundary water sharing. It allocated the use of the six rivers of the Indus system:

- India (Upper Riparian): Exclusive use of the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej)
- Pakistan (Lower Riparian): Exclusive use of the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab), with India



permitted specific limited, non-consumptive uses (e.g. run of the river hydropower).

## . The Manifestation of Hydro-aggression:

Hydro-aggression refers to the use or threat of using a shared water resource as a coercive political or military tool.

### 1. Threat to Abrogate:

Following major cross border terrorist attacks, Indian leadership has at times, threatened to review or even scrap the IWT. This introduced existential anxiety in Pakistan, as the treaty's abrogation would drastically alter water flows.

"Water is a matter of life and death. Its weaponization is an act of war, and any unilateral abrogation of the Indus Water Treaty would be seen as a declaration of hostility."

- Pakistani official statement.

## . The Geopolitical Impact of Water Conflict on Regional Security:



The conflicts over the Indus system directly translate into higher security risks across the region:

Impact category

security consequence

• Escalation & Distrust

• The threat of water stoppage is viewed as an existential threat to Pakistan's agrarian economy. This raises the threshold of military retaliation in a crisis far beyond conventional conflicts, making water a potential trigger for nuclear escalation.

• Internal Instability.

• Water shortages lead to crop failure, internal displacement, and food insecurity.

• Climate change vulnerability

• Both nations remain critically vulnerable to climate shocks

• Undermining International Law

• The IWT is the most resilient water treaty globally. Its collapse weakens the very principle of international cooperation on transboundary resources, setting a negative precedent for other contentious basins.



- **Water Reliance and climate vulnerability:**  
The high reliance on the Indus system for agriculture highlights the existential nature of the conflict for the lower riparian.

Country	Reliance on Indus Basin for Agriculture	Climate Change Vulnerability Index
Pakistan	80%	High
India (Basin)	≈ 70%	High

- **Steps to Ensure stability and water security:**

Stability can only be ensured through genuine cooperation, institutional strengthening, and technical modernization, underpinned by international pressure.

### 1. Institutional & Diplomatic Measures:

#### i) • Re-Engagement:

Both sides must immediately re-engage the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC), the treaty institutional backbone, for consistent dialogue, viewing it as a technical forum independent of political



crisis.

## ii) Depoliticization:

Formally commit to separating water dispute from counter-terrorism and other political disagreements, treating the IWT as a purely legal and technical instrument.

## 2. Technical & Modernization Measures:

### i) Climate Adaptation:

Incorporate specific clauses into the treaty annexes requiring joint studies on glacial melt and sharing the real time hydro meteorological data to improve flood forecasting and drought management.

### ii) Modernization and Efficiency:

Both nations must prioritize investment in modern water management techniques to conserve the resources. The efficiency of Pakistan irrigation system is significantly lower than global standards.

$E_{irr}$  (Pakistan)  $\approx 35\%$

Investing in drip and sprinkler technologies is



necessary to reduce the pressure on river flow.

### 3. International Guarantees:

#### i) World Bank / ~~World~~ Mediator

Re-engage the World Bank as an active guarantor and mediator in the technical dispute.

### Conclusion:

The issue of water security in South Asia, centered on the foundational ~~goal~~ IWT, represents a primary and active geopolitical risk. Ensuring regional stability urgently requires the ~~depoliticization~~, climate change adaptation and international guarantees. Its collapse would ~~guarantee~~ that water scarcity remains the most dangerous catalyst for regional insecurity and potential conflict.

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DEAR STUDENT THIS IS NOT CURRENT AFFAIRS PAPER  
YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO WRITE WITH THE LENS OF IR THEORIES  
AND CONCEPTS LIKE REALISM HARD POWER SOFT POWER  
DIPLOMACY, KANTIAN PRINCIPLE OF PERPETUAL PEACE  
ETC  
5/20



## Q. No. 02

### Introduction:

The nation state system, the dominant form of political organization today, is a relatively modern invention that evolved through several distinct phases. ✓

#### 1. Inception: The Westphalian system (1648) ✓

The conceptual foundation of the modern nation state is traditionally traced to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, which ended the Thirty Years War in Europe.

##### • Key principle: state sovereignty

The treaties established the principle of Westphalian sovereignty which hold that each state possesses exclusive sovereignty over its territory and domestic affairs. ✓

##### • Core Rationales:

- i) - Territorial Integrity
- ii) - Non-Interference
- iii) - Equality of states



## 2. Consolidation: The Rise of Nationalism (18th - 19th Centuries):

The ~~system~~ was solidified by the rise of Nationalism, which fused the state with the nation.

## 3. Global Expansion: Decolonization (20th Century):

The Westphalian ~~model~~ was globalized primarily after World War II, driven by decolonization.

### i). Breakup of Empires:

European Empires dismantled, and former colonies become new, independent states.

### ii). Imposed Borders:

## 4. Current Form: Globalization and Challenges (Late 20th - 21st Centuries)

Today, the system faces challenges to the core concept of Westphalian sovereignty.

### i) Globalization:

The free flow of capital, information, and people across borders, coupled with the rise of powerful



multinational institution (IMF, WTO), can limit a state's effective economic and political autonomy.

## ii) Humanitarian Intervention:

The principle of non-interference is challenged by the concept of "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P), where the international community may intervene in a state if it fails to protect its own population from mass atrocities.

## iii) Internal Disintegration:

Conflicts driven by identity politics, economic inequality, challenge the unity of many existing states.

## • The Rationale of the Nation state and Pakistan Issues

### i) The Disconnect Between "Nation" and "state"

- Root cause: The ideological

ii Nation vs. Ethnic Realities

• National Disintegration (1972)



- Internal Ethnic and Regional Tensions

## 2. State Over centralization and Governance:

- i) ◦ The state as an Authoritarian "Nation Builder"

Result:

- i) ◦ Weak Democratic institution
- ii) ◦ Poor Governance and corruption

ANSWER IS TOO SHORT FOR 20 MARKS 5/20

## Conclusion:

The nation state system, born from the secular assertion of sovereignty at Westphalia and fused with the popular ideology of Nationalism, Decolonization: The rationale of nationstate - Pakistan Political instability caused by disconnect between 'Nation' and 'state', authoritarian nation builder, challenges facing globalization.