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# {QUESTION #4}

## INTRODUCTION:

The UN and World Bank has predicted that there will be water scarcity and it will impact almost 40% of the population and with upto 700million people at risk of displacement due to drought by 2030. In South Asia, hydro-political issues have flared up between China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India. In this region, water flows across boundaries of these four nations, but after the Pahalgam attack 2025, India has unilaterally withdrawn itself from Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. On the other hand China has decided to build hydroelectric power project on the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahamputra's upper region in Tibet). India's decision to move out from IWT is to use water as strategic pressure tool against Pakistan China is doing this to leverage over India. These steps will bring implications in the region by increasing weaponization of water, hydrological insecurity, and regional arms race in dam construction. Apart from these, it will also pose significant environmental and humanity threats.

→ BACKGROUND CONTEXT:

a. **Indus Water Treaty:**

It is a treaty between India and Pakistan brokered by the World Bank in 1960. This treaty's objective was to have water-sharing between both nations. The water of Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum belongs to Pakistan and of other three to India.

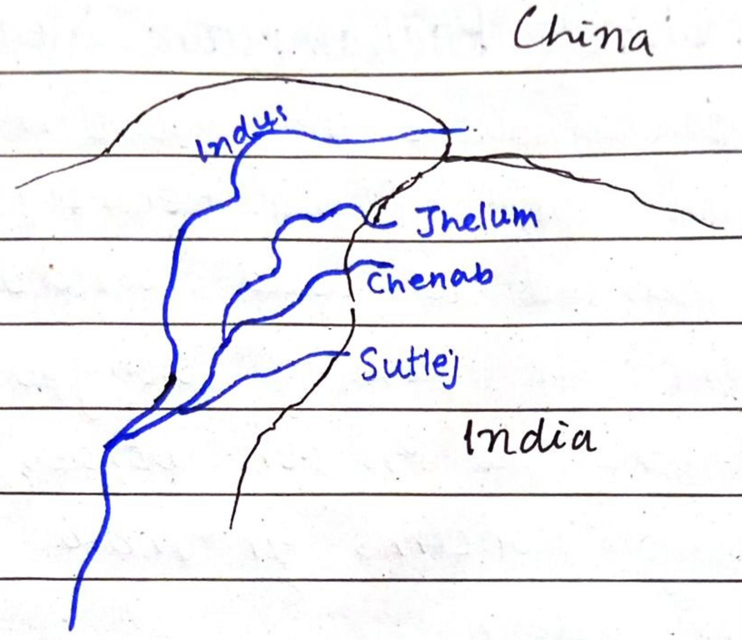
b. China's Brahamputra Mega Dam:

Brahamputra that flows in India flows from China. Recently, China announced to build world's largest dam on Yarlung Tsangpo near Arunachal Pradesh border, posing major concerns for India and Bangladesh.

→ **Strategic Motivation Behind These Steps:**

a. **India:**

India and Pakistan has a long history of conflicts. Most of the water that is used for agriculture, livestocks, and living purposes comes from India. Now, the main purpose to move out from Indus Water Treaty is to build strategic pressure over Pakistan. India, by controlling western rivers, could severly impact Pakistan's agriculture and economy.




b. **China:**

China wants to leverage over India amid border disputes. Moreover, by hydropower generation, China wants water security in Tibet and Xinjiang.

→ **IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL WATER CONFLICTS:**

Implications

- Increased Weaponization of Water
- Hydrological insecurity
- Regional Arms Race in Dam Construction

## I. Increased Weaponization of Water:

Asia's greatest rivers are no longer just lifelines – they are becoming lines of control, lines of contention, and lines of influence. Now, there will be precedent of using shared resources as geopolitical weapons.

## II. Hydrological Insecurity:

In Pakistan, Indus Basin sustains 90% of agriculture. India's withdrawl from IWT poses existential threat to Pakistan's agriculture sector. Similarly, due to China's decision, there is risk of floods or droughts in India.

## III. Regional Arms Race in Dam Construction:

Due to ongoing situations, every country is likely to accelerate upstream damming projects to control and store water.

## → ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN SECURITY THREATS:

This decision of India and China will be threatful to both environment and human security. Water is basis of life. There may be disruption of ecosystem. Apart from these, there are risks of increased floods that will ~~be~~ have worst effects. It also pose threat to food security, livelihood, and rural stability.

## → GEO-POLITICAL REALIGNMENTS:

Due to these steps, Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperation may deepen as China's decision of building dam will be opposed by India, so Pakistan can also negate Indian Stance to withdraw from IWT. Similarly,

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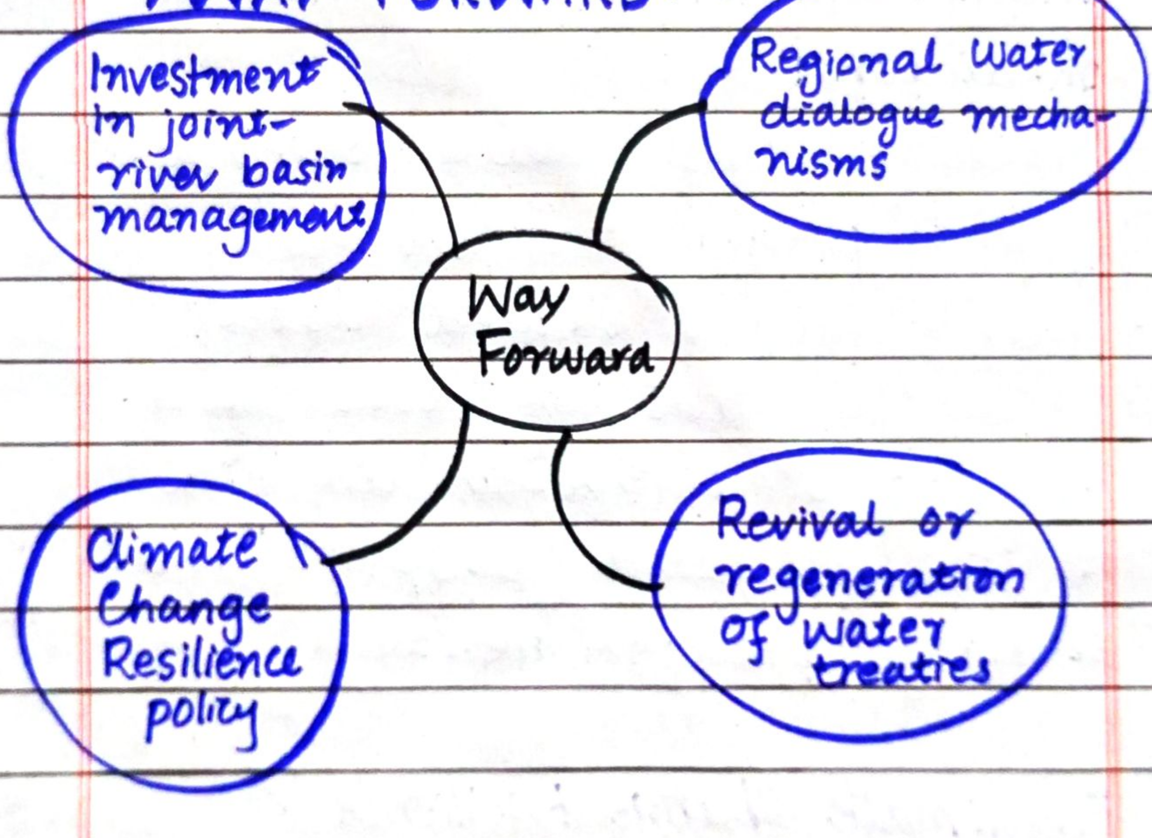
India-Bangladesh tensions may rise as Bangladesh recieves its 70% water from India. There may be need for new regional-water-sharing frameworks might emerge.

## -> WAY FORWARD:




### 1. Investment in Joint-River Basin Management:

There should be mutual cooperation, strategy, and research on those rivers that flow from one nation to another eg Indus and

Brahamputra. Pakistan, India, and China should mutually cooperate about these rivers. This includes common research centres, early warning systems, and shared data collection.

**ii. Regional Water Dialogues mechanism under UN or neutral mediators:**

These countries should setup a formal platform e.g UN for their dialogues related water issues. So that any issue could be addressed through dialogue to prevent water disputes and encourage peaceful relations.

**iii. Climate Change Resilience Planning:**

Due to global warming, water reservoirs are depleting and are affecting water availability. These countries must plan how to adapt to these situations. This issue should be dealt with mutual cooperation.

iv. Revival or Regeneration of Water Treaties with Modern Ecological Frameworks:
The treaties like IWT were made decades ago, but at present too much has been changed. These treaties should be revived according to modern environmental principles.

→ CONCLUSION:
India's unilateral withdrawal from IWT and China's decision to build dam on Brahamputra's pose significant threats to the stability and security of South Asia's water politics. To avoid these worst consequences, cooperative governance is required, because solution lies in co-operation not ~~wars~~ control.

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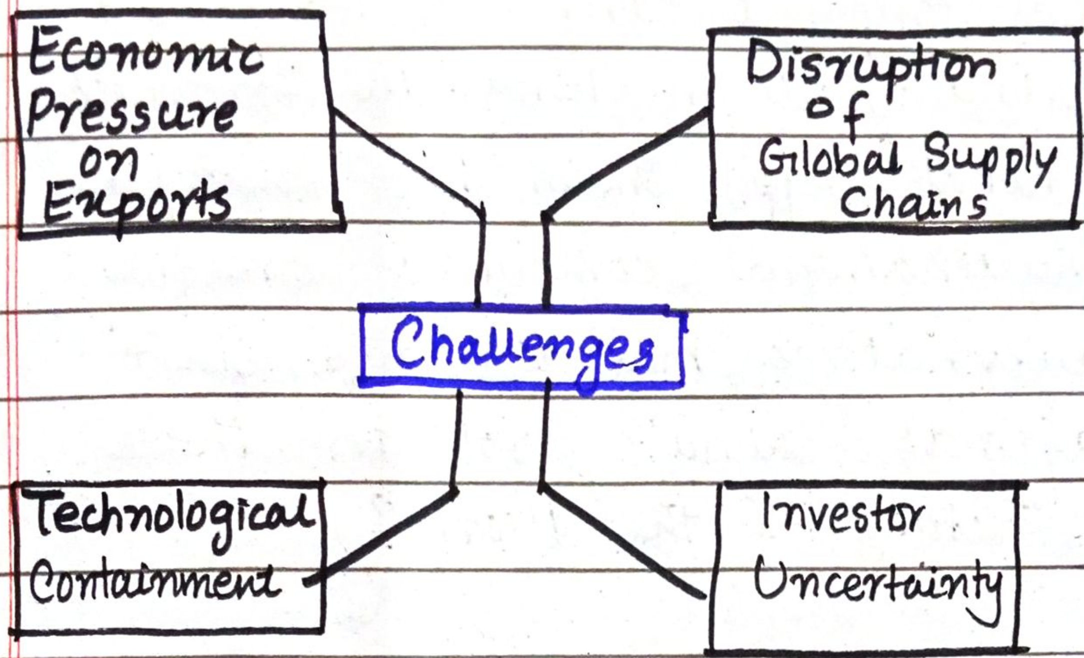
# {QUESTION # 06}

## INTRODUCTION:

The time has gone when wars were fought only through conventional military tactics. In 21st century, trade has became a battleground. China is an emerging player in the world and is world's 2nd largest economy. The US, to protect its domestic ~~econom~~ industry, has imposed tarriffs on both adversaries (China) and allies (EU, Canada). For China, this protectionist measures pose challenges e.g Economic export pressure, disruption of global supply chains, technological containment and also some opportunities e.g technological self-reliance, strengthened ties with Global South and leadership ~~to~~ in alternative trade blocs.

## → Challenges for China:




### i. Economic Pressure on Exports:

China's economy is export-driven economy and the US is one of the major market place for Chinese products. Tariffs imposed by the US has increased the price of Chinese products and less competitive, so earning from exports has decreased and China faces a slowdown in manufacturing outputs

### ii. Disruption of Global Supply Chain:

China is one of the major player

in Global Supply chain. The U.S has imposed tariffs on components being made in China due to which global Supply Chain has disrupted. Multinational companies are finding alternatives markets. This Shift affects China's role in the "factory of the world".

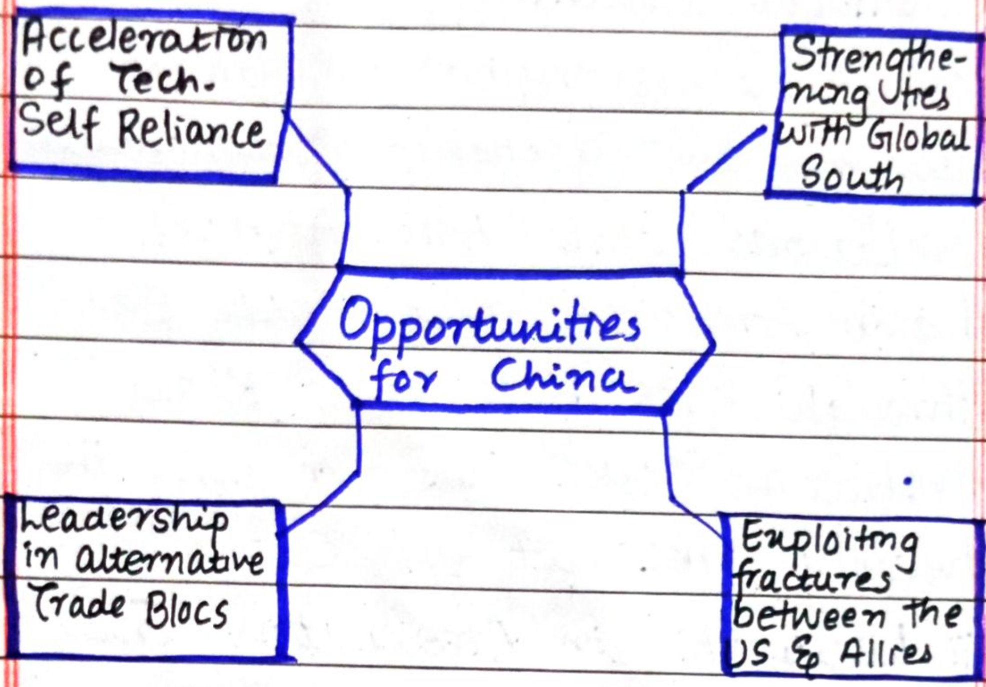
### iii. Technological Containment:

The US has imposed significant tarriffs on Semi-conductors and AI chips. US aims to give a technological blowback to China so that there should be no one to compete US in Technology.

### iv. Investor Uncertainty:

China is one of the major country having Significant FDI. But due to trade restrictions and tarrifs imposed by US, investors feel uncertainty about investment leading to instability in China.

## → Opportunities for China:




### 1. Acceleration of Technological Self-Reliance:

$21^{st}$ century is the era of technology. The US has imposed restriction on importing semi-conductors to China, but on the other hand China accepted this challenge and started working on it's technology to become self-reliant. China, with own developed semi-conductors, built AI app "DeepSeek" that affected US Tech company "NVIDIA" of almost $540Billion loss.

ii. Strengthening Ties with the Global South:

China is trying to fill vaccum by deepening economic relations with Asia, Africa, Latin America; and Middle East through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). These regions are heavily reliant on China.

iii. Leadership in Alternative Trade Blocs:

China is emerging as a leader in multinational and multilateral trade platforms like Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and BRICS+. These platforms are made to counter US influence and stop dollar hegemony as these platforms will do not trade in US dollars.

iv. Exploiting Fractures between the US and Its Allies:

The US has also imposed tariffs

on its allies e.g EU. China can leverage this by offering better trade terms or bilateral deals to these nations.

→ **CONCLUSION:**

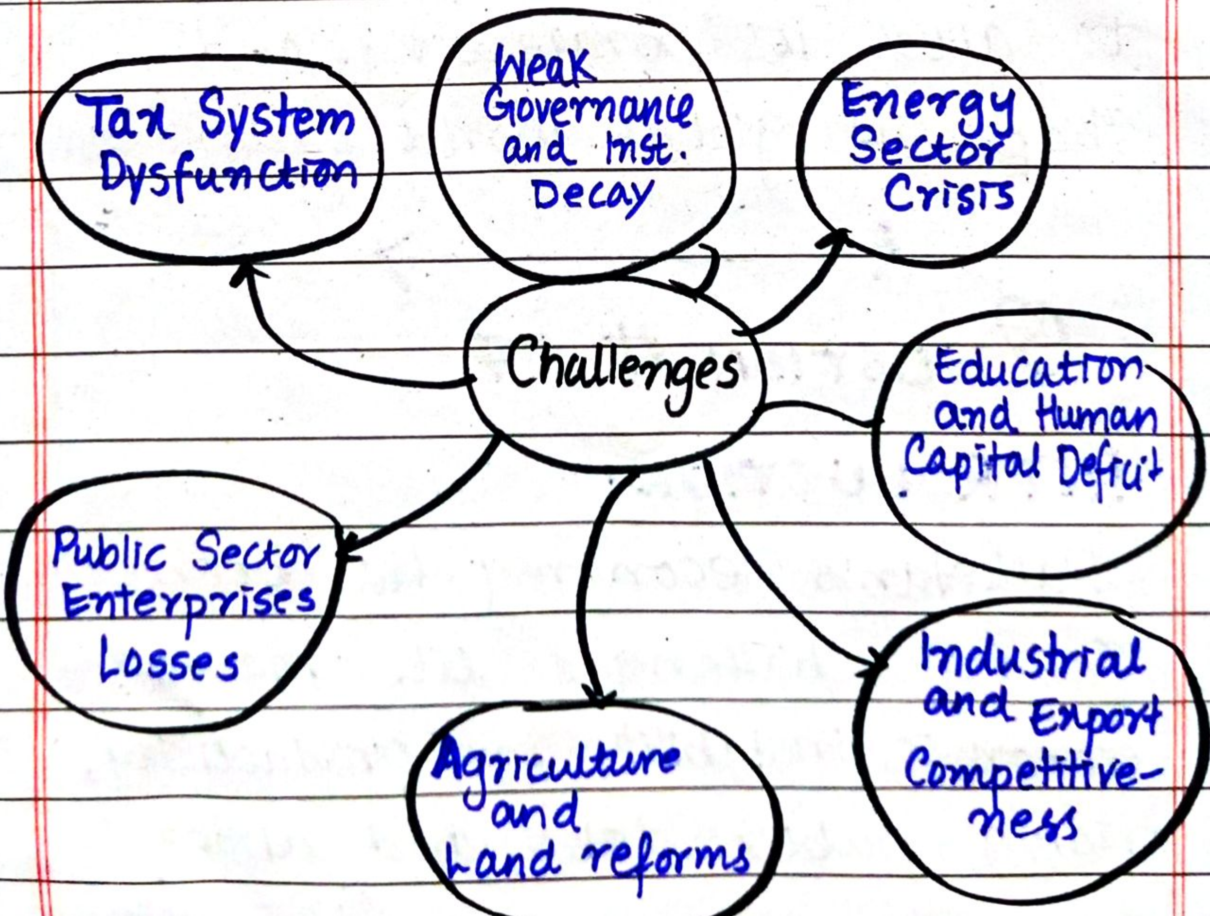
The US Tariffs pose both challenges and opportunities to China. This gives China a chance to shift from export-dependent economy to be the leader in technology. It depends on China that how she utilize these opportunities to alter its trajectory, and shape the global world order.

# QUESTION # 07

**INTRODUCTION:**

Pakistan's economy has been facing challenges like macro-economic instability, low productivity, rising public debt, and above all, dependence on Foreign debt. ~~Despite all these, Pakistan~~ Despite repeated bailouts from IMF, short-term fixes, sustainable ~~agricult~~ economic growth is still out of reach. Unless deep structural reforms are introduced in sectors like taxation, energy, governance, agriculture, and industry, Pakistan's economic revival will remain an elusive dream.

→ STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES BEING FACED BY PAKISTAN:



i. Tax System Dysfunction:

One of the major cause of grappling economy is inefficient tax system. Less than 10% of population pays income tax. There is over-reliance on indirect taxes that hurt poor. Without tax reforms, fiscal deficit and reliance on IMF persists.

ii. Energy Sector Crisis:

Pakistan's energy sector is facing a major issue of circular debt that exceeds almost 2.7 trillion PKR. There are overpriced power purchase agreements with IPPs. Structural reforms are required in this sector to boost economy.

iii. Public Sector Enterprises Losses:

PSEs are major burden on Pakistan's economy. PIA, railway, Steel Mills drain budget. They must be privatized so that fiscal burden can be reduced.

### iv. Agriculture & Land Reforms:

Pakistan's economy is agricultural economy, but despite having 35-40% workforce, it contributes 22% to GDP. Outdated farming practices and feudal landholdings are reason behind low productivity. Reforming land access, subsidies, and water usage is crucial step.

### v. Industrial and Export Competitiveness:

There is lack of value-added exports. Poor infrastructure hurt industrialization. Mostly Pakistan is import dependent. Pakistan needs to diversify its exports.

### vi. Education and Human Capital Deficit:

The education system of Pakistan is outdated. There is a skill mismatch between industry and education. Without reform in education and technical training, Pakistan cannot compete globally.

vii. Weak Governance and Institutional ~~Educational~~ Decay:

Weak governance is one of the major issue of Pakistan. Corruption, nepotism, and lack of rule of law damaged Pakistan. There is need for institutional reforms and depoliticization.

→ WHY COSMETIC MEASURES ARE NOT ENOUGH:

These cosmetic measures are not enough for a sustainable ~~agricult~~ economic growth. Repeated IMF loans and foreign aid has plugged temporary gaps, but failed to resolve structural issues. Subsidies, tax amnesties, or foreign remittances are short-term tools, not solutions. Without reforms, Pakistan can never attain economic self-sufficiency.

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## → CONCLUSION:

Without structural reforms, Pakistan will continue to oscillate between crisis and recovery. Economic revival is about self-sufficiency, not foreign aid dependency. Pakistan needs serious structural reforms, if it wants to revive its economy, otherwise the same scenes will be repeated again and again.