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Current Affairs.

Subjective part - 12

Q No: 4,

How do you see the water politics in the region after india decision to move out of Indus water Treaty and china's decision to build the world largest dam on Brahmaputra River?

Ans

South Asia rivers are Transboundary in nature and shared by hostile neighbours particularly india, pakistan and china. With the gradually impacts of melting glacier, population growth, water mismanagement and climate change these all factors lead the water toward a geostrategic problem not only resource.

Indus water Treaty (1960)

The indus water Treaty (1960) was signed between india

Pakistan it allocated

Western River: (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) Pakistan

Eastern River: Ravi, Beas, Sutlej to India.

Despite the multiple wars the TWT has survived for over 60 years until India's decision to unilaterally suspend it in 2024-2025.

Political Tension between India and Pakistan: This is due to territorial disputes especially over the Kashmir cross-border incidents and also the

Pulwama Attack: A suicide bombing killed 40 Indian soldiers in Pulwama (Indian-occupied Kashmir)

Facts/Impact of this Attack:

India blamed Pakistan-based group Jaish-e-Mohammad lead to Balakot airstrikes by India Pakistan retaliation and aerial dogfight

Impact:

India threaten to review the Indus Water Treaty and said "Blood and water cannot flow together." (PM N. Modi)

This leads the hypothetical / Recent Escalation Loc 2025:

In 2025 tension reignited with cross-border shelling along the line of Control (Loc)

India accused Pakistan supporting militants in Kashmir, Pakistan accused India unprovoked aggression.

This situation further escalate when India withdraw from Indus water Treaty in (March 2025).

Effect:

Pakistan declared India move "water aggression" and a violation of international law triggering international concern. These tensions are not just military but also hydro-political as India is attempting to use water as a tool of pressure against Pakistan particularly during crises. These issues Pulwama and IWT 2025, Loc incidents have transformed water into a geopolitical weapon in South Asia.

Implications:1 Violation of international Law:

The Vienna convention governs how international treaties are made, maintained and terminated. parties must perform treaties in good faith, Article 62 allow withdrawal in case of fundamental change of circumstance.

2 India unilateral withdrawal from IWT.

Violate the article (62) since India cannot consent or mutually agree with Pakistan / World Bank on IWT. and undermine the global legal norms.

3 Increase the water insecurity in Pakistan:

When India violate the global legal norms on IWT Pakistan face the water insecurity. Tension because Pakistan relies on Indus River system for 90%. it's agriculture water. Pakistan face

- 1 Reduced Crop yield
- 2 Drinking water shortage

3 Industrial disruption.

That water insecurity leads pakistan to words the "Drought in south punjab and sindh."

2 Food inflation, unemployment and rural migration.

While pakistan is already a water-stressed country (Lahore & Karachi Islamabad Rawalpindi).

Leads to Threat to Regional peace and Escalation of war.

This happens because water now becoming a strategic weapon in South Asia, That india move may provoke retaliation

especially in pakistan view it as "Water Terrorism" Because in post palawma 2019, india threatened to pakistan (stop water flow)

The "10 May 2025" is the direct Result of water-related escalation

Impact of india is Exist from IWT and china decision of Brahmaputra Dam.

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India unilateral withdrawal from IWT sets a dangerous precedent. Countries feel emboldened to disregard international law water agreement in future conflict. Now Both India and China are using water as a geopolitical tool. it signal as global shift of "Hydro-hegemony" where the upstreams controls downstream ones.

"Water is the new oil in Asian geopolitics" (Brahma-C)
Because China decision to Build a dam due to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and reduce its dependency on coal,

This proposed dam will generate the 60 gigawatt (GW) more than the three Georges Dam making the world largest hydro electric project.

China also want the control on strategic water Resource:

By Building dam control the downstream water flow. But this

decision impact globally,

1 Environmental and Ecological threat

2 China - India Strategic Rivalry

3 Potential Regional Arm Race

4 Impact on Pakistan: No level increased water insecurity Two front water pressure

(China & India) Rising Domestic

Tension also Risk to CPEC and

Regional project.

Q No: 5 How do you see the ~~past~~ conflict diplomatic drives of Pakistan and India?

Pakistan and India conflict are historically hostile since 1947 wars (1947, 1965 & 1971 now May 2025) and the persistent Kashmir dispute.

Both states have engaged in post-conflict diplomacy to avoid full scale war and maintain regional balance.

While the current diplomacy remains sporadic and fragile, particularly after the Pulwama (2019) and LoC (2025)

or Diplomacy is the art of

restraining force" (Henry Kissinger)
Pakistan and India post conflicts

Diplomatic initiatives:

Agra summit (2001):

Just two years ago
Agra summit Pakistan and India had
engaged in the Kargil conflict a
major military standoff that deeply
damaged trust.

Indian parliament Attack (Dec 2001)

This summit occur just before the
few months Indian parliament attack
which India blamed on
Pakistan-based group (Lashkar-e-Taiba
and Jaish-e-Mohammed) through
Terrorist already living.

Track-II diplomacy: Refers to unofficial
informal dialogue b/w India and
retired officials, scholar and civil
society member to build trust
to explore the situation But in
2021 both sides reaffirmed the
2003 LOC ceasefire agreement.
There were back-channel talks

Reportedly facilitated by UAE diplomats aiming to reduce military tension.

Impacts on Pakistan:

positive

negative

De-escalate Tension on LoC.

Limited Transparency public and political

Helped Pakistan focus on internal security

in Pakistan

Impact of post conflict diplomacy on Pakistan:

That Reduce the chance of full scale war, and internationalize the Kashmir issue, Kashmir remain a red line for Pakistan while India insists on terrorism concerns being addressed first.

Trade remain suspended and cultural and visa exchange have stalled

International Image and FATF Compliance:

Diplomatic engagement improve Pakistan image in west UN^{and} OIC.

support FATF exit strategy through de-escalation and regional cooperation.

Challenge to post Diplomatic Success:

Domestic political opposition

to talk with india over Kashmir

Cross-border terrorism narrative still used to isolate Pakistan

"India and Pakistan are prisoners of their past, but diplomacy offer a key to their future"

Q No: 6,

How do you see the challenges and opportunities for China in the Trade tariffs imposed by US on both adversaries and allies?

Ans:

"America First" economic policy under Trump a domestic push to reduce the Trade deficits and restore U.S. Manufacture dominance. The Tariff was imposed under the Section 301 (Targeting China for unfair practice) and Section 232 (national security justification on steel / aluminum)

High tariffs also applied to allies
Current average U.S. tariff rates (2015) on China stand at ~51% and China reciprocates with ~33%

on us goods. If the no deal is reached after August 12 tariffs could jump to ~145% on Chinese goods/Exports.

China facing the different challenges.

1 → Export contraction:

China export to US fell sharply machinery down 36% electrical equipment down 42% year-on-year by May 2025.

US Exposure remains a significant risk exports to US accounted for ~\$25 billion in 2024.

2 → Economic Drag:

China also facing the economic drag by US Tariffs that are estimated to reduce the GDP growth by about 1.5 to 3% points. J.P. Morgan raised China full-year growth forecast 4.8% due to partial tariff relief. potential job loss up 15-20 million particularly in export intensive growth.

3 Global supply chain Disruption.

U.S. Tariff escalation is reshuffling global supply chains, companies are relocating to Southeast Asia (Vietnam & Cambodia) to avoid Tariff exposure.

Exports face uncertain demands and rising cost.

4 Erosion of U.S. Global Leadership

Boat Tariff on allies like Canada & Mexico, EU, Japan have unsettled the U.S. allies, helping China position itself as a reliable Trade partner.

5 Opportunities for China:

China have diversified Trade partnership ties with EU, ASEAN, Europe reducing dependency on U.S. Markets. It's pursuing multilateral diplomacy through forums like SCO, BRICS to shape global Trade norms.

Economic self-sufficiency,
Shift toward strengthening

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Domestic consumption innovation and service rather than export-led. China have policy and negotiation leverage.

In recent stockholm talks china offered rare-earth export relaxation us eased some AI chip export bans.

While the us china tariffs are not directed to pakistan spillover. But pakistan benefits from china strengthened Trade relationships with Europe and Asia which could open new export channels.

"China's bulwark lies not in rising tariffs but in building deeper trade links beyond the US."

Q No: 8

Critically evaluate the Russia and china growing relations and its implications on global power politics?

Ans:

Since 2022 china and

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Russia have deepened their relations into what analysts call a "no limit friendship". They are conducting joint naval exercises aligning diplomacy and coordinating at strategic forums like BRIC and SCO.

Trade between them reached approximately \$240 billion in 2023 and remained in that range into 2024 with China accounting for 41% of Russia's imports and 30% Exports. This alignment is grounded in the post-cold-war Primakov Doctrine (Advocating the strategic ties with China to oppose the U.S.).

⇒ Strategic Characteristic of the partnership:

The relationship is asymmetrical. Russia is the junior partner, as China wields greater economic power while Russia provides energy and defense collaboration. They pursue coordination yet autonomous actions, often aligning with

UN while diverging on some regional priorities. Their combined institutional influence through BRICS and SCO effort to reform global governance bodies.

→ Global implication of power politics:-

1 → A push toward Multipolarity.

Their combined influence challenges the US dominance, signaling a move toward a multipolar system. They have expended institutions like BRICS and SCO to legitimate their new order.

2 → Strategic Diversification & Sanction Resilience.

Western sanctions have isolated Russia but China's economic lifeline provides resilience. They have redirected energy trade and developed alternative supply routes easing Russia's economic crisis. Military exercise like the Joint Sea 2025 near Japan and air patrols.

Redrawing Global Trade Architecture.
Integration of china BRI with
Russia led Eurasian economic
union aims to reshape Transcontinental
Trade and governance offering
alternative to western led
institutions.

Relevance to Pakistan / impact on
Pakistan:

Pakistan is the part of china
Russia axis leveraging CPEC as
a conduit to connect with Eurasian
markets and Russia. This alignment
aims to counterbalance India and the
US India axis.

Islamabad is exploring the Russia
energy deals (gas pipelines)

Russia and Pakistan signed their
first barter trade deal. But

Russia now diversifies its alliance
beyond the India including Pakistan
in military exercise and energy
projects.

Pakistan benefits from

cooperation. Pakistan must navigate carefully to over dependence on China amidst economic system in China Pakistan partnership. Pakistan could become the secondary partner.

Conclusion

China and Russia's deepening ties rooted in sharing grievance against U.S hegemony and strategic alignment under Primakov Doctrine. Signal a new Eurasian order that challenges the current global. To balance it requires careful diplomacy to safeguard sovereignty.