

## Pakistan Affairs (Test) 4

Q1) Examine the domestic dimensions of hydro politics in Pakistan. How do inter provincial water disputes affect national unity and agricultural development?

### A. Introduction

The ~~emerge~~ rise of hydro politics in Pakistan proposes greater issues. The issue does not only comes from geo political dimensions but also Pakistan's internal mismanagement and provincial disputes. From lack of infrastructure to agricultural wastage of water, Pakistan sees itself at the edge of ethno nationalism between provinces and increased lack of trust. Moreover, the politicization of water also results in halted dam constructions and slowed efficiency. The greater problem lies in the mismanagement of water due to which grievances about unequal share of water are fueled. Such conflicts erode trust between provinces and severe polarization takes place among provinces. It also affects the agricultural system of each province that is highly dependent on the Indus basin.



## B. Domestic Dimensions of Hydro Politics in Pakistan

### 1. Lack of Water Management labelled as Water Scarcity :

The problem of rising hydro politics in Pakistan lies in the internal inefficiency of governance to manage and store water. Most of the water flowing and used in agriculture is wasted due to ~~proper~~ management.

♦ 60% Irrigation water lost in canals ♦ - WAPDA

### 2. Inter ~~Pro~~ Provincial disputes of Pakistan

Pakistan also faces inter provincial disputes which fuel conflicts and grievances. Provinces accuse each other of stealing water and complain about not getting their rightful share of water ~~water~~.

♦ Conflicts between Sindh and Punjab on water theft ♦

### 3. Failure to provide infrastructure and drainage :

Provinces have different infrastructure and drainage systems which give rise to domestic



Conflicts: Governance's failure to provide equal infrastructure and efficiency in water distribution takes the shape of water grievances

- ◆ Urban mismanagement in Karachi and water mafia crisis due to lack of infrastructure ◆

#### 4. Poor Storage Capacity and Slow construction of Dams:

Pakistan also lacks storage capacity of water due to which most of the water is wasted and flowed down the drain

- ◆ Kalabagh dam's halted progress shows inefficiency in dam construction ◆

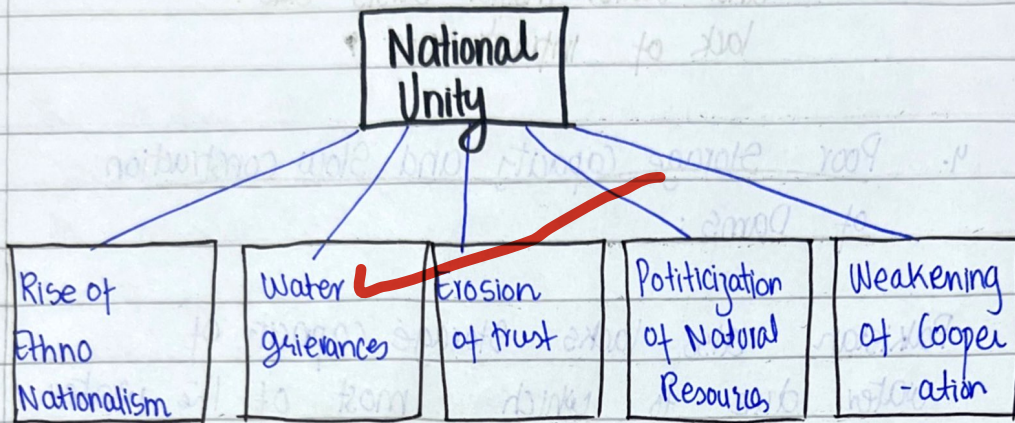
#### 5. Politicization of Water Allocation:

The 1991 water accord is the main mechanism for sharing of Indus waters. From implementation issues and mistrust, the mismanagement of water has become politicized.

- ◆ 1991 water accord and its lack of implementation in true form ◆



## C. Effects of Inter Provincial Water Disputes on National Unity and Agricultural Development



### 1. Rise of Ethno Nationalism:

With increased disputes between provinces on water, each province accuses other provinces of theft of water and as a result, ethnic narratives are fueled which erode national unity in the long term.

♦ Tensions over Indus waters amplify 'Sindhi' Nationalism ♦

### a. Water grievances:

Unequal distribution of water erode national unity and takes shape of water grievances, later transforming into conflicts and



political disputes. Water being the most important resource, provinces grow grievances among each other that breeds hate.

### 3. Erosion of Trust Among Provinces:

National Unity is also threatened by growing erosion of trust among provinces. Provinces accuse each other of water theft and weaken the spirit of national identity.

♦ Sindh accusing Punjab of directing flows, especially during the Sowing Season.

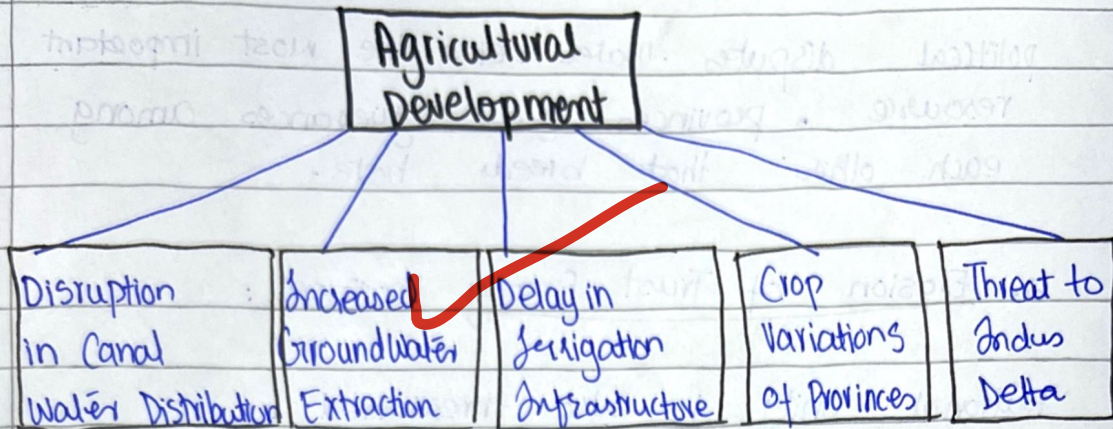
### 4. Politicization of Natural Resources:

Politics also leverage the unequal distribution of water to benefit their propaganda, that brews hate on the basis of natural resources. Water becomes a tool for provincial parties to control masses.

### 5. Weakening of Cooperation:

Water disputes halt joint efforts that hamper national development. It also decreases legitimacy of federal institutions like WAPDA and IRSA.





### 1. Disruption in Canal Water Distribution:

Water shortages during Rabi and Kharif seasons reduce yield of key crops. Such disruption in canal water hampers agricultural development.

- ◆ Key crops like wheat in Punjab and rice in Sindh face low yield.

### 2. Increased Groundwater Extraction:

Provinces who face water scarcity and low supply of water tend to extract water from ground which in turn results in falling water tables and agricultural issues like salinity and water logging.



### 3. Delay in Irrigation Infrastructure:

Inter provincial disputes over water and major dams result in delayed expansion of irrigation networks that limit agricultural modernization, reducing cropping intensity.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.....

### 4. Crop Variations of Provinces :

The quality of crops of Sindh and Punjab vary greatly, causing production imbalances and perceptions of economic inequality affecting agricultural system.

### 5. Threat to Indus Delta:

Indus, main source of Pakistan's agriculture sees reduced flows to Sindh's delta due to upstream diversions leading to loss of fertile land and decline in fisheries.

### D. Conclusion

Increasing inter provincial disputes are a by product of unequal distribution and lack of management of water. Water being the main source of livelihood, ignites conflicts and grievances that



fuel ethnic nationalism eroding national unity in the long term. Its crucial ~~for~~ for Pakistan to separate water and provincial politics to see national integration taking shape. Other wise, India ~~won't~~ be the only threat, but provinces will start conflicts internally.

Q3) "Energy Security is the backbone of economic growth". Discuss the role of alternative and renewable energy sources in addressing Pakistan's energy challenges and achieving sustainable development?

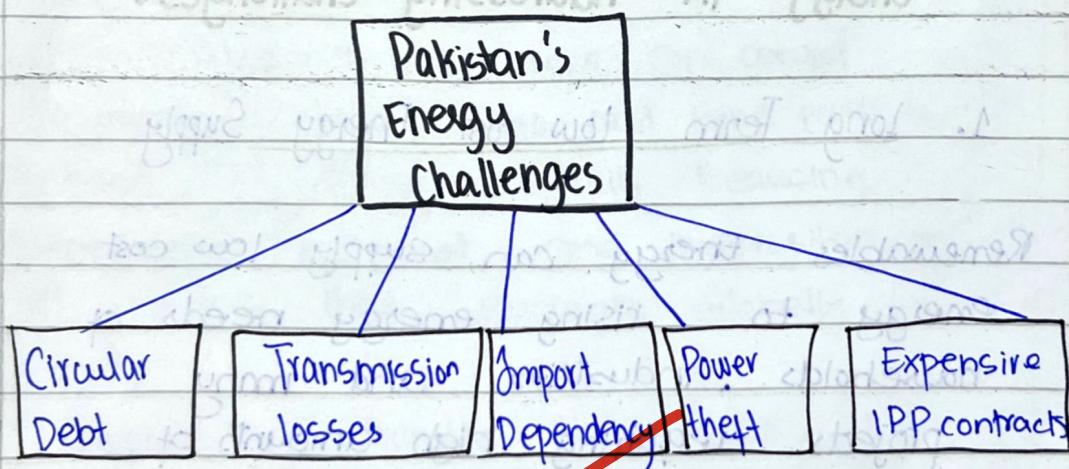
### A. Introduction

Energy Security is the backbone of economic growth as it reduces the dependence on expensive IPPs and leads the country towards progression and energy security. A country like Pakistan, that already struggles with an unstable economy has ~~to~~ face energy crisis and in order to fulfill energy needs, it makes contracts with expensive IPPs and faces the vicious cycle of circular debt. It is important to tap into renewable energy resources in a world where energy security is essential and



is the measure of country's progress. From providing low cost energy to reducing burden on economy, renewable alternative can greatly address Pakistan energy challenges. It will result in development that is sustainable and climate friendly alternatives that will benefit the environment as well as Pakistan's agricultural sector, flourishing Pakistan's economy.

### B. Pakistan's Energy Challenges : Renewables Are Need of The Hour



Pakistan's energy crisis are due to several factors. Firstly, the vicious cycle of circular debt that burdens the economy in the long term. The debt is taken to fulfill energy requirements but results in huge debts and economic



inefficiency. Pakistan also faces transmission losses that are a byproduct of poor infrastructure and outdated grid systems. Pakistan also depends on cheap imports of energy to fulfill its demands. Moreover, on a domestic level it also faces power thefts because of inefficient technicalities. All these factors lead to Pakistan's mismanaged energy crisis and in turn burdens the economy with expensive contracts with independent power producers.

### C. Role of Alternative and Renewable Energy in Addressing Challenges:

#### 1. Long Term Low cost Energy Supply

Renewables Energy can supply low cost energy to rising energy needs of households, industries and many projects requiring high amounts of energy.

- ◆ Solarization In households and industries can speed of shifting to renewables.



## 2. Reducing Dependence on Imported Fossil Fuels :

Shifting to renewables will result in energy security and will eliminate the need for importing fossil fuels from other countries.

- ▶ Pakistan reliance on LNG and coal result in high energy import bills

-World Bank

## 3. Enhancing energy security through a diversified Energy mix:

A diversified energy mix can consist leveraging solar, hydro and wind power to enhance energy security. Reducing dependence on coal and insensitivity to oil prices that fluctuate globally.

## 4. Supports Sustainable Development and Climate commitments:

Switching to renewable alternatives supports Pakistan's sustainable development and increases contribution to climate commitments.

- ▶ Ministry of Climate Change identifies renewables as core mitigation strategy



## 5. Strengthens Rural Development and Expands Energy Access:

Rural areas who suffer due to the lack of electricity can leverage renewables for development. Rural development that plays a great role in agriculture will be flourished.

## D. Contribution of Renewables to Sustainable Development:

### 1. Battling Environmental Degradation:

Fossil fuels that result in environmental degradation will be replaced by renewables to preserve environment and climate.

### 2. Economic Growth

Leveraging renewables will help Pakistan to flourish its economy in the long term and sustainable manner. Renewables will eliminate the burden of expensive payments to IPPs.



add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.....

### 3. Job Creation In Sectors:

Renewable sectors generate employment in installation, maintenance and manufacturing. Transformation to renewables will create more opportunities and benefit the economic sector.

### 4. Attracting Foreign Direct Investment:

Industries who shy away from Pakistan due to energy scarcity will be attracted to invest as Pakistan develops in sustainable energy.

### 5. Reduction in Cost Push Inflation

Pakistan, competing in South Asia for the same commodities as India and Bangladesh will rule foreign markets due to low cost of production.

## E. Conclusion

It is significant for Pakistan to take efforts in switching to renewables and flourish its economy and progressing in the global market.



Seeking energy security has been need of the hour ~~of~~ for Pakistan because it cannot afford expensive IPP contracts. It also faces political instability that contributes to its circular debt. To combat the energy crisis, it must switch to sustainable forms of energy.

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