PA-TS-4

Q NO 1

1. Introduction

Domestic hydro-politics refer to the internal power struggles over water within Pakistan. This is not a technical problem, it is a deep-rooted political conflict among the provinces over the sharing of the Indus Rivers water. This dispute directly attacks national unity by creating mistrust and resentment. Also, it cripples agricultural development by creating uncertainity for farmers, who form the backbone of economy.

2. The Dimensions of the Internal Water Dispute

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2.1. The Punjab-Sindh Rivalry Over Water Sharing

The core conflict is between Punjab, the upper province, and Sindh, the lower province. Sindh consistently accuses Punjab of drawing more than its fair share, leaving Sindh farms dry.

2.2. The Broken 1991 Water Accord

This legal agreement was meant to share the water, but it is now the source of conflict. The provinces disagree on its interpretation, and Sindh claims it is openly violated.

2.3. The Kalabagh Dam Deadlock

This technically possible dam is politically "dead" because it is seen as a Punjabi project. The other provinces fear it would be used to steal their water, showing a total lack of trust.

2.4. The trust Deficit Leads to fights among Provinces

There is zero trust. Sindh does not believe the water-flow data provided by Punjab's regulators, which turns simple technical measurements into explosive Political fights.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments..

2.5. Grievances of Smaller Provinces

Balochistan and KPK (Khyber Pakhtunkhawa) feel leftout. They complain they do not even receive their, legally mandated share, leading to severe droughts.

~ Balochistan Assembly Resolutions

2.6. Massive Water Waste Due to Old Canals

30-40% of all water is lost in old, unlined canals before it ever reaches a farm. This waste turns shortages into full-blown crises.

– World Bank, "Getting More From Water" report.

3. Internal Water Disputes: Effects on National Unity

3.1. Fueling "Ethno-Nationalism": Attack on National Unity

The "Stolen water" narrative is a powerful weapon for nationalist parties, especially in Sindh. It frames the federation and Punjab as an oppressor, which directly attacks the idea of a unified Pakistan.

3.2. Paralyzing the Federal Government

The federal government is powerless. It cannot build any major new dam or enforce a national water ~~politics~~ policy because the provinces will not agree, making the central government look weak and irrelevant.

3.3. Internal Water Disputes Deepening "Us vs. Them" Resentment

The constant bickering is not just political, it creates real, popular resentment between the populations of the provinces. People are taught to see other provinces as the enemy stealing their livelihood.

4. Internal Water Disputes: Effects on Agriculture Development

4.1. Internal Water Disputes Destroying "Tail-End Farms"

This is the most direct impact. Farmers at the end of the canal system (mostly in Sindh) get water last, or not at all. This directly destroys their crops, bankrupts families, and is a major cause of rural poverty.

4.2. Internal Water Disputes Blocking All Modernization

A farmer will not invest thousands in modern "drip irrigation" if they are not even sure they will get any water at all. The dispute kills the incentives to invest, innovate, or conserve water.

4.9. Internal Water Disputes Threatening National Food Security

When Sindh's agriculture, a bread basket, fails due to water uncertainty, it threatens the entire food supply. This leads to food inflation and need for imports.

— Pakistan Economic Survey

5. Conclusion

To sum up, Pakistan's internal water disputes are a crisis of governance and trust. This hydro-political warfare has turned provinces into rivals and has left the state's main economic engine — agriculture — inefficient. The internal conflict is a direct threat to state's national unity.

Q No 2

1. Introduction

In Pakistan, inflation and unemployment are two biggest burdens on the average citizen. These problems are symptoms of deeper and long-term diseases, particularly poor governance and policy inconsistency, which have trapped country in the cycle of crisis.

2. The Root Causes of Inflation

2.1. Fiscal Deficit: Government Overspending

The government consistently spends far more money than it earns in taxes. To fill this gap, it borrows money from State Bank which is like "printing new money". This floods market with rupees, making the value of money go down.

2.2. The Dollar Problem: Constant Devaluation

Pakistan import almost all its oil, gas and machinery and it needs dollars to buy them. A Current Account Deficit forces the SBP to let the rupee's value fall, which makes every imported item more expensive.

2.3. The Circular Debt Bill: Energy Price Shocks

The mismanagement of the energy sector creating a massive circular debt (over PKP 2.6 trillion). To pay this debt to IMF, government is forced to raise electricity and gas prices, which makes everything more expensive.

3. The Root Cause of Unemployment

3.1. GDP: Extreamly Slow Economic Growth

The economy is not growing fast enough to create jobs for 2+ million young people who enter the market.

Pakistan's GDP growth is stagnant around (1-2%).
– World Bank and IMF (2023-25)

3.2. High cost of Doing Business Leads to Unemployment

It is extreamly expensive for a factory to open in Pakistan. The primary cause is the high gas and electricity tariff and SBP's 22% interest rates.

3.3. The Skills Gap Leads to Unemployment

The education system is failing to produce graduates with the skills that modern businesses (like IT) need. The World Bank's Human Capital Index for Pakistan is alarmingly low.

4. Poor Governance and Policy Inconsistency Feeds All the Problems Above

4.1. Failure to Tax the Rich: Poor Governance

Federal Board of Revenue fails to collect taxes from powerful, non-taxed sectors like real estate, large-scale agriculture and retail. This causes inflation because government must print money and unemployment because they over-tax the formal businesses that do create jobs.

4.2. Political Instability equals to Policy Inconsistency

Constant political fights mean there is no long-term plan. Every new government scraps the old plan and starts over. This means no investor, foreign or local, will make a long term plan in country, worsening inflation and unemployment.

4.3. Lack of Data-Driven Policy leads to Inflation and Unemployment.

Decisions are made for political reasons rather than based on economic data. The government may freeze petrol prices, but this costs billions in subsidies, which later causes more inflation and debt — poor governance.

4.4. Inconsistent IMF Programs: Policy Inconsistency

Pakistan fails to make its own long-term plan, so it is forced into short-term IMF programs. It implement tough reforms (like raising taxes) for one year to get a loan, then abandon them. This policy inconsistency creates uncertainty and ensures, it will be back to IMF in a few years.

4.5. Weak Rule of Law: Poor Governance

This refers to slow courts, red tape bureaucracy and corruption. Pakistan's ranking on the Ease of Doing Business index shows how hard it is to start a business, register property, or get a simple permits, creating difficulties for job creation.

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5. Conclusion

In Pakistan, inflation and unemployment are not separate problems. A system of poor governance and policy inconsistency are intensifying these problems.

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