

ASRAR ULLAH

(1)

NATIONAL OFFICERS

ACADMY ISLAMABAD

Current Affairs Test 01

Date: 28-10-2025

Question No: 01

(I) Introduction:

Indus Water Treaty (IWT) was signed between Pakistan and India on 19 September 1960 so as to resolve the water issue of rivers. Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and President Muhammad Ayub Khan of Pakistan and the mediator W.A.B. Iliff of World Bank were the signatories.

According to this treaty,

the rivers from Indus Water System were divided between Pakistan and India as:

India $\Rightarrow$ Beas, Ravi, Sutlej - the eastern rivers were given.

Pakistan $\Rightarrow$ Chenab, Indus and Jhelum were given, they are known as western rivers.

Though India was allowed to use 20% of western rivers only if the flow of water of Pakistan does not affect.

(II) Role of India's Unilateral Stance Regarding IWT After Pahalgam Attack:

On 22nd April, 2025, the terrorists attacked on civilians in Indian Administered Territory - Pahalgam, a tourist site. It caused the death of 27 civilians and 17 injured.

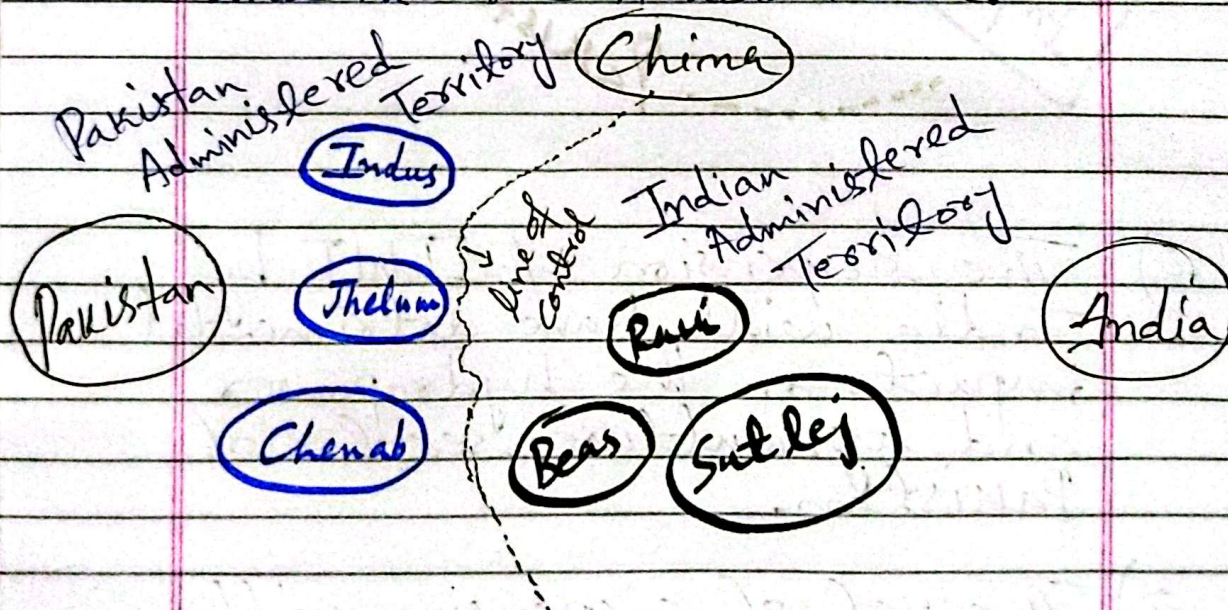
India without having solid and valid evidence claimed that the attack was

sponsored by Pakistan. On this basis, the Indian government unilaterally abrogated the terms and conditions of the treaty.

However, Article 12(3) of the treaty means to modify the treaty requires the consent of both parties, Pakistan and India.

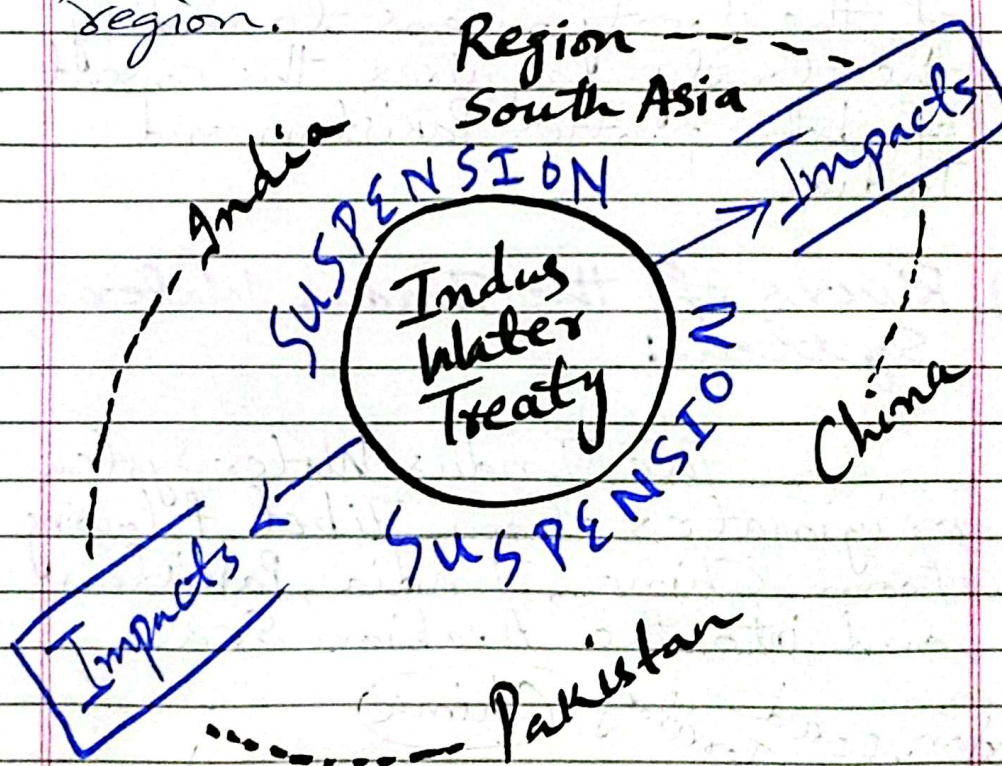
(III) Rivers of the Indus Water System:

The Indus Water System originates from Tibet, flowing from China, India, Pakistan and into the Arabian Sea.



(IV) Impacts of IWT Suspension:

The Indus Water Treaty suspension from New Dehli will not only have negative impacts on Pakistan, but also for India and South Asian region.



- i) The suspension of IWT by India will have detrimental impacts on the hydropower and agriculture sectors of Pakistan.
- ii) The act of suspension will lead the two nuclear

power states towards diplomatic strain such as: India reduced the number of staff at Pakistani High Commission, whereas Pakistan threatened to cancel all bilateral agreements including Simla Agreement.

iii) The suspension of IWT can for sure lead towards some militarily actions between the two states. For instance, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari statement: "In case India stops water flow of Pakistan, the blood will flow."

iv) In case of suspension of IWT and stop the water flow, India will be considered as violator of International Law and Vienna Convention on the Laws of Treaties (1969).

v) The implementation of such practice can set a stance of violating the laws by

diverting the water flow.
For example: China revealed the plan to build world's largest dam on Brahmaputra River, which flows toward Indian territory and contributes positively in the agriculture sector.

(V) Policy Options for Islamabad to Stop Indian Violation of the Treaty:

Pakistan can opt for diplomatic, legal and pressurized tactics to stop the Indian violation of the treaty by following the tactics:

1) Diplomatic Engagement:

Pakistan can have diplomatic approach with Indian representatives on hydropolitics so as to resolve the existing water-related issues.

Both the states should conduct the meetings of

Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) to overcome the water issues.

2) Court of Arbitration:

Pakistan can call to global actors to resolve the issue with India through neutral mediator or Court of Arbitration of World Bank.

3) Invoke Article XII (3):

Pakistan should highlight that India breaches the terms of the treaty such as Article XII (3) that states; any modification in the treaty can be on mutual consent of both states.

4) Violation of International Law and Vienna Convention:

Pakistan should emphasise on violation of International Laws by India by highlighting the following:

Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969) obligates treaties to be performed in good faith.

Article 57 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of the Treaties (1969) implies that India unilaterally can not suspend the treaty or its provisions on its own.

5) Engaging Friendly Countries:

Pakistan involve China and Turkey to resolve the water crisis between Pakistan and India. As these countries have been the strengths for Pakistan in hard times.

(VI) Conclusion:

The suspension of IWT unilaterally by India can for cause des-structive implications for India, Pakistan and the South Asian region. However, diplomatic efforts and involvement of global actors as

mediators can undoubtedly resolve the issue.

Question No: 03

(I) Introduction:

The repeated flooding in Pakistan has been one of the serious issues that has always brought destruction in terms of human deaths and economic damage. Some of the factors causing flooding in Pakistan are: Climatic drivers, hydrological and river basin factor, deforestation and watershed degradation. However, effective policies and collective efforts can surely lessen the occurrence of floods.

(II) Floods in Pakistan:

Pakistan has been facing floods since 2010 and has

lost lives and caused infrastructure destructions.

Major Floods in Pakistan

Flood Year	Casualties or Deaths	Economic Loss
2010	Nearly 2000	\$40 billion
2022	Nearly 1800	\$ 15 billion
2025	Over 1000	—

(III) Root Causes of Repeated Flooding in Pakistan:

Pakistan is facing flood issue due to the following means:

1) Climatic Drivers

The intense monsoon rainfall, glaciers melt in Himalayas, Karakoram and Hindukush cause river flows and cloudbursts trigger the flash floods.

2) Hydrological and River Basin Factors

The encroachment of floodplains limit the natural water absorption. And the seasonal flow variability: 80% of water flows in summer, increases flood risk.

3) Deforestation and Watershed Degradation

The cutting off trees on mountainous areas can for sure increases the flow of runoff that causes flood. Moreover, the unsustainable agriculture practices reduces the capacity of soil infiltration further deteriorates the situation and cause flood.

4) Encroachment and Urbanization

The unplanned settlements on flood plains, the poor drainage system and wetland loss can unquestionably be the contributing factors in causing the urban flooding.

5) Insufficient Storage and Infrastructure

The existing reservoirs have capacity of only 9% of annual river flows. It is uncontrolled that large-scale floods by the present dams.

6) Governance and Institutional Challenges

Governance has not been active in implementing the flood management policies, warning on the early basis, the flood affected areas and making the institutions like National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) effective.

(IV) Policy Recommendations for Flood Management in Pakistan:

Pakistan can lessen the occurrence of flood by surely and effectively implementing the flood management policies and take effective steps such as:

1) Construction of Small and Medium Dams

The small and medium dams can fulfill the drinking water need, agriculture requirement and limit the flood control.

2) Rehabilitation and Strengthening of Embankments and Barrages

To repair and upgrade aging infrastructure, enlarge embankment and barrages along the rivers and regular monitoring of water bodies can surely lessen the occurrence of floods.

3) Strengthening Institutional Capacity

The enhancement of capacity of NDMA and PDMA for flood response and preparedness can play vital role in managing flood victims and can implement policies effectively.

4) Modernization of Early Warning and Forecasting Systems

The timely provision of data regarding flood forecasting and communicate warning to communities can be more effective ways to control large scale destruction from flood. It can also provide with time to take sound steps to stop the occurrence of flood.

5) Land Use Regulation and Flood plain Zoning

To prevent settlements on flood plains, regulate urban expansion and restrict construction on high risk zones can

effective ways to control the occurrence of floods.

(V) Conclusion:

Flood is one of the challenging issues for Pakistan which has caused the fatalities and huge economic loss. However, Pakistan has been providing more effective policies to implement so as to overcome this matter. The flood management system has been taken seriously to avoid any flood in future.

