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LMS ID - 4

Part-II

Question No#02

Pakistan is repeatedly hit by devastating floods. Critically evaluate its reasons and recommend policy options for the nation to follow.

Introduction:-

Floods has been remained a culminating problem for the socio-economic development of Pakistan since its independence. The rivers of Pakistan, which support 80% of the agriculture of a country always remained in danger posed by greatest rivalry country, India. In previous two decades, Pakistan has been faced devastating floods more than five times in most regions of the country.

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Floods are natural disasters, but these are created by own human beings. Most countries in South Asia or especially Pakistan is affected by floods. These unwanted hazards posed severe challenges to economic, social, domestic grounds. Floods also destroyed the infrastructure, agricultural livestock and human lives. The reasons of floods are heavy torrential rains, melting glaciers, urbanization, Deforestation, Administrative negligence and vested interests of geopolitical countries. It is need of time for Pakistan to take special policy options such as infrastructure development, Integrated flood management, Strengthen early warning systems, Regional cooperation, Reforestation and watershed, Community preparedness and land use regulation.

Reasons of the severe devastating Flood:-

Pakistan has so many challenges political as well as economic, which caused the severe floods in most regions

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of Pakistan.

Reasons:

Torrential Rains

Melting Glaciers

Urbanization

Poor infrastructure

Urbanization

Overflow of Water
by India.

a) Torrential Rains:-

Pakistan suffered with a severe torrential rainfall in early 2025. The excessive rainfall in lower areas caused floods. The Malakand division and Buner have **700 mm** rainfall in 24 hours and Sialkot had **710 mm** excessive rainfall. Many other areas in South Punjab and Sindh affected by the torrential rains and resulted in devastating flood in 2025.

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b) Melting Glaciers:-

The melting glaciers has become a challenge for the country and suffered badly. The National Disaster Management Authority (**NDMA**) noted that almost **35%** of the glaciers destroyed in 2025 due to huge pressure posed by heavy rainfall on top of glacier bed. This melting glaciers also cause of floods.

c) Urbanization:-

The everyday rising population move towards urban areas for fulfilling their demands. The urbanization in South Asia reached to **53%**, highest in the Pakistan. The people lived at river beds for their survival which reduced the storage capacity of water. The **Ravi River** has **150MAF** capacity which is much less than the recent flow of flood in 2025.

d) Poor infrastructure:-

The water of excessive rainfall can be stored for the future needs but the lack of proper infrastructure, buildings, dams,

canals, and the barrages. **Kalabagh Dam**, which is not completed due to inter-provincial tension have the capacity to produce **3600 MW** electricity and **600MAF** storage capacity.

e) **Administrative Negligence:-**

The uprising challenges faced by Pakistan are due to the lack of political will, weak administrative institutions and political instability. The weak local government system is the main cause for ~~not~~ devastating floods and inefficient policies.

Policy Recommendation for the solution of floods:

a) **Infrastructure Development:-**

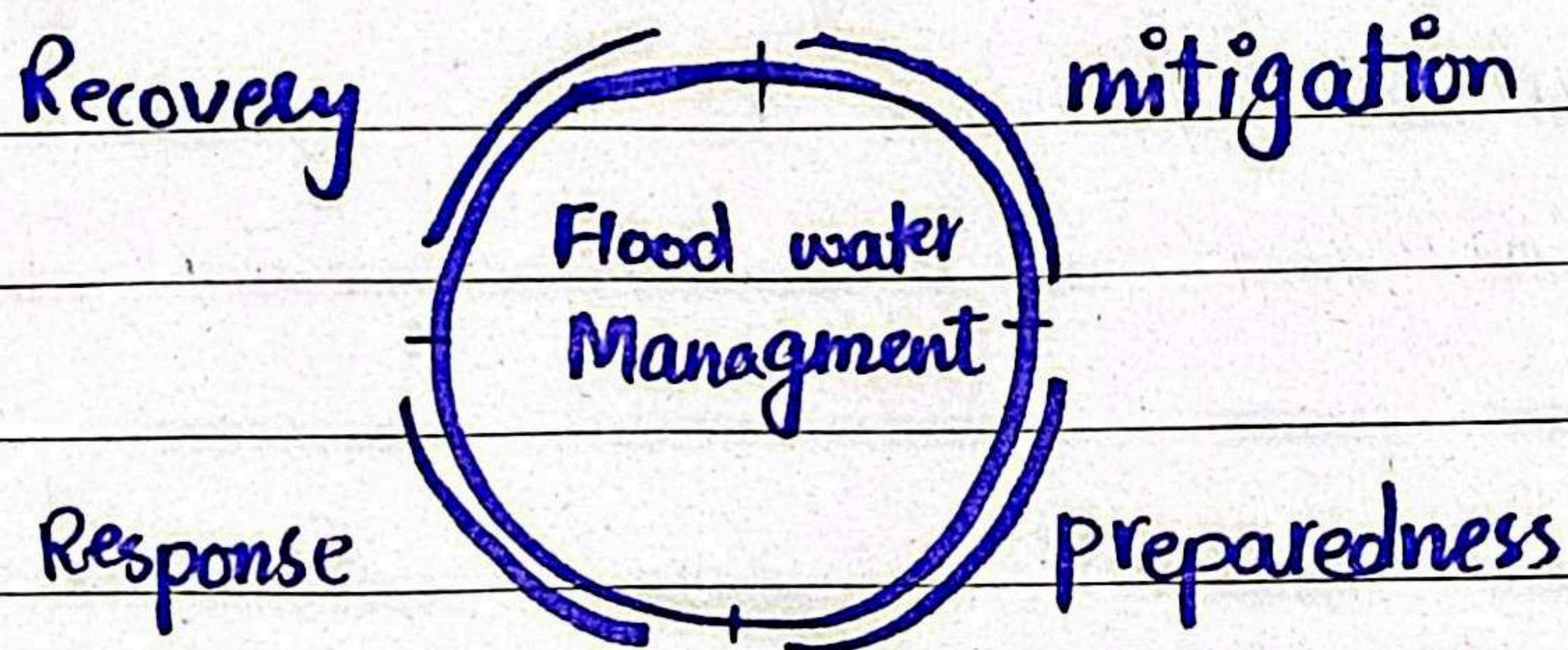
The infrastructural Development in Pakistan helped to control floods by building dams and canals. There is not permanent solution of dams in some regions but also need of a sustainable developmental processes. The Pakistan can not build dams in Punjab and Sindh and ~~not~~ other provinces are not

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agreed. The Cholistan canal, Thal canal which passed in November 2024 not constructed yet due to political interests.

b) Integrated flood Management:-

There is a huge need of Pakistan to adopt pro-active flood management processes to reduce the threat of flood.



c) Strengthen Early Warning System:-

The government of Pakistan should adopt the early warning system to detect and inform about floods which help to displace the people and infrastructure before flood. The government should have to work on local warning message and provide immediate rescue in case of

sudden floods.

d) Reforestation and Watersheds:-

Reforestation is the process of planting trees for saving environment and reduce global warming. Forests are known as lungs of environment which filters air from carcinogenic chemical which rise the temperature of atmosphere. There is a need to launch other project like **Tsunami tree** to plant 1 billion trees.

e) Regional Cooperation:-

For Pakistan, it has very tough geopolitical region where it has tensions with neighboured countries like India and Afghanistan. Pakistan should use the regional cooperation organizations

SAARC and ECO to reduce tensions with countries. So that, India can't use alleged the rivers water running from occupied Azad Kashmir region.

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Conclusion :-

Pakistan is affected by severe threats of blind coming floods that claimed of thousands of lives and several injured. Pakistan faced devastating flood in 2012, 2022 and 2025 due to the weak administrative policy system in Pakistan. There is a need of developing proper sustainable infrastructure and regional cooperation to overcome this threat.
