NAME: ALINA SYED

BATCH: 401

Question-1

India unilaterally held INT in abeyance after Pahalgam attack. Critically evaluate the impacts. What policy options Islamabad must adopt to stop India from violations.

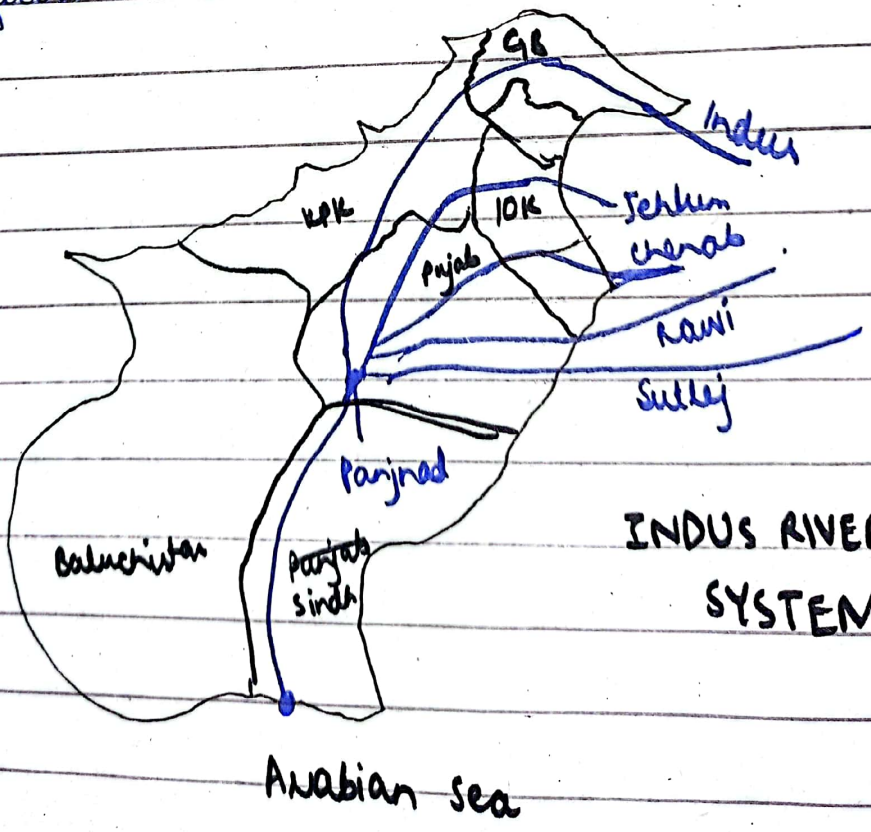
India's Unilateral Suspension of INT (Indus Water Treaty)

After a militant attack in Indian-administered Kashmir (22 April, 2025), India accused Pakistan of supporting terrorism. and In retaliation, India acctt unilaterally suspended INT. Pakistan denied these allegations and considered this abeyance as "act of war" This abeyance posed several concerns for Pakistan regarding water politics as India holds geo-

graphical advantage. Pakistan needs serious policy measures for future and secure its position in the region.

Historical Background of Indus Water Treaty:

On September 19, 1960, a bilateral treaty was signed between India and Pakistan mediated by World Bank. This treaty was signed to manage water resources between two countries which were bone of contention for many years.

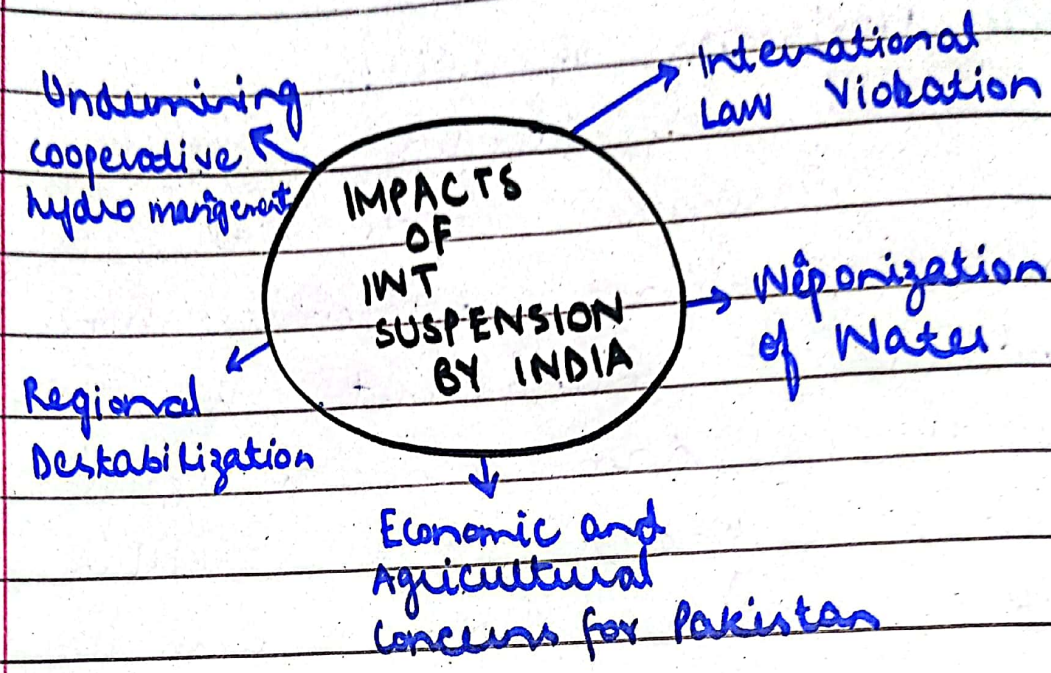


- Eastern Rivers: Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej were given to India.
- Western Rivers: Indus, Jehlum, and Chenab were given to Pakistan.

Key Provisions of IWT:

India can develop "run of the river" hydropower projects with minimum storage of conservation and flood management. If India builds any dam, then its details must be shared with Pakistan before starting project. Furthermore, representatives must meet regularly from both sides for updates and potential issues discussions. Significantly, the treaty also emphasize on cooperating the management of flood control and environmental protection. Thus treaty played a role of keeping peace between the countries with geo-political tensions for long.

IMPACTS OF INDIA'S UNILATERAL ABEYANCE OF IWT



- **International Law Violation:**

Unilateral suspension of IWT by India violates the Vienna convention on the Law of Treaties (1969). This treaty prohibits one sided withdrawal of a bilateral treaty. This irrational and illegal suspension by India sets a dangerous precedent for other riparian states, increasing global trust issues in treaty-based

water management.

- **Weaponization of Water:**
India effectively used water as a weapon and a political tool shifting from hydro-diplomacy to hydro-hegemony. Such a behaviour contradicts the global norm of keeping humanitarian agreements isolated from disputes.

- **Economic and Agricultural Concerns for Pakistan:**
Pakistan's agriculture (80%) and power generation (33%) heavily relies on these rivers. Reduced water availability can shrink major crops like wheat, rice, and cotton leading to food security. Livelihood of millions of farmers can be threatened.

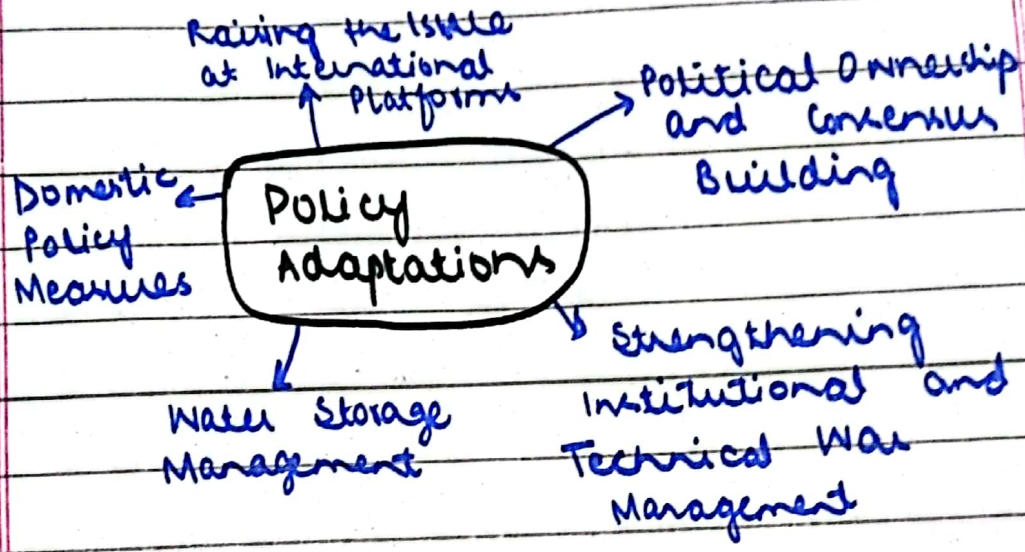
- **Regional Destabilization:**
This act of abeyance of treaty adds a new layer of

hostility between India-Pakistan volatile relations. Weaponization of water can leads to mistrust and may push Pakistan to take retaliatory measures. It further can destabilize South Asian Peace, shifting the focus of region from cooperative development towards security competition.

- **Undermining Cooperative Hydro-Management:**

This violation of treaty has undermined the one of the few successful functional bilateral treaty that has survived wars and crises. This abeyance signals for halt in regional cooperation and steps towards future joint river management frameworks managements. This unilateralism weakens both countries to fight against climate-induced water

Policy Adaptations that Pakistan should can take Against India's Violations



- **Raising the Issue at International Platforms:**

Pakistan should raise the issue at international court of Justice, World Bank, UN security council and other international platforms. This act can allow Islamabad to expose the India's violation of treaty and take actions for future to prevent abeyance of unilateralism.

- **Political Ownership and Consensus Building:**

A unified political will is crucial to tackle Pakistan's water challenge. The national leadership across all parties and provinces must address water scarcity as top national security issue rather than a political tool. Simply blaming India would not solve problems. Genuine ownership and cooperation through the council of common interest can ensure effective policy.

- **Strengthening Institutional and Technical War Management:**

The recent Indo-Pak war after Pahalgam attack has made ~~made~~ realization of technical war management. Just like our army's advanced techniques and tactics for security, our organizations need

real time monitoring of coverage of river flows and Indian dam projects. This will help in evidence based representation at global forums.

- **Domestic Policy Measures:**

Strengthening domestic water governance, reforming provincial irrigation systems and promoting efficient water use technologies will demonstrate responsible management at home.

- **Water Storage Management:**

Pakistan should adopt a national water security policy for reservoir constructions. Building projects like Diamer-Basha and Mohmand Dams or will improve Pakistan's storage capacity.

CONCLUSION:

India has violated the internation law of treaty by

suspending IWT after Pahalgam Attack. This violation has raised concerns not only for Pakistan but all countries with water management treaties. Pakistan should adopt strong water management policy measures for preventing future violations from India.

Q3

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

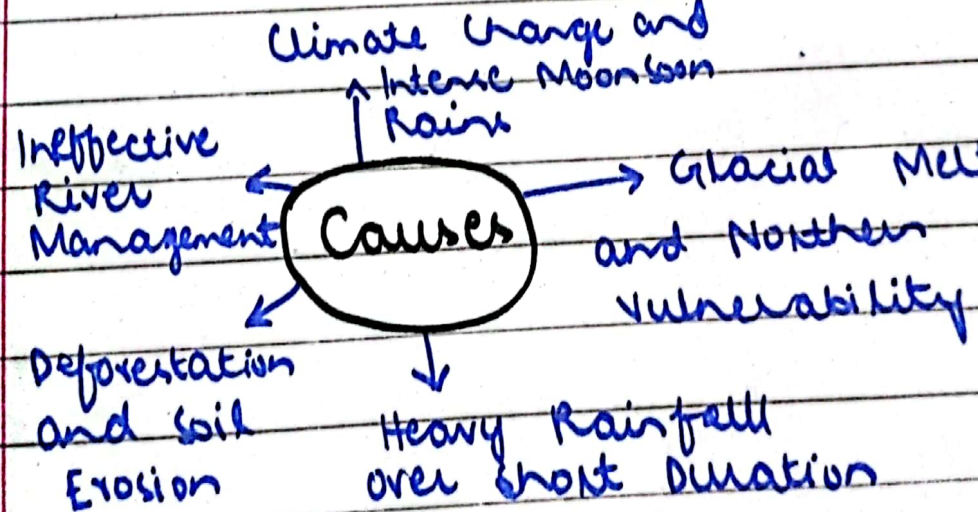
CAUSES AND MANAGEMENT OF FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

Recurring Flood Crisis in Pakistan:

Since June 2025, 6.9 million in Pakistan have been

affected by floods. As of 6th October, UN OCHA reports 1,037 deaths and over 152000 people displacement across 949 relief camps. Punjab remained the worst hit Province where 2.5 million acres of farmland was severely affected. Also Pakistan is now @ in top 20 most vul. climate vulnerable countries in the world.

CAUSES OF RECURRENT FLOODS IN PAKISTAN



- **Climate Change and Intense Monsoon Rains:**

The primary cause of flood disaster in Pakistan is

climate change. Rising global temperature results in heavy rainfall over shorter periods. According to recent research monsoon rains have become 15-20% stronger than ever. This climate change is drastically affecting the world specially Pakistan.

- **Glacial Melt and Northern Vulnerability:**

The global rise of temperature accelerated the glacial melts in northern mountainous regions of Pakistan. The Shisper Glacier in Hunza has recently caused massive destructive flooding. Therefore, Glacial lake outbursts floods are another major reasons of flooding in Pakistan.

- **Heavy Rainfall over Short Duration:**

Recent floods in Pakistan were caused by high-intensity

rainfalls. Such a rapid outburst decreases natural water absorption capacity leading to flashfloods, soil erosion and land slides. The sudden heavy rainfall gives very short time for community to tackle the disaster and prepare for response.

- **Deforestation and Soil Erosion:**

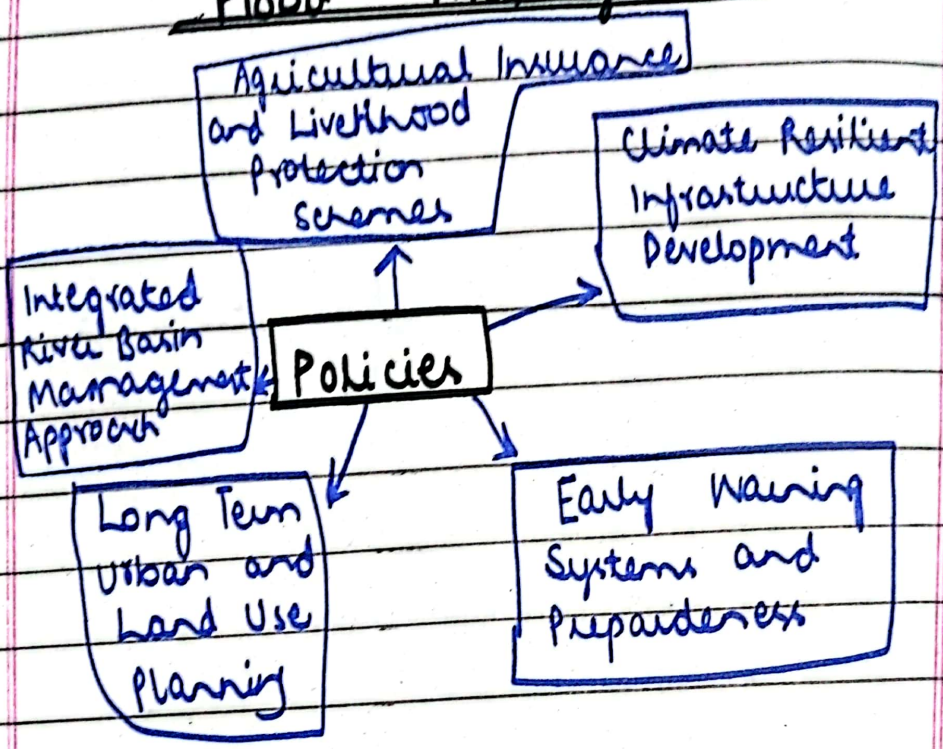
Deforestion in hilly areas of Pakistan has worsen the flood intensity. The soil now easily erodes, intensifying ~~rainfall~~ risk of flashflooding in downstream communities.

- **Ineffective River Management:**

The outdated canal systems, lack of proper river embankments and weak flood control infra-structure are the reasons that Pakistan is facing recurrent floods. There is inadequate coordination between provincial authorities

leads to poor emergency responses during peak flooding.

Policy Options for the Nation to Follow for Flood Management



- **Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development:**

The Government should work on construction of climate/flood-resilient infrastructure. This includes embankments, and water drainage networks in vulnerable districts. Old barrages must be rehabilitated

environment friendly engineering must be done, like, mangrove restoration to mitigate flood intensity.

- **Early Warning Systems and Preparedness:**

NDMA and Pakistan's Meteorological Department must equip themselves with modern forecasting technologies. Early warning systems must be connected to community levels for disaster preparedness. Training should be given to local volunteers for evacuation and relief distribution.

- **Long Term Urban and Land Use Planning:**

Expansion of urban area near waterways worsens floods. There is a need of smart city planning, rainwater harvesting that can reduce both rural and urban floods.

- **Integrated River Basin Management Approach:**

Pakistan needs to ensure basin-wide management system for Indus River and its tributaries. Coordinated planning between provinces with coordinated politics is necessary for this purpose. Flood-prone zones must be mapped and there should be real-time data sharing between provincial and federal authorities.

- **Agricultural Insurance and Livelihood Protection Schemes:**

Floods destroy crops and livestock and income sources of million of people. There is a need to introduced Climate-indexed crop insurance and livelihood rehabilitation programs for farmers.

Conclusion:

Due to climate change and ~~its~~ poor pre-disaster management, Pakistan is facing recurrent floods. For strong and longlasting climate-resilient and disaster management policies are needed to for future security.