

## QUESTION #1

### ABEYANCE OF IWT AND ITS IMPACTS:

#### 1- INTRODUCTION:

Indus Water Treaty (IWT) has been considered as the most successful water treaty for decades. It has navigated the water problem of Pakistan and India since 1960. Recently the Pahalgarh attack has inserted a new turn in the event. India attributed the attack to Pakistan as an attempt of cross-border terrorism, but its claim became questionable when it refused the request of Pakistan to have an independent investigation into the matter. The India decided to hold IWT in abeyance using the pretext of Pahalgarh attack. Its impacts will be multilateral. It will impact Pakistan by causing water scarcity, agricultural crisis, lack of flood sharing data, economic consequences, and a humanitarian crisis. The abeyance of treaty will impact India by posing ecological risks, affecting ~~under~~ ground water management and greater flexibility on <sup>new</sup> dams construction. Moreover, it will influence global and regional geopolitics by resulting in escalation of tension, setting a precedent of violation of treaties and spillover effect of weaponization of water. In such dense, options are limited for Pakistan. Way forward for Pakistan is three-dimensional. It can follow legal and constitutional discourse by focusing on court of arbitration, engaging World Bank and using international legal fora. The diplomatic and geopolitical strategy of Pakistan must focus on ~~glob~~ raising awareness through global diplomatic campaign and having bilateral dialogue with India only after it suspends its abeyance of IWT. Moreover, it must focus on domestic management of water and infrastructure to reduce dependence of riverflow from upper riparian. For this purpose, Pakistan should improve its water conservation and efficiency; develop storage and infrastructure and inculcate water management into policy and governance. Hence, the crisis created by India's unilateral abeyance of IWT can prove to be a useful opportunity for Pakistan to overcome the inefficiencies and limitations of the treaty.

## 2- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF IWT SUSPENSION:

IWT

was signed by India and Pakistan in 1960 and it gained the status of treaty in 1962. According to the treaty, it allocated three eastern rivers to India and 3 western rivers (Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus) to Pakistan. Moreover, it made obligatory on upper riparian state to ~~limited~~ share data if it chooses to use water for storage or any other purpose. Also, there will be a Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) to resolve any upcoming issue regarding water. India has been violating treaty since 1970s by building dams for storage and hydroelectricity generation. But the recent violation is not only violation of international law but it also poses a great threat to humanity. In April, (2025), a certain group of terrorist caused a ruckus at Pahalgam. India as expected attributed this ~~prob~~ terrorist attack to Pakistan and blamed it of cross-border terrorism. Without any evidence. After Pahalgam incident, it unilaterally decided to hold IWT in abeyance to signal a major diplomatic move. This unilateral decision of India not only constitute an attempt to weaponize water but also poses a great threat to human life.

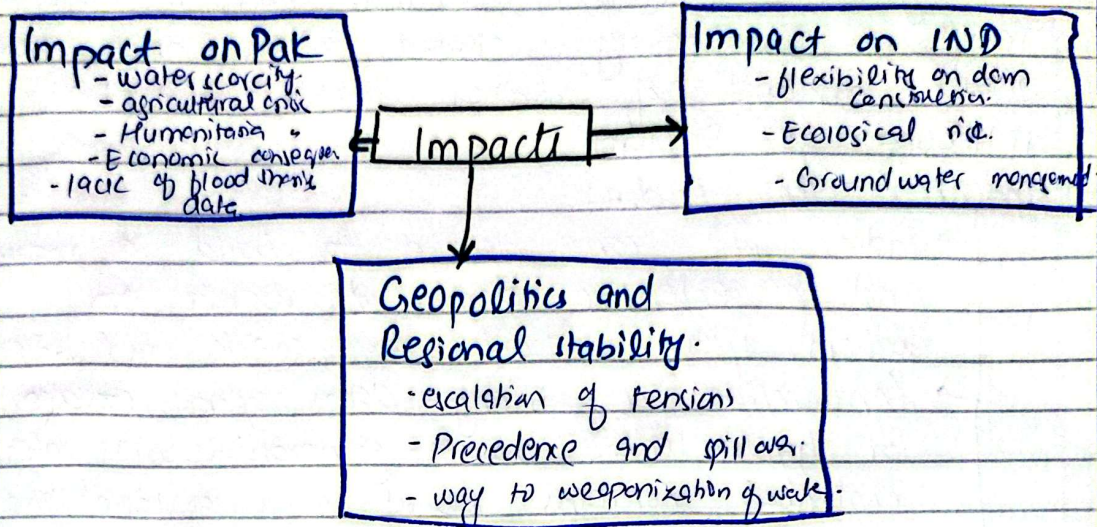
## 3- RESPONSE OF PAKISTAN:

Pakistan condemned this unilateral suspension of treaty and warned United Nations of dangerous escalation that violates international law and threaten survival of humanity. It has also urged Security Council to closely monitor such developments and take pre-emptive actions when possible. Pakistan has also appealed for an international consensus against weaponization of water.

## 4- IMPACT OF IWT SUSPENSION:

Impact of suspension of IWT is multi-faceted. It not only affects India or Pakistan but also has grave

ramifications for regional stability and global geopolitical landscape



### a- Impact on Pakistan:

The first and foremost impact on Pakistan is the question of water scarcity. The ~~cut~~ cut off supply of western river will allow limited supply of water to Pakistan, posing a grave threat to humanity.

Being agrarian country, its economy depends on agriculture. With cut off supply from western river, it will have limited or no water to carry out agricultural activities. This will result in low yield of crops and can yet cause food insecurity in already deprived population.

Using water as a way of war is a deliberate attempt to create a man-made humanitarian crisis. It will not only put the lives of people at risk but will push them down further the line of water scarcity.

Less water results in less crop yield. This means Pakistan will have to import basic fruits and vegetables, which will further aggravate the economic condition of the country.

An important impact on Pakistan by a suspension of IWT will be the lack of

information sharing by India about floods. Pakistan is also victims of floods due to heavy monsoon and glacial melting. This communication blockade will result in uncertainty about when and how much amount of water India will be releasing to Pakistan.

#### b- Impacts on India:

- India will carte blanche to build as many and as extensive dams in water on western river without any check and balance.
- Construction of many dams for storage or hydroelectric power generation will raise ecological concerns about loss of land and biodiversity.
- Excessive water will cause more groundwater management difficulties for India.

#### c- Impacts on Geopolitics and Regional Tensions:

- enhanced tense relationship between India and Pakistan.
- will set an example of violation of treaty unilaterally.
- will set example for other upper riparian to undermine humanitarian rules and do as they wish.

#### 4- POLICY OPTIONS FOR PK:

- Legal and Constitutional recourse.
  - i - Court of Arbitration.
  - ii - Engage World Bank
  - iii - Approach international legal fora like ICJ and UNSC.
- Diplomatic and Geopolitical strategy
  - i - Global diplomatic campaign to highlight weaponization of water.
  - ii - Door for talks with India but only under umbrella of mediation.
- Domestic water management
  - i - Water conservation through dam & interlink
  - ii - a National water policy.
  - iii - Develop storage and infrastructure to

counter and mitigate flood.

### 3- CONCLUSION:

- Crisis is a beautiful opportunity to be waited.
- opportunity to revise the INI; especially article II.