

Current Affairs

Question no.1:

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

Answer:

Introduction

The Indus Water Treaty was signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan under the world bank mediation. According to the treaty, Eastern rivers (Ravi, Sutlej, Beas) belongs to India and western rivers belong to Pakistan. (Indus, Jhelum and Chanab. Indus is a shared river. India can consume 10% of its water

and the rest belongs to Pakistan. For over six decades, the treaty survived three wars and political hostility. It is not just a treaty for Pakistan, but it is a lifeline. As the lower riparian state, Pakistan receives water from these western rivers. Pakistan is an agricultural country. Nearly 90% agricultural output relies on irrigation which mostly comes from these rivers. This treaty serves as a pillar for Pakistan's economy.

No armies with bomb and shellfire could devastate a land so thoroughly as Pakistan could be devastated by India's permanently shutting off water sources that

keep the field
and people of
Pakistan Green.

(David Lilienthal)

Given this critical importance, India recently held the treaty in abeyance after Pahalgam terrorist attack in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India blamed Pakistan for this attack without any reliable evidence and suspend the treaty. Such step directly threaten the Pakistan economy and International cooperation violated under which treaty was established.

Impacts on Pakistan

Pakistan already facing water scarcity issues and climate change, the abeyance of this treaty could have devastating effects on country stability.

1) Agriculture

Approximately 80% of Pakistan's cultivated land relies on Indus Basin irrigation. Reduced or controlled flow of river especially during Kharif (Summer) season threaten major crops like wheat, cotton and rice. This leads to food insecurity, lower yields, impact on rural people. Slow down GDP and intensify already existing inter-provincial disputes especially between Punjab and Sindh. Even small change in water timing can disrupt crop cycles and sowing pattern.

2) Energy - Power Crisis

Roughly 1/3rd of Pakistan's electricity generation depends on hydropower projects Tarbeela, Mangla and

and other reservoirs. Any disruption in water flow could directly reduced electricity generation capacity. These projects Mangla and Tarbeela are heavily dependent on western rivers. Stoppage of water worsens the Pakistan's energy shortage, and circular dept. Already water scarce status of country could have devastating effects on Industry and household power supplies.

3) Economic Instability

Pakistan is an agrarian country. A significant portion of agriculture contribute to GDP. If due to water shortage crisis occur, it will strain the country economy, raises inflation, heavy reliance on imports and social unrest.

4) Environmental degradation

Reduction in the flow of water does accelerate the environmental degradation of Indus river Delta, threatening coastal agriculture, biodiversity and mass displacement.

5) Diplomatic escalation

India's unilateral suspension of Indus Water Treaty has transformed into diplomatic escalation. It is unfair to like link water sharing resources with terrorism. Pakistan considered it "an act of war". Prime Minister Narendra Modi said "Blood and water cannot flow together". This narrow shift increase the risk of trust deficit and regional insecurity, undermining South Asia peace Structure.

6) Vulnerability and increased health risk

Halting of flood data sharing leaves Pakistan without timely warning making it vulnerable to flood and other catastrophic events. This disruption in vulnerability increase drought, reduce sanitation and raised health risk in affected areas.

Policy Measures

1) Engage the world Bank as treaty facilitator

World Bank play a crucial role in Indus water treaty. Pakistan should urge it to reaffirm the treaty validity and compliance on both sides. Pakistan should request the world bank to convene a neutral experts to examine India's abeyance and solve the issue lawfully.

2) Raised the issue at United Nation Security Council

Pakistan is non-permanent member of United Nation Security Council, Pakistan can use this platform to highlight the Indus water treaty suspension for regional peace. Pakistan should highlight the issue how India is violating and converting Pakistan right into water crisis.

3) Push for a resolution in United Nation General Assembly

Pakistan can table a resolution that condemn suspension of treaty under United Nation General Assembly. Such resolution would gather global support and isolate India diplomatically for violating human rights.

4) Request to International Court of Justice

Pakistan can request International court of Justice. These are not legally binding but carry significant moral authority. An opinion from ICJ ^{would} strengthen diplomatic position and pressure India to return to treaty.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, India to suspend Indus water treaty is not merely a dispute but geopolitical shift. This decision has devastating impacts on Pakistan's regional stability, energy, food, water issues and also increase the risk of escalation ~~be~~ between two armed neighbour countries.

Q.no. 3:

Introduction

Pakistan is entering a new period of climate instability leading to floods, Cloudburst and intense weather events. Among them, Floods are most devastating event in Pakistan threatening human life, Infrastructure and agriculture. The real cause of these floods are governance weaknesses, poor infrastructure, deforestation, unplanned urbanization and weak disaster management. The 2022 floods are the most vulnerable displaced 33 millions and thousands loss of life.

Reasons of repeated floods

There are following reasons of repeated floods.

1) Lack of governance

A lack of good governance is the cause of devastating floods repeated again and again. Despite of the disasters management authorities such as NDMA and PDMAs, their operation are not significantly active. Long term planning, allocation of inadequate budget and political instability demonstrate a governance failure that turn hazards into repeated hazards.

2) Deforestation

Deforestation is major contributor to intensify the rate of flood. Large scale cutting down of trees especially in northern areas has significantly reduced the capacity of earth to

absorb rain water. Forests play crucial role in stability environment and prevent soil erosion. The unchecked timber mafia, increased population have accelerated the environmental degradation.

3) Unplanned urbanization

A large population is shifted to urban areas for better facilities. The expansion of housing societies, commercial area and road network without proper management has block natural way of water flow. Local government authorities approve projects without proper assessments. As a result, it damage infrastructure. The 2025 flood in Lahore exposed this reality when housing schemes like park view city were affected due to construction over

natural water flow path.

4) Weak disaster management System

Although agencies like NDMA and PDMA are available but their outdated forecasting system and poor implementation halt early preparedness and response. Early warning systems are outdated which affect communities.

Policy measures

1) Strengthen early warning System

Pakistan should modernize its monitoring system to provide accurate information. Remote sensing, GIS should be use for monitoring. Information should be spread through alarms, mobile alerts and social media campaign for awareness.

2) Strengthen Infrastructure

Build dams, bridges and barrage to handle high flow flood. water reservoir should be made which are beneficial for irrigation purpose as well. Large capacity dam should built to store water. Pakistan should ~~built~~ complete project of Kalabagh and Diamer Bhasha Dam.

3) Planned Urbanization

Authorities NDMA and PDMA should assess the housing societies places before construction. Reforms should be adopted in cities for modern drainage system, and flood resilient infrastructure.

4) Reforming governance and accountability

Transparent governance and strict

accountability must be needed to prevent corruption and misuse of resource. Budget should be allocated to manage disasters. Flood management policies must be installed by environmental experts.