

Question no. 3

1. Introduction

Pakistan is repeatedly hit by devastating floods. They have caused both economic and human resource damage in the past. The major causes revolve around low prioritization in political narratives, weak institutional mechanisms to predict floods, and increased deforestation for commercial gains. However, the problem can be mitigated if appropriate institutional, structural and non-structural measures are taken. The following discussion would, hence, evaluate the causes and give appropriate suggestions to extricate Pakistan from the menace of repeated devastating floods.

Repeated Floods in Pakistan in recent years

Floods have been occurring repeatedly ~~vis-a-vis~~ in the past few years. The following diagram illustrates their types and incidences.

Incidents of Flood

2010

2022

2025

Flash floods

Slow Onset floods

Types of floods in Pakistan

GLOFs

Urban floods

Riverine floods

A Critical Evaluation of the reasons
of high incidence of floods

Political Narratives

Poor predictability

Land Use
Change

Reasons of
high incidence
of floods

Climate Change

Low Water
Storage

Timber Mafia

1. Poor Low significance of floods in political narratives

Political parties prioritise petty individualistic issues in contrast to significant national ones. The recent incorporation of disaster management in their respective manifestos is limited to paper. No practical implementation is seen.

2. Poor predictability by weather monitoring institutions

Pakistan Meteorological Department still relies on outdated machinery to predict floods. Its reluctance to operate on ~~an~~ newer and advanced technology including artificial intelligence has led to a poor predictability of the impact of floods.

3. Overlooking the impact of Climate Change

Climate Change is often overlooked in the national discourse. Despite contributing less than 1% to total carbon emissions, it is the most affected nation (Ali Tauqeer Shesht). These floods are a manifestation of climate change.

4. Role of timber mafia in rampant deforestation in the country's North

Deforestation contributes directly to floods. They forests act as a block to prevent the sudden overflow of rivers. However commercial activities by timber mafia results in its cutting. Consequently, with removed forest cover, flood incidence is increased.

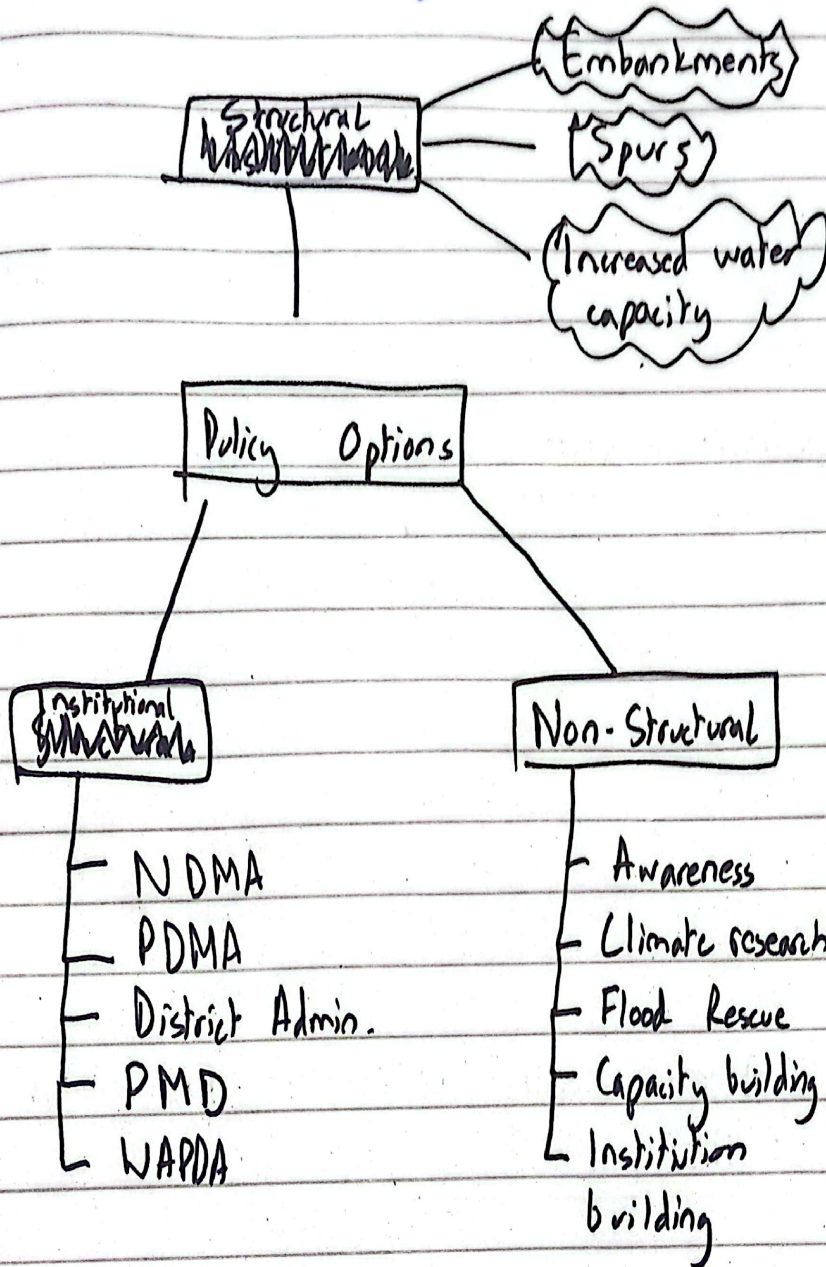
5. Role of land use change vis a vis private housing schemes

Similarly, massive deforestation is needed to plan private housing schemes. This is evident on the M-11 Motorway where numerous private societies have mushroomed after unprecedented levels of deforestation.

6. Low storage capacities secondary to interprovincial disputes

Since independence, Pakistan has managed to build only two massive dams Tarbela and Mangla. The increased flow floods over rivers and wreaks havoc for the locals.

4. Policy Options for the nation to mitigate the effects of devastating floods



1. Institutional building of flood management authorities; inter institutional response

An interinstitutional and collaborative effort is needed to augment our flood management. The district administration, army and disaster management authorities should work in unison for collective benefit.

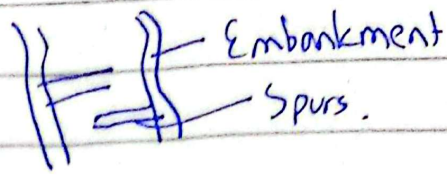
2. Improved flood awareness capability

Employing Artificial Intelligence, like in China, is essential to spread awareness. Utilizing social media platforms to create algorithms that approach all users in an area could significantly alleviate the flood damage.

3. Enhance capacity building of flood related authorities

Police ~~can~~ is not properly trained for flood rescue. Similarly other local law enforcement authorities need to develop a comprehensive plan for its potential members as rescuers.

4. Structural improvement of embankments and spurs



Spurs and embankments need to be carefully maintained. The provincial irrigation departments must be provided with allocated funds to do so.

5. Increase water storage capacity

An increase in number of dams and barrages is the need of the hour. Big dams require a lot of financial capital. However, small dams can be a good replacement. They must be constructed across the Indus basin.

6. Use of climate resilient infrastructure

The loss of 6,000 horses in 2025 floods indicates poor infrastructure. A climate resilient ~~fund~~ infrastructure for horses near potential flood areas is necessary to alleviate the suffering of the downtrodden.

7. Prioritise climate issues in the political narrative

Politicians need to prioritize the issue of climate change in their speeches. People can only be motivated to adopt climate friendly habits if their leaders indicate it.

5. Conclusion

To sum it up, the floods have wreaked havoc in Pakistan in recent years. Its causes include commercial activities that require deforestation and general lack of awareness with regards to climate change. However, with appropriate resource utilization, significant measures can be taken to mitigate its effects. These include institutional and capacity building, prioritising climate change and increasing the storage capacity of the country.



Question no. 1

1. Introduction

India has once again exposed its blatant disregard of International Law by unilaterally holding in abeyance of the Indus Waters Treaty. This treaty is quite significant for the economy of Pakistan and its economy. India cited very crude reasons to justify its actions. Regardless, its actions will have certain serious implications in Pakistan directly affecting the water scarce country. However certain measures like highlighting India's belligerence on the international forums and simultaneously building our inherent capacities are required to prevent India from further misadventures.

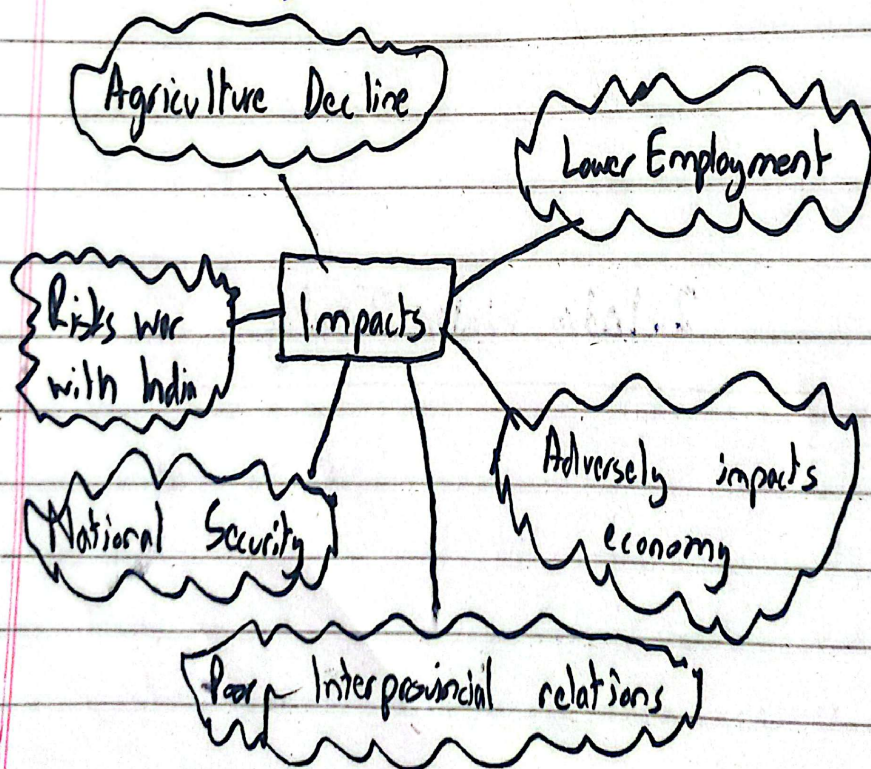
2. Indus Water Treaty

The treaty was arbitrated by the World Bank in 1960 to devise a water sharing formula between Pakistan and India. According to it, Pakistan received Jhelum, Chenab and Indus, whereas India was given access to Beas, Ravi and Sutlej. Sharing of data was mandated between both.

2. Why India unilaterally held IWT in abeyance

After the attack on Peshawar on 23rd April, India wrongfully accused Pakistan. Without any evidence it blamed Pakistan to have instigated this attack. Two days later, on 24th April, India unilaterally held the treaty in abeyance - something it could not do according to the Indus Water Treaty itself and the 1978 Geneva Convention on Law of Treaties.

3. Impacts of India's unilateral abeyance of IWT



a. Effect on Pakistan's agriculture

Agriculture contributes 24% to the GDP. This is dependent on the Indus river and its tributaries (80%). If India stops the water by constructing dams on Jhelum, Chenab, Indus, Pakistan's agriculture sector would be directly affected.

b. Loss in the country's employment sector

45% of the country's labour and 60% of women (South Asian Voices) are employed by Agriculture sector. Reduction in agriculture would directly affect their employment. Socioeconomic evils like crime might increase consequently.

c. Dent in the country's economy

Even a slight reduction in the tributaries of Indus will have a manifold effect on the agriculture. The nearly one-quarter of country's GDP will take a direct hit. Consequently, the country's economy could potentially go in a downward spiral.

d. Threat of increased interprovincial disunity

The already water scarce country is having issues in the federation's water share. Reduction in supply could weaken the country's provincial unity.

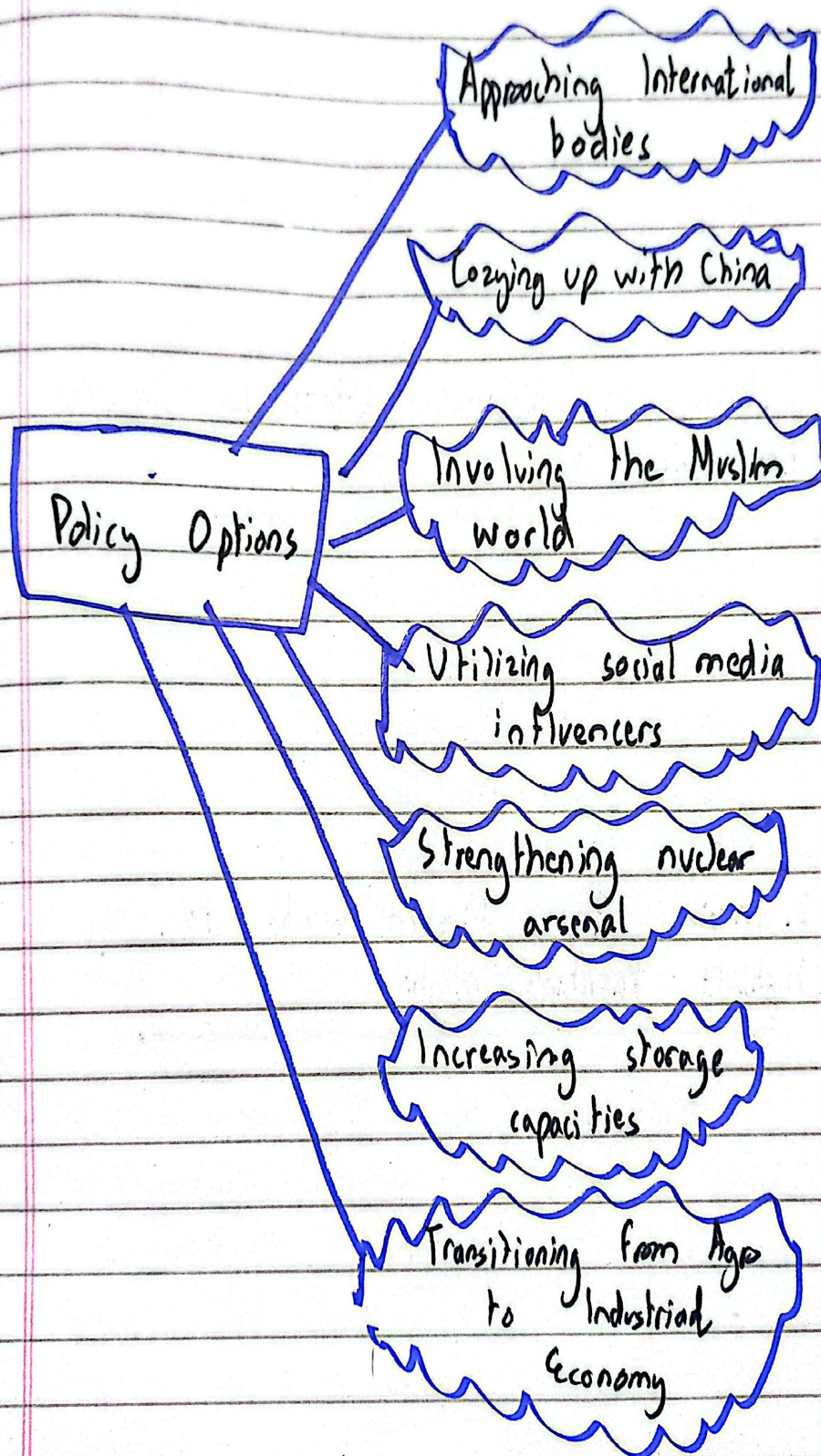
e. Security dilemma for Pakistan

With infighting among provinces, decreased economic activity, Pakistan would be put in a security dilemma with India. As a result, the security of Pakistan's borders would be compromised.

f. Risk of full fledged war with India

According to the nuclear doctrine of Pakistan, a stoppage of the country's water source would be deemed an act of war. Accordingly, Pakistan would be administratively prepared to take on India with a full blown war. Such a war would utilise both conventional and non-conventional weapons for deterrence.

4. Policy Options that Islamabad must adopt to stop India from violations



1. Approach International bodies to highlight India's belligerence

Islamabad must approach international bodies like World Bank, United Nations, ICJ to highlight India's belligerence. This would create global consciousness regarding India's hostility.

2. Engage in diplomatic efforts to strengthen ties with China

China and India are competing for regional hegemony. Pakistan must engage Beijing to strengthen its diplomatic arsenal. Strong posturing by Beijing against New Delhi would be a win for Pakistan.

3. Involve the Muslim world to highlight Pakistan's plight

Approaching the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is essential. Pakistan must rally the support of oil rich gulf in particular to dispel the Indian threat. Such a response would be seen as a win for Islamabad.

4. Engage Social Media influencers to spread message globally

In the digital age, social media influencers have millions of followers. Engaging them to make posts exposing India's hostility would spread Pakistan's narrative quickly and efficiently.

5. Strengthen nuclear ^{arsenal} ~~deterrence~~ to deter India from misadventures

Pakistan needs to strengthen its nuclear arsenal in both capacity and capability. Launching drills to demonstrate hard power would significantly deter India from any miscalculation.

6. Increase storage capacities to preserve water

Islamabad needs to rally domestic support to build more dams. It cannot rely on its water influx alone. Storage capacity must be increased.

7. Make gradual transition from agro to industrial economy

Islamabad needs to diversify its economy. Still a major chunk (24%) is dependent on Indus inflow. By becoming independent from this, Pak can enhance its industrial base.

5. Conclusion

To sum up the discussion, ~~the~~ New Delhi's unilateral holding in Abeyance of the Indus Water Treaty brings some immediate challenges for Islamabad. These include a potential decrease in water inflow, agriculture output, and economy of Pakistan. However ~~as~~ diplomatic and militaristic combined efforts like launching drills, strengthening the diplomatic arsenal, and increasing water storage capacities are likely to dampen the fallout of New Delhi's hostility.