

Q1

(1) Introduction: IWT in Abeyance, its impacts and policy options

Indus Water Treaty (IWT) has been one of the successful treaties of the world until recent India's unilateral suspension. It was signed in 1960 to distribute water between Pakistan and India. Until then it has survived three wars, border skirmishes, and diplomatic freezes. However, recently India unilaterally suspended the ~~the~~ treaty which can destabilize regional peace of South. Any act of diversion or stopping water flow can lead to emergency in Pakistan, or it may escalate war between both countries. Additionally, international power may also integrate in this conflict threatening global conflict. Hence, Pakistan should formally oppose unilateral suspension, enhance diplomatic efforts, build its internal climate resilience, and improve water storage capacity to sustain future shocks and conflicts.

(2) Background of IWT

In 1960, through the arbitration of World Bank (WB), it was signed between India and Pakistan. Indus Water Treaty (IWT) distributed eastern river (Ravi, Beas and

and Sutlej) to India and three western rivers (Indus, Chenab and Jhelum) to Pakistan. For future conflicts or disagreements, an Indus commission was also formed which would resolve disputes. However, after 2016 Uri Attack and 2019 Pulwama attack Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that **Blood and water can not flow together**, reflecting a rigid stance on the issue of water.

(3) Possible impacts of IWT Suspension after Pahalgam Attack

(a) Regional instability in South Asia

In May 2005, a terrorist attack in Pahalgam region of India killed 22 tourists and injured dozens. Without proper investigation India accused Pakistan for the attack and declared IWT suspension. The unilateral suspension can destabilize whole region of South Asia. India leveraging hydro-hegemony may get short-term benefits but in a long-run it get escalate into hydro-war. Nepal, Bangladesh and China are also effected. Hence, India's act of suspension of treaty can initiate a new ~~water~~ war of hydro-hegemony.

(b) Collapse of agro-economy of Pakistan

Pakistan's agricultural sustenance is in danger. Pakistan depends 70% of its agriculture on Indus water. Being an agrarian state, 23% of Pakistan's GDP and 38% of Pakistan's workforce depend upon agriculture. Additionally, energy, food security, and commercial use of water will also be affected. Hence, IWT held in abeyance can immensely impact economy of Pakistan, leading to national emergency in Pakistan.

(c) Pakistan called it as an "act of war"; chances of confrontation in future

As Pakistan's lifeline depends upon Indus water, hence it is very important for the country's survival. Due to this reason, Pakistan has called water diversion or stoppage as an "act of war." This illustrates possible negative consequences if India doesn't deviate from its rigid stance on IWT.

(d) Halting of data sharing can produce unexpected outcomes in Pakistan

According to International law, upper riparian countries are bound to share data regarding volume, speed and location of water flow. If India doesn't provide timely data, it can lead to unexpected changes, devastating floods in Pakistan. During low water level, it can produce draughts in Pakistan. Hence, possible impacts are huge floods and destruction of infrastructure, agricultural crop in Pakistan.

(e) Flooding in India itself due to large amount of water

If India stores or diverts such large amount of water, it can lead to devastating floods in India itself. Hence, Additionally, Nepal and Bangladesh will be impacted because they also receive water from similar tributaries.

(f) Involvement of International powers in the hydro-politics

Currently, World Bank is working as a neutral arbitrator in this dilemma.

In case of conflict, it can integrate United Nations (UN), United States, China and

other international organizations. It can lead to confrontation of global powers and undermine peace in the region.

(4) Policy Options for Pakistan to stop India from violations

(a) Formal condemnation and confrontation through neutral arbitrators; Pakistan must seek support of neutral arbitrators like world Bank, and United Nations to confront India legally. Pakistan should legally hold India accountable for its violation of international law.

(b) Enhance diplomatic efforts at various international platforms

Pakistan must continue its efforts of diplomatic engagement with various countries and highlight India's violation. It should leverage platforms such as SCO, UN, UNSC, BRICS and OIC to isolate India diplomatically regarding the concerned issue.

(c) Invest in climate resilience

Islamabad should strengthen its climate sustainability. The government must leverage climate funds, modernize agriculture, increase water storage capabilities, and improve drainage system. It should invest in infrastructure to reduce water wastage and sustain climate shocks in the future.

(d) Integrate climate issue into National security policy

In addition to diplomatic isolation of India, Pakistan must realize climate issue as a real threat. Islamabad should include this issue into its National security policy. It should take measures, such as building infrastructure, raising awareness, and enhancing capacity of Pakistan to face impending challenges of floods and draughts.

(e) Diversify economic and energy dependence to escape shocks of climate

Pakistan must diversify its dependency from one or two raw materials of agriculture or hydro-electricity dependency. It should transform into export-driven

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economy. Pakistan must increase value based exports, enhance human development, prioritize education, and seek different sources to sustain climate shocks. Additionally, the country should leverage renewable energy sources. In this way, Pakistan can ensure secure its economic stability in future.

(5) Conclusion

To conclude, IWT and its suspension was a shock for Pakistan as well as global powers. The unilateral suspension has negative consequences for security, regional stability, and Pakistan's economy. To counter this, Pakistan must make diplomatic efforts to isolate India. Islamabad should seek support of neutral arbitrators. Likewise, it should build internal resilience, invest in infrastructure and technology to sustain impending future threats successfully.

Question 3

(1) Introduction; Floods in Pakistan, Reasons and policy options.

Pakistan is one of the top climate vulnerable countries despite its minimum contribution in global emissions. The main reasons behind frequent floods are climate change and environmental degradation. In addition to this, weak institutions, corruption, lack of cooperation of disaster-related institutions amplify the impact. The policy options include climate forecasting, strengthening early warning systems, build climate resilient infrastructure, and adopt environmental restoration mechanisms. In this way, Pakistan can mitigate flood effects in the country.

(2) History of frequent floods in Pakistan

Pakistan is prone to natural disaster. There is a history of repeated floods in the country in 2010, 2022, and in 2025. These floods destroyed huge infrastructure including bridges, roads and buildings.

Additionally, they affected economy, threatened food security and ~~also~~ claimed lives of thousands of people and livestock. The possible reasons behind devastating floods are discussed below.

(3) Reasons of Frequent floods in Pakistan

(a) Climate change and extreme weather events; Due to industrial revolution and heavy increase in global emission, climate change is a reality now. The world is facing extreme weather, heatwaves, erratic rain patterns and glacial melting. Due to high temperatures, humidity, water evaporation also increase, leading to rainfalls. Hence, climate change is one of the main reasons of frequent floods in Pakistan.

(b) Glacier melting and glacial lake outburst; From Hindukash, Karakoram and Himalaya, Pakistan is blessed with natural glaciers. Due to global warming, these glaciers are melting quickly. During summer, glaciers melt at very high speed leading to glacial lake outbursts. ~~These~~

Therefore, heavy rainfalls and glacial lake outburst combinely produce devastating floods in Pakistan.

(c) Environmental degradation due to human activities

Human activities such as deforestation, rapid industrialization, and population explosion produce environmental pollution. Massive deforestation by timber mafias in Pakistan is common. According to global forest watch report, 40 million hectares have been deforested since last decade in Pakistan. Hence, due to these activities, impacts of climate change amplify, exposing Pakistan to devastating floods.

(d) Encroachments on riverbeds, hindering the natural flow of water

; In 2025, incidents of urban flooding seemed more common. It is due to riverbed encroachments, permanent buildings and societies on riverbeds. Whenever water level rises, water flows into these riverbeds, leading to flash floods.

(e) Poor Preparedness of climate

related authorities, enhancing vulnerability towards losses

In Pakistan, National disaster management authority (NDMA) and provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) mainly deals with disaster management. These institutions along with local bodies work only for relief and rescue operations and ~~com~~ less focus on preparedness and pre-actve engagement. Additionally, these institutions work fragmentally that reduces their capacity. Weak institutional capability further expose Pakistan to devastating floods frequently.

(4) Policy options to mitigate and adapt to the devastating floods in Pakistan

(a) Climate forecasting and preparedness to reduce affects of floods

The government should strengthen early warning systems using satellite imageries, coordination mechanisms, and raising awareness among communities. In addition to forecasting, the country should adopt a pro-active approach, such as enhancing capacity development, training workforce,

timely evacuations, from flood-hit areas, and building infrastructure. Through these measures the country can successfully reduce effects of frequent floods in Pakistan.

(b) Building climate resilient infrastructure in the country

As^{the} country is prone to frequent natural disasters, Islamabad should invest in climate-resilient infrastructure. ~~the~~ It should leverage disaster funds, build small and medium dams and build natural water reservoirs. In addition to this permeable surfaces and wetlands also help to reduce flood impacts. The country should modernize drainage system and invest in technology to improve forecasting. In this way, the nation can protect itself ~~for~~ from devastating floods in Pakistan.

(c) Reforestation and Afforestation to restore climate impacts

Pakistan must initiate reforestation campaigns such as Billion tree Tsunami introduced in previous years. Through reforestation, the country can restore climate change. Additionally, forests act as

as natural buffers that reduce huge water flow. Subsequently, decreasing floods in Pakistan.

(d) Control of corruption and enhance accountability mechanisms

As timber mafias^{and} business elites ~~and~~ forest are responsible for huge deforestation or illegal encroachments. Due to these activities, hundreds of people lose their lives. Hence, Pakistan should adopt a more vigilant policy, strengthen oversight of forest department, and gradually control encroachments. Transparency and accountability will reduce the illegal acts and help in building of sustainable nation. Waterways flow in their natural pathways preventing flash floods in Pakistan.

(5) Conclusion

To sum up, the reasons of devastating floods in Pakistan are massive deforestation, climate change, environmental degradation, and ill-preparedness of climate-related institutions. Climate change is a reality but weak institutions amplify devastations. To counter these floods, the nation must follow pragmatic policies, such as enhancing

accountability mechanisms to reduce corruption and illicit activities. the government must strengthen institutions & the national, provincial and local bodies must work in coordination to improve public service delivery. Additionally, reforestation and climate-resilient infrastructure can reduce impacts of devastating floods in Pakistan.

