

Test #1

Question # 1

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

1- Introduction

Indus Water Treaty (IWT)

stands as one of the landmark treaties on shared water in the history of international relations. In fact, the former US President Dwight described IWT as "It is a bright spot... in a very depressing world picture." However, with India's hegemonic attitude, it has held IWT in abeyance after a recent Pahalgam attack in April 2025. The abeyance of the treaty has posed a significant impacts for Pakistan. The impacts include: high agricultural economy loss, potential of war between India and Pakistan, risk of excessive flooding and droughts, and surge in water scarcity. Keeping in view these profound impacts, Islamabad is required to take various policy options to avert this violation of IWT by India. The policy options for Pakistan are that it can take legal actions, like concerning World Bank

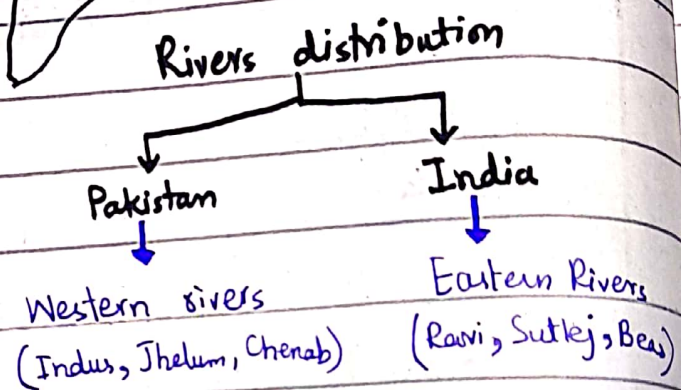
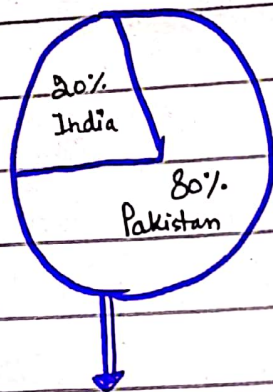
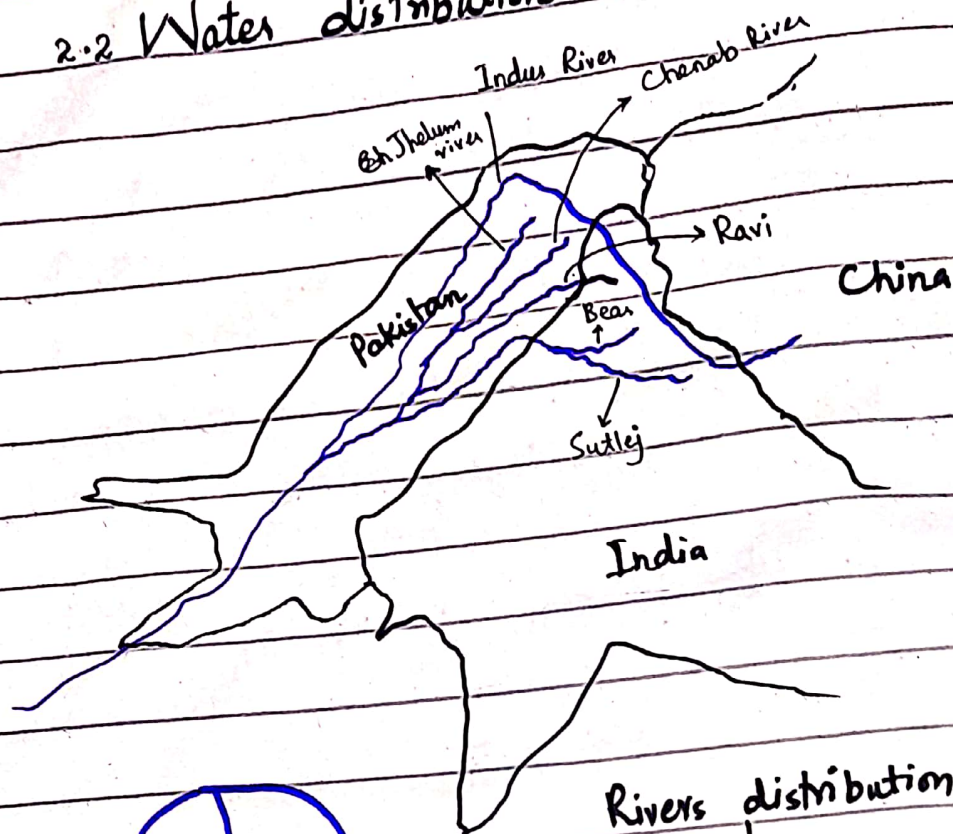
and UNSC. Moreover, it can also take diplomatic policy actions, including involving third party mediators, revisiting the treaty dialogue, and update the treaty as per climate vulnerabilities. Thus, unilateral abeyance of GWT posed profound impacts; therefore, taking timely actions can save Islamabad from its future consequences.

2) A Brief overview of GWT

2.1) Origin of GWT

1947 Partition of India	→ Partition divided the Indus Water System. The headworks came under Indian control, while river flowing in Pakistan.
1948 Canal Water dispute	→ India cut off Pakistan's water from Ferozpur Headwork.
1951 World Bank offered dispute resolution	→ The then President of the World Bank offered to resolve the dispute, which took him to finally settle the negotiation in 1960.
19 th Sep, 1960 Signing of IWT	Pakistani President Ayub Khan and Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru signed GWT in 1960 in Karachi.

2.2 Water distribution under JWT



Under this distribution, India can use 20% water from Indus River, and from western rivers, it can use water only for non-consumption purposes, like, fishing, irrigation, and Power generation.

3) Impacts of suspension of IWT on Pakistan

3.1) Heavy loss in agricultural economy

To begin with, any disruption in water flow due to abeyance of IWT can cause significant agricultural economy loss to Pakistan. For example, 90% of ~~population~~ agriculture in Pakistan is dependent on Indus River, and it has labour force of more than 50 per cent of population. So, due to less water flow, it can effect crop production and decrease crop yields, thereby inflicting huge agricultural economy loss for Pakistan.

3.2) Risk of excessive flooding and droughts

Moreover, due to abeyance of IWT, Indian has refused for cooperation and data exchange. Ultimately, the huge water coming from upper riparian, India can cause significant flooding due to no prior warning system.

Such as, India has not warned Pakistan about increasing flow in Ravi river in 2025 floods.

Other than that, diverting the flow of water through dam construction can cause drought like conditions in Pakistan.

3.3) Pushing Pakistan and India to the brink of War

Furthermore, the impact of GWT abeyance in the form of war between India and Pakistan can not be overshadowed. In this regard, Pakistani PM Shebaz Sharif said,

"Any misadventure with waters of Pakistan would be considered an act of war from India."

Hence, this statement glaringly underscores the potential of war between India and Pakistan due to GWT.

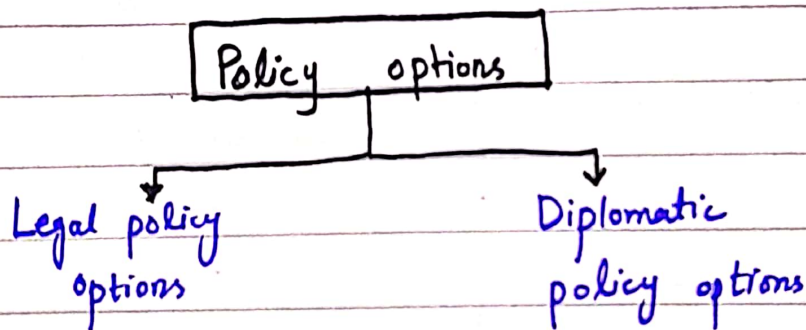
3.4) Surge in water scarcity

In addition, the abeyance of GWT can surge water scarcity further in Pakistan. Unfortunately, Pakistan is already 3rd water scarce country and diversion or disruption of water flow owing to abeyance of GWT can further aggravate the already depressing state of water scarcity.

3.5, Increase in food insecurity

Last but not least, due to abeyance of GWT, India can do misadventure with the waters of western rivers, which will ultimately decrease water flow to Pakistan in peak cropping season, thereby declining agriculture produce and leading to food insecurity.

4, Pragmatic policy options for Islamabad to avert the violation of INT



4.1, Legal policy options

a) Approach the World Bank as guarantor of GWT

First, Islamabad must approach the World Bank to facilitate it in violation of GWT rules due to initial guarantor role of the World Bank. Thus, World Bank will provide

neutral expert, providing a way forward to resolve the dispute.

b) Knock the UNSC platform

Next, as per UNSC P5 countries statement stating, "Any violation disrupting peace could be intervened by UNSC." Keeping in view this statement, Pakistan can present its case to P5 of UNSC and request for holding India accountable for unilateral abeyance of GWT.

c) Refer matter to Permanent Court of Arbitration

As per ARSIWA of Permanent Court of Arbitration Article #30 stating unilateral disruption or violation or wrongful act. So, Pakistan through its legal expertise bring India to Permanent Court of arbitration and stop the violation of GWT.

4.2) Diplomatic policy options

a) Involvement of Third-Party mediator
To stop India from violating

GWT, Pakistan can involve third party like, China or the USA, to initiate mediation between both the states and resolve ^{the} matter through negotiations and dialogue.

b) Renew bilateral dialogue

Moreover, Pakistan can renew bilateral dialogue with India through diplomacy and negotiation. So, in this manner the violation of GWT can be stopped.

c) Update the treaty as per climate vulnerability

Lastly, Pakistan can sit on a table with India to in order to update the treaty and consider the menace of climate vulnerability in it.

5, Conclusion

Summing up the discussion, the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 between India and Pakistan has remained a longstanding international agreement. However, due to Pahalgam Attack in India, India held this treaty in abeyance. Apprehensively, the abeyance of this treaty can

cause drastic impacts on Pakistan, including increasing flooding, surging food insecurity, and pushing India and Pakistan towards war. Therefore, it is need of the hour that Islamabad take some policy options, such as legal and diplomatic policy options, to avert the violation of the JMT and halt its potential impacts on Pakistan in future.

Question #3

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

1- Introduction

The history of Pakistan is replete with devastating floods, destroying it economically, socially, and infrastructure. From 2010 to 2022 and 2025, the alarming situation of repeated drastic floods, clearly underscore Pakistan's non-serious approach towards tackling the issues. There are multiple reasons due

to which Pakistan is repeatedly hit by the devastating floods. The major reasons include the menace of climate change, lack of policy implementation, absence of advanced infrastructure, and geographic location of Pakistan. However, every problem comes with a solution. So, Pakistan can hinder these devastating floods by modernizing the infrastructure, tackling the climate change through adaptation and mitigation, and enhancing community engagement and awareness.

2- Appraisal of current destruction caused by 2025 floods

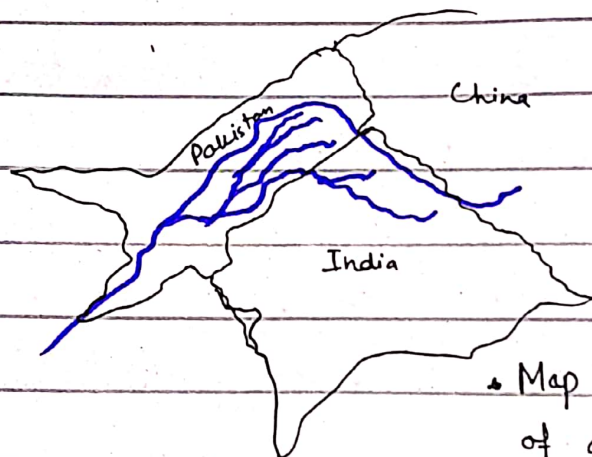
As per report of Preliminary Assessment of Flood Damage 2025,

- \$2.9 billion economic loss
- 1,039 deaths
- 4 millions people displaced
- affected 70 districts

3) Understanding reasons behind devastating floods of Pakistan

3.1) Geographical location of Pakistan

First, the geographical location of Pakistan, albeit its various significance, has become bone for Pakistan. Pakistan is a lower-riparian state due to which the excessive water of upper riparians during monsoon & heavy rainfall become prime reason of inundation of Pakistan.



* Map showing water flowing of all rivers of upper riparian to lower riparian, Pakistan

3.2) The menace of climate change

Next, Pakistan is also the most vulnerable country to climate change. Due to climate change, events like cloud burst and high glaciers melting cause destruction floods in

Pakistan:

For example, 2025 Flood in Buner, KPK due to cloud burst is glaring example of it.

3.3, Inadequate and flawed infrastructure

Moreover, the infrastructure of water management like dams and barrages is very flawed and colonial. Due to siltation, the storage capacity in dams and barrage has decreased, thereby heavy rainfall turns into flood and cause destruction.

For instance, as per the World Bank report, the water storage capacity of Pakistan is only 9 percent of ^{average} annual water flow, while global storage capacity is 46 percent.

3.4, Lack of policy implementation

Another significant reason behind devastating floods in Pakistan is lack of policy implementation. Despite having multiple policies, its implementation is still unfulfilled.

Tauqeer Sheikh, a renowned Climate Expert, says, "The policy regarding flood management in Pakistan is only limited to paper, showcasing its lack of implementation."

So, due to policy implementation, the relevant institutions can not take steps to stop the repeated floods and its destruction.

3.5, Weakness of water management institutions

Lastly, the water management institutions, like PDMA and NDMA, are weak due to low financial support and training from the government. So, due to their weakness, the initially low level of floods take devastating shape and cause huge destruction.

4, Policy recommendations for Pakistan to tackle the devastating floods

4.1, Modernization of infrastructure

To begin with, Pakistan can modernize the infrastructure to tackle the crisis of repeated floods. For example, regular desilting of dams and

barrages can prove beneficial. Moreover, installing AI-driven gates on barrage and warning system as per forecasting of floods. So, by such way, the issue of floods can be gauged.

4.2) Implementation of policy in letter and true spirits

Next, the robust and effective implementation of policies related to disaster management can save Pakistan from repeated floods. The strong political will in this regard will significantly help policy implementation.

4.3) Strengthening institutions

In addition, by strengthening institution related to disaster management can help the country to hinder repeated floods. The strengthen institutions would take early steps to stop the flood, ultimately reducing its impacts.

4.4) Enhancing community engagement and awareness

Besides, the government can

also take initiatives for enhancing community engagement and spreading awareness among people related to search and rescue operations. Moreover, community engagement can also take significant measures before floods and decrease its impacts.

Such as, the Japan government included various disaster management courses in curriculum to enhance community engagement and awareness.

So, Pakistan can also follow the footprint of Japan and avert the devastating floods.

4.5, Addressing Transboundary water issues with India

Lastly, Pakistan can also take policy of addressing transboundary issues with India. It is due to as a lower-riparian, Pakistan significantly get affected by floods, and India's GWT violation include not informing Pakistan about the rising water flow. So, peaceful dialogue and negotiation for addressing transboundary issues with India would save it from devastating floods.

5, Conclusion

To conclude, the floods in Pakistan has taken a disastrous shape for years. It does not happen instantly. There are many reasons that made Pakistan prone to devastating floods. These reason including geographical location of Pakistan and increasing climate change. Nevertheless, some policy recommendations, like effective implementation of policies and strengthening relevant institutions, will resolve the issue. Thus, in this way, Pakistan can hinder the menace of devastating floods.

