

3. India unilaterally suspended IWT in abeyance (Quote)
4. Impacts of suspension of IWT

DATE: _____

M T W T F S

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

1: INTRODUCTION:

"Thousands have lived without love
but none without water"
(- W.H. Auden)

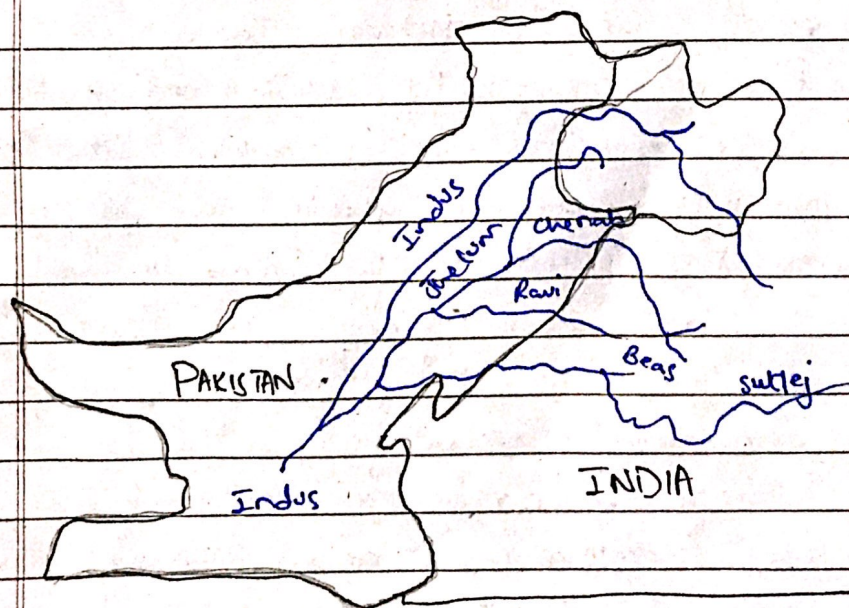
On April 22, 2025, an attack on tourists in Pahalgam, located in the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), caused significant casualties and exacerbated the deep-rooted tensions between India and Pakistan. Consequently, India unilaterally suspended the IWT, creating water insecurity, worsening floods and disturbing irrigation system which ultimately leads to food crisis. However, the issue can be mitigated through diplomatic engagement, strategic water storage, groundwater management, legal preparedness, and introducing efficient irrigation systems.

DATE: _____

2: INDUS WATER TREATY (1960):

In 1960, with the mediation of World Bank, the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) was concluded between Pakistan and India and signed in 1962. Under this treaty the rivers of the Indus Basin were distributed between the two countries.

In the spirit of the treaty, the exclusive rights of the three Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej) was given to India, whereas the three Western Rivers (Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus) were granted to Pakistan.



Division of Western And Eastern Rivers.

3: UNILATERAL SUSPENSION OF IWT BY INDIA: AFTER PAHALGAM ATTACK:

The former World Bank Vice President Dr Ismail Serageldin has predicted that in the "20th century, countries fought wars on oil but now in the 21st Century, water would be the main cause of war." As predicted, water has become the bone of contention between Pakistan and India. In a dramatic escalation following the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 civilians were killed, the Indian decided to suspend the 1960 Indus Water Treaty. In response, Pakistan warned that any ^{Indian} attempt to divert water meant for Pakistan would be treated as an "Act of War".

4: IMPACTS OF SUSPENSION OF IWT

India's unlawful move to hold IWT in abeyance has various implications on Pakistan such as.

(a) Faltering Agriculture Sector and Decline in Food Production:

DATE: _____

M T W T F S

The agriculture sector of Pakistan is dependent on the Indus River system for irrigation. Agriculture contributes 23% of Pakistan's GDP and employs over 38% of the national labour force. Unfortunately, the suspension of IWT falters the agriculture sector which ultimately causes decline in food production as crops such as wheat, rice and sugarcane, rely on sufficient water availability.

(b) Heightening Bilateral Tension and disturbing Regional Stability:

Water has become an instrument of geopolitical leverage in the conflict between the two nuclear states. India's suspension of IWT further intensified the situation, and it could escalate into a full-blown crisis and further wars over shared waters.

As a result, it deteriorates the stability of the whole region.

(c) Flooding caused by controlled water releases.

Sudden water releases from the

DATE: _____

M T W T F S

Indian-controlled dams can flood downstream areas, as witnessed in the aftermath of the IWT suspension, when India deliberately released water in the Jhelum River, resulting in the water overflow in many areas.

(d) Halting Data Sharing sabotage preparedness for natural disasters:

The discontinuation of hydrological data exchange undermines Pakistan's ability to manage its water resources and preparedness for natural disasters. As seen in the recent 2025 monsoon season, a large number of casualties and infrastructure damages were caused due to floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Pakistan's Planning Minister, Ahsan Iqbal stated that if the treaty was still in operation, they could have mitigated the impact of ^{the} floods.

5: POLICY OPTION FOR ISLAMABAD TO STOP INDIA FROM VIOLATIONS:

(a) Diplomatic Engagement:

Urgently engage international mediators such as the World Bank,

DATE: _____

M T W T F S

UN bodies, or friendly countries to reinstate the IWT. Diplomatic efforts, such as the recent visit of Pakistan's delegation, led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, to the USA and Europe, should continue to counter India's narrative on global level.

(b) Invoke the Dispute Resolution Mechanism Provided under the IWT:

Pakistan can frame the issue as a legal dispute under Article IX of the IWT and initiate proceedings before a CoA, empanelled by WB. Taking this route would not only demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to resolving issues within the Treaty mandated framework but also stop India from violation.

(c) Internationalize the issue through the United Nation Security Council:

Pakistan can escalate the issue to the UNSC by framing India's actions as a potential threat to international peace and an act of aggression. This can

DATE: _____

M T W T F S

deter India from violation.

(d) Mobilize Diplomatic Support through Bilateral and Multilateral Channels:

Engagement with key allies such as Turkey and China, as well as multilateral organizations like the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), can help Pakistan build diplomatic pressure on India, stopping it from violation.

(e) Prepare a legal White Paper on Treaty Violations:

Pakistan should develop a comprehensive legal white paper outlining India's actions, documenting violations of the IWT, and analyzing potential breaches under international law. This white paper can serve as both a domestic reference and a tool for international advocacy and litigation.

DATE: _____

M T W T F S

6: CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, following a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, India unilaterally held IWT in abeyance, causing severe impacts on Pakistan's agricultural sector, water security and worsening the deluges - which primarily caused by climate change. To mitigate these challenges, Islamabad must engage the WB, UN bodies and ally countries to stop India from further violation.