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Test Series Batch-Online-1

Current Affairs Test-1

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 violations.

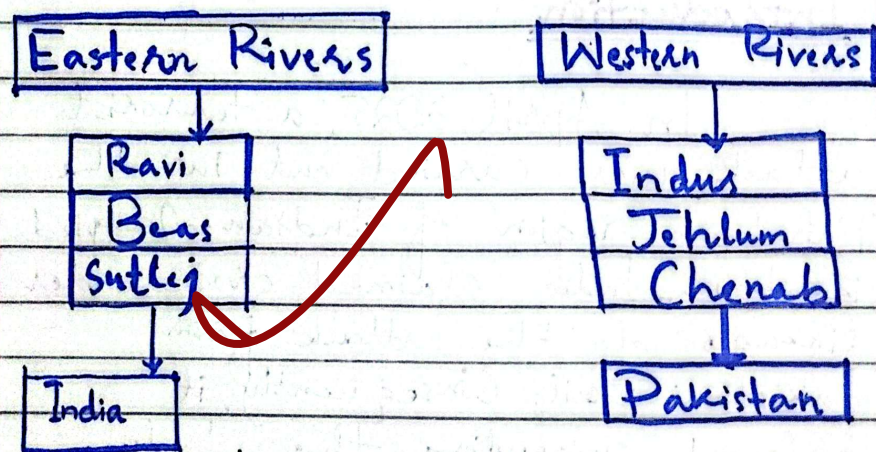
I. Introduction

In April, 2025, a terrorist attack was carried out in the Pahalgam region of Indian-Occupied-Kashmir. India claimed cross-border linkages of the attack from Pakistani soil. Consequently, it declared suspending the Indus Waters Treaty. This greatly enraged Islamabad and strained the bilateral ties between Pakistan and India. It culminated in military escalations as India carried out airstrikes. The suspension of the treaty and immense repercussions

for the two countries and the region at large.

II. Overview of Indus Waters Treaty

The treaty was signed between India and Pakistan on 19 September 1960. The treaty distributed water resources of the Indus River System between Pakistan and India. The Eastern rivers were allocated to India whereas, the Western rivers ~~to~~ were allocated to Pakistan, with limited use of the western rivers for non-consumptive uses to India.



III. Impacts of the Suspension of Indus Waters Treaty by India

A. Pakistan's Immediate Response

After a meeting of the National Security Committee, Islamabad

vehemently opposed India's provocative suspension of the treaty. It declared that any attempt to stop the flow of water shall be considered an act of war and shall be responded with full force. Islamabad also closed Wagah border, its airspace to Indian flights, and held in ~~abeyance~~ all the treaties including Simla Agreement 1972.

B. Created Apprehensions of Water Disruption by India

Suspension of the treaty deepened Pakistan's fears of water disruption by India. This enhanced a sense of water insecurity as Pakistan relies on the Indus River System for not only domestic and industrial uses but also agricultural and hydropower production. Hence, water insecurity grew immensely.

C. Strained Bilateral Ties

Ties between Islamabad and New Delhi were aggravated to new levels as Indus Waters Treaty was the only aspect of their

relations which had endured ~~se~~ and survived all bilateral tensions including wars. Suspension of the treaty worsened the relations in unprecedented ways.

D. Securitization of Water

India used once again ~~its tool of water resource~~ as security instrument to intimidate Pakistan. In 2016, Narendra Modi had declared:

"Blood and water can not flow together."

E. Rising Political Polarization in the Region

The suspension of the treaty and the worsening of the relations significantly destabilized the region of South Asia by creating fears of military escalation. The region witnessed significant instability as the two nuclear-armed states ~~weapons~~ were brought to the brink of an all-out war.

IV. Policy Options for Pakistan

to Stop India from Violations

A. Legal Aspects

Pakistan can resort to the legal aspects which clearly go against India's provocative and unilateral suspension of the treaty

i) Article XII (3) of the Indus Waters Treaty

It clearly states that the treaty can only be modified by mutual consent

ii) Vienna Convention on the Law of the Treaties (1969)

Article 26 of the convention states that all treaties must be followed in good faith

Article 57 states that a treaty can only be suspended by mutual agreement of all parties involved and as per the rules of the treaty signed upon.

Hence, all the legal aspects advocate in favor of Pakistan which it can resort to to stop India from further violations.

B. International Court of Arbitration

Pakistan can also refer the case to the International Court of Arbitration for settlement of the dispute and hold India liable for its provocation and violation of the treaty.

C. Immediate Diplomatic Engagements with India

Diplomatic channels should be opened for bilateral negotiations with the help of a neutral third country such as Qatar. Diplomatic talks must be held more often for resolving the issue.

It should keep the water issue outside the scope of security concerns between the two states.

D. Leveraging Regional Organizations

Pakistan can raise the issue at significant regional organizations such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). These multilateral platforms

must be leveraged to pressure India into reconsidering its violations of the treaty.

V. Conclusion:

To sum up, Indus Waters Treaty governs the sharing of water resources between Pakistan and India. Suspension of the treaty by India in April, 2025, has led to significant repercussions for the two countries and the region at large. The bilateral relations between India and Pakistan have become more strained than ever. It has created uncertainty with respect to Pakistan's water security and accelerated political polarization in the region. Resorting to legal aspects of the issue, the International Court of Arbitration, and leveraging regional organizations can help stop India from violations.