

CSS 2026 (OCT 2025)G.K.II (LA) TEST-1

Q1 INDIA'S UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL; IMPACTS ; POLICY OPTIONS FOR PAKISTAN

(I) Introduction

Owing to the incident in Phalgam in 2025 and its subsequent escalation, India unilaterally suspended the Indus Water Treaty. Despite its prior insulation from political escalation, the treaty was subjected to change. As a result, causing significant impacts on both countries at a domestic level, and consequent effects at an international level. To counter India's hostile stance, Pakistan must undertake a multi-level policy approach, if it wishes to stop India from violations.

(II) Treaty's Abeyance: Impacts On An International Level

(A) Provides Hegemon Upper Riparian States With Precedent

India unilateral withdrawal has ^{also allowed} provided other upper riparian states like Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Turkey to also follow in its footsteps. As a ~~result~~, endangering the rights of all lower riparian states

(B) Erodes the Basis For Future Treaties and Settlement

India's erratic withdrawal ~~case~~ has raised great trust concerns for not only Pakistan but all other countries facing the plight of a strong and adventurous neighbour. It underscores a lack of faith in the multilateralism, and highlights strong men politics; eroding the basis for a future treaty

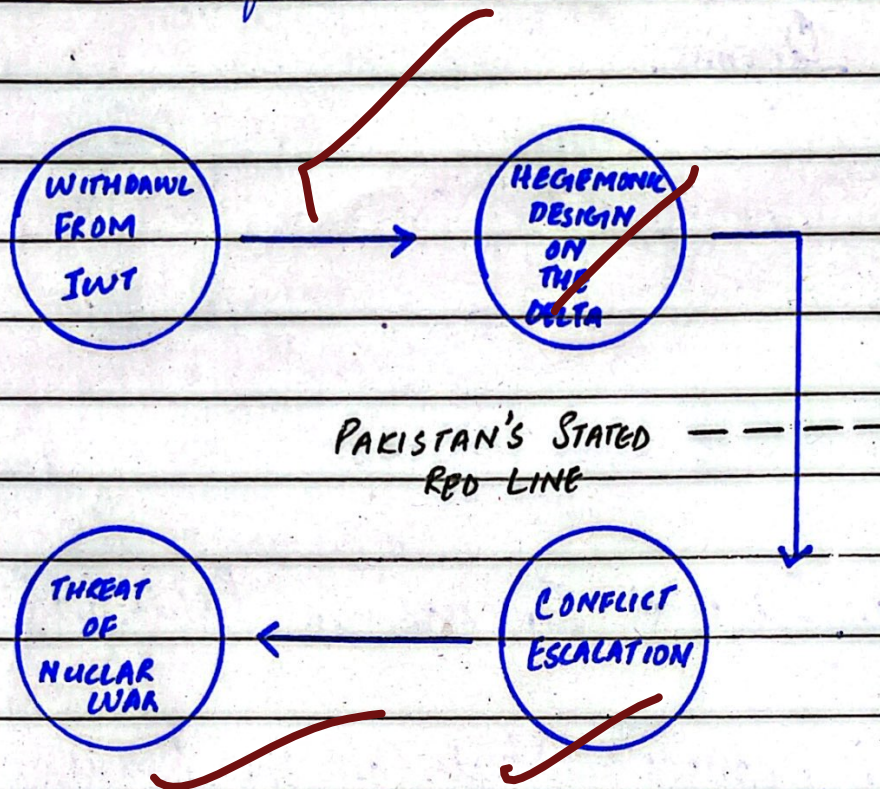
(C) Further Escalation of the Indo-Pak Conflict

India's sporadic withdrawal and its

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hegemonic plans on the Indus delta will inevitably cause a further escalation in its conflict with Pakistan.



(D) Environmental Destruction

Altering the natural flow of the water would have immense water environmental repercussions. Both Pakistan and India, in addition to the entire South Asia region would have to face these consequences.

FLOODING	Eco-system Loss	Land Degradation
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(III) Abeysance of Treaty: Domestic Effects

(A) Reinforcement of Indian Populist Regime

Strong men like Modi and his populist style politics are empowered by actions against Pakistan. Subsequently, hampering any future chances of deescalation as well.

(B) Internal Impacts on Pakistan

(i) Economic Strain on the Country

Pakistan is heavily dependent on the water from Indus and its tributaries.

1/3 RD
OF
EMPLOYMENT

20%
GDP

a. agricultural stress:

The agricultural sector is a core source of employment and export. Any threat to

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b. Livelihood ~~Damaged~~:

c. Weakening of industrial capacity:

DAIRY,
FOOD,
COTTON

CARS,
MACHINES,
MILITARY
EQUIPMENT

LOW VALUE

HIGH VALUE

ADDED

ADDED

DEPENDENT ON WATER

d. diminishing of export; financial constraint:

Many of Pakistan's exports, like cotton, sugar, and rice, are dependent on water from the Indus. Any threat to water can directly cause financial constraint in Pakistan.

(ii) Energy Crisis

Pakistan generates significant energy through hydel. Threat to water can result in the intensification of the energy crisis.

(iii) Food Insecurity

Pakistan can experience high food security and massive inflation.

(IV) Policy Options For Pakistan

(A) Approach the World Bank

Pakistan must approach the World Bank

for the settlement of the dispute. There is No Clause Which Allows Unilateral Withdrawal. Hence, Pakistan should insist the World Bank on enforcing this side.

(B) Organise a Unified Platform for Other Compromised Countries; Collective Diplomacy

Pakistan should organise a platform for all other lower riparian aggrieved countries, and dictate frame it as a collective issue.

c) Utilise Diplomatic Channels and Multilateral Forums

Pakistan must highlight this issue in the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Countries, the Commonwealth, and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. All diplomatic channels should be utilised to

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(D) Integrate China in Mediation and Counterbalance

China is the upper riparian to India, therefore possess the maximum leverage in this equation. Pakistan can counter-balance how? Indian aggression with Chinese aggression.

(v) Conclusion

In summary, India's unilateral withdrawal has posed significant threat to not only the region but also to the entire global system. As a result, producing devastating impacts - with some already manifested and others yet to be realised. Therefore it is vital that Pakistan undertake a series of policies to actively counteract Indian violations for collective security.

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Q2 PAKISTAN AND FLOODS: REASONS; POLICY OPTIONS

(I) Introduction

Pakistan has been a repeated victim of floods. Although flooding is common throughout the world, Pakistan's internal mismanagement is the core cause for its widespread devastating effects.

Owing to myriad of reasons, but entailing political, economical, social and technological domains, urgent policy measures — holistic and comprehensive — are required to mitigate the ^{perpetual} crisis.

(II) Multidimensional Causes For Devastating Floods

(A) Lackluster Long-term Policies

Policy failure, due to lacking longevity and effectiveness, is arguably to core reasons for devastating floods. Despite

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Pakistan being the target of multiple flood related catastrophes, no long-term policy has been envisaged.

(B) Accountability Failure and Corruption

The failure of accountability institutions on the matter of illegal construction licences, and real estate monopolies is widely documented. Sanctions granted to land mafia which provide expensive housing in flood related areas - blocking natural water pathways - is a major cause of devastation.

(C) Rapid and Haphazard Urbanization

Unprecedented ^{and} ~~but~~ unplanned urbanisation has led to housing societies at every junction. This not only leads to blockage of flood water but also causes grave issues in search and rescue operations.

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(D) Lacking a Macro-level Climate Framework

Climate change is a real threat, which is why ~~countries~~ have ~~devep~~ developed large macro-level frameworks. These provide guidelines to every sector of the country. However, ~~despite~~ being the 5th most vulnerable country, Pakistan has no climate framework.

(E) Miniscule Investment in Flood Control and Mitigation

Pakistan allocates miniscule resources towards disaster management. For the 2025-26 financial year, Pakistan allocated 1% federal

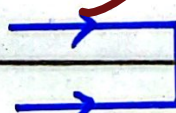
1%
Federal
Budget

0.005% of
GDP

30%
CUT
(compared to
previous
yr)

NDMA

PDMA



RESOURCE

STRICKEN

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(F) Technological Deficiency

Pakistan lacks both ^{Flood} monitoring and mitigating technology. From shady sadr systems to faulty boats, it relies on legacy technology for solving modern disasters.

(G) Disconnection From Local Water Patterns

Due to rapid urbanisation, indigenous knowledge about water ways is lost. Therefore escalating construction on karez, and subsequently greater loss of life.

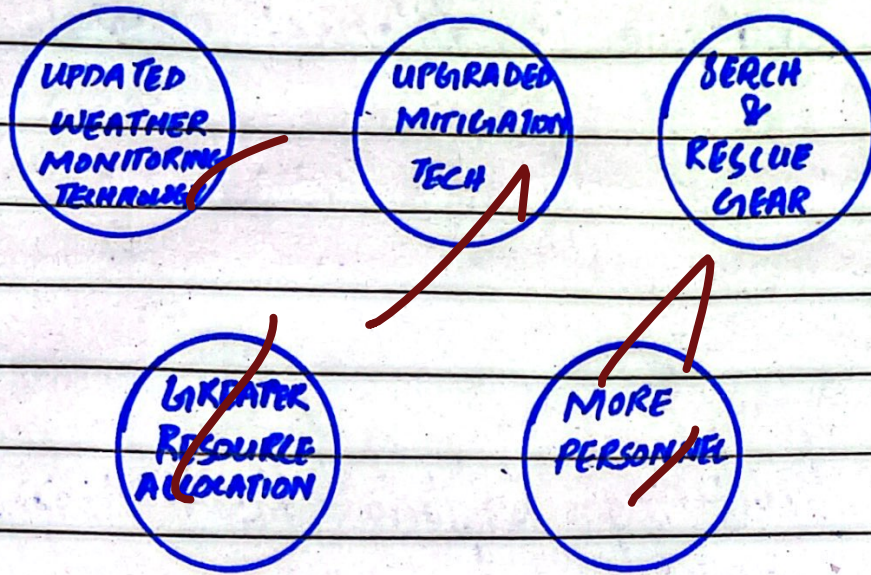
(III) Policy Options for Flood Mitigation

(A) Investment in Mitigation Resources

Investments should be made in both technological aspects and institutional capacity related to disasters. This entails

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(B) Better Accountability

Stricter checks on land providers, development authorities and construction schemes on waterways.

(C) Development of Climate Guidelines

Broader of climate guidelines must be issued and enforced by the government, and all policies must be under this framework.

(D) Building Water Storage Infrastructure

Constructing canals, dams, and water reservoirs, would help in mitigating flood devastation.

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(E) Engaging in Bilateral Channels

Bilateral channels with India, China, and Afghanistan can help overcome information and technology deficiency.

(F) Developing Regional Flood Mitigation Institutions

Flood, as a regional issue, requires regional mitigation mechanism and institutions. As such, a framework should be proposed.

(IV) Conclusion

In-essence, Pakistan has nominally been a victim of severe flooding. Subsequently endangering its very existence. This is owed due to a multitude of internal macrofactors. However, its mitigation must be framed within the context of internal and regional resolution, for effective and holistic response.