

TOOBA GUL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q-5

INDIA UNILATERAL ABROGATION OF IWT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN AND REGIONAL STABILITY.

1- INTRODUCTION:

On 22 April 2025, an attack on Pahalgam tourist spot, located in the Indian illegal occupied Jammu and Kashmir, caused significant casualties and intensified the deep-seated tensions between Pakistan and India. This incident prompted the India to hold the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance unilaterally. This illegal step is a major cause of concern to regional stability and threatens water security in Pakistan. Moreover, it exacerbated bilateral tensions between India and Pakistan, disrupted irrigation planning and agricultural exports of Pakistan. Therefore, Pakistan must

adopt a multidimensional strategy to tackle the issue effectively.

2- INDIA UNILATERAL ABROGATION OF INDUS WATER TREATY:

The IWT between Pakistan and India was signed on September 19, 1960, mediated by World Bank, and is considered as one of the most significant agreements in water-sharing. For over six-decades, the treaty has served as a cornerstone of stability in South Asia and Pakistan.

India unlawful move to suspend the IWT will accelerate Pakistan's water security issues and threatens country's national security and agriculture.

i- SIGNIFICANCE OF IWT FOR WATER SECURITY:

The Indus Water Treaty is a reliable framework for water sharing in South Asia. It is crucial for hydropower generation and agriculture production in Pakistan. This treaty mandated the sharing of hydrological data and established a

mechanism for dispute resolution through Permanent Indus Commission and international arbitration.

3. SUSPENSION OF IWT: IMPLICATION FOR REGIONAL STABILITY AND PAKISTAN WATER SECURITY:

India currently lacks the water storage infrastructure to divert large quantities of water from western rivers, it can disrupt Pakistan water in many ways which could lead to water insecurity. These include:

i- Controlled release of water:

Sudden ~~control~~ releases from Indian dams can flood Pakistan's areas, as evident after IWT suspension, when India released water in **Jhelum River**, resulting water flow in many area.

ii- Impact on water planning:

Without advanced water flow information, Pakistan faces issues in allocating water for irrigation, which impacts crop yield in **Punjab and Sindh**.

a- Impact on Agriculture and Rural livelihood:

In Pakistan, agriculture contributes about 23% of Pakistan's GDP and employs 38% of the national labour force. The suspension of IWT threatens the following:

i- Increase in Rural poverty:

Farmers depend on agriculture for their economic needs. Unpredictable water flow can lead to crop failure, food insecurity and fuels poverty.

ii- Food production is impacted:

Several water-dependent crops like **wheat, rice, sugarcane** are at risk due to 'unpredictable' water flows.

b- Strategic and Political Implications:

i- Internal instability will exacerbate water scarcity, crop failure and internal displacement toward urban areas can lead to social unrest and

weakened economy.

ii - Heightened Bilateral Tensions:
Water has become an instrument of geopolitical leverage between Pakistan and India. If Indian suspension of TWT is not addressed diplomatically, this issue will convert into full-blown crisis.

c- Regional players involved:

i - Afghanistan as an upstream country:
Afghanistan's actions on Kabul river, could further complicate regional dynamics.

ii - China role as an investor:
As a major investor in Pakistan's water infrastructure, China might play a role in influencing the situation.

4- MEASURES TAKEN BY PAKISTAN TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS:

Pakistan needs to adopt a multidimensional strategy to respond to this issue that includes:

i- Management of ground water,

Pakistan must recharge ground water through rainwater harvesting and floodplain restoration to overcome water shortage.

ii- Foster Diplomatic Engagement.

Pakistan needs to engage international mediators such as **World Bank, UN** bodies, or friendly countries to reinstate the IWT.

iii- Data and Early Warning System:

Investment in regional water flow monitoring and forecasting tools are necessary. This will enhance research techniques, local experts' capacity and diverse climate change challenges.

iv- Enhance water storage capacity:

Pakistan should speed up the construction of dams like **diamer-basha** and **Mohmand dam** to enhance water storage capacity. Mangla and Tarbela hold only 14.4 million acre feet just 1% of final allocation.

5. CONCLUSION:

The Indian government's decision to suspend JTW treaty has far-reaching implications on regional stability and Pakistan. It is a turning point in regional hydro-politics, making the country a water-scarce country. Pakistan must respond to the issue with coping mechanisms and long-term resilient policies.

Q.2

ESCALATING TENSIONS IN PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS AND POLICY FOR PAKISTAN TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE:

1. INTRODUCTION:

"I hear there's a war"

-Donald Trump

The above statement by American President Donald Trump marks the escalating tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan relations. Tensions along the Durand line escalated

in 2024 and 2025, with Pakistan launching airstrikes against TTP hideouts in Khost and Paktika provinces. The retaliatory fires of Afghan Taliban ignited the clashes between the two countries. As a result, resurgence of Durand line issue, refugee crisis and failure of peace process occurred. India also benefitted from the situation. In these circumstances, Pakistan must devise a bilateral treaty and seek international cooperation to foster its relations with Afghanistan.

2- ESCALATING TENSIONS IN PAKISTAN- AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS:

On Oct 9, 2025, following an attack a day earlier in KP province by Tehreek-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on Pakistani soldiers, Pakistan carried out an air strike in Kabul, Afghanistan. This resurgence resulted into Afghanistan's retaliatory operations. Ground fighting continued and skirmishes threatened to escalate terrorism, and impede peace process.

i- Revival of terrorism:

In 2025, terrorism incidents increased in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)

and Balochistan provinces. The Three-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been responsible for many of these ~~moves~~ attacks. Security experts warn that continued TTP strikes from Afghan Taliban would force Islamabad to act and could provoke Pakistan into deeper air strikes against Taliban positions.

ii - Challenges in Refugee Repatriation:

Taliban takeover in 2021, fears of a new inflow grew which strains Pakistan's infrastructure and economy. Pakistan has hosted over 3 million Afghan refugees for decades (UNHCR). According to UNHCR data, more than 1 million Afghan refugees have been repatriated to Afghanistan.

iii - Alleged Indian nexus with the Taliban:

Amidst rife TTP attacks in Pakistan, tries to strengthen ties with Anti-Pakistan factions in Afghanistan's political and tribal circles. **India tried to counter Islamabad influence in Afghanistan.**

iv- Failure of Peace process:

On June 1, 2025, the Afghan Taliban appointed Saedas Ahmed shahid as ambassador to Pakistan, but it falls short of formal recognition of the government.

v- Emergence of Durand line issue:

Pakistan shares 2611 km long boundary with Afghanistan. Pakistan considers this border vital for national security and to curb cross-border militancy, but Afghan government did not recognize the Durand line as an international border.

3- CRITICAL ANALYSIS:

During Foreign Minister of Pakistan's visit to Kabul, Pakistan reiterated its demand to end the cross-border terrorism and guaranteed dignified repatriation of Afghan refugees. However, this diplomatic thaw needs to be implemented practically. These productive talks laid the groundwork for border crossings and its reopening.

4- POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR PAKISTAN TO ADDRESS THE TENSIONS.

Pakistan must devise the ^{following} policy framework to address the tensions.

a- Negotiate a Bilateral Treaty.

Pakistan needs to engage in talks with Afghanistan, facilitated by World Bank. This would establish a framework for equitable water sharing and peace. **FM of Pakistan's visit** was an effective step.

b- International cooperation and expertise.
Leverage international support and expertise to address shared challenges like terrorism etc.

c- Initiate joint projects and data sharing:

Collaborate on hydroelectric projects, data exchange, and joint monitoring to build trust and ensure sustainable resource management.

d- Strengthen Institutional Frameworks:
Enhance Pakistan's water management

institutions and policy to effectively address transboundary water issues under UN Charter Article 35.

5. CONCLUSION:

The future of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations are adapted by a shifting global landscape, shaped by geopolitical realignments, and evolving security paradigms. Hence, in a multipolar world, Pakistan and Afghanistan must shift from transactional to long-term strategic trust.

Q.7.

POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN DUE TO MULTIDIMENSIONAL THREATS AND NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE DIALOGUE FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION

1. INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan's political instability is deeply intertwined with multidimensional threats, including economic turmoil, terrorism and governance challenges. The country has faced a surge in militancy in its provinces with the threats

to climate change. Therefore, the government needs to arrange a dialogue with stakeholders to address grievances and promote peace and stability in the country.

2. POLITICAL STABILITY IN PAKISTAN:

Pakistan's political system has fallen into the quagmire of political instability, due to social, political and economic aspects. These factors contribute to following threats.

1- POLITICAL THREATS:

i- lack of consensus among political parties

Political parties are vital for the political system of any country. With joint effort of political parties, a country can attain progress. However, Pakistan lacks political consensus among its parties.

e.g. In 2023, PTI was ousted

ii- Passive public participation. ^{consensus} ^{prevalent}
Public participation is vital for the smooth functioning of a country's political system. In Pakistan,

due to lack of awareness, people do not participate in the political affairs of the country.

iii - Institutional Inequalities:

Institutional imbalance is another threat to the political stability in Pakistan. Two institutions, **military and bureaucracy** have played a dominant role in country's politics from the beginning. Unfortunately, Pakistan has borne the brunt of institutional inequalities due to frequent military coups.

b - SOCIAL THREATS:

i - Rise in Terrorism:

Terrorism is a life issue that impedes political stability in Pakistan. **The TTP and other militant groups** continue to pose significant security challenges, with cross-border attacks and violence.

c - ECONOMIC THREATS:

i - High Debt Burden:

Debt Burden thwarts political stability in Pakistan. Pakistan's debt-to-GDP ratio has risen above

80% (ESP, 2025), making it challenging to fulfill loan obligations.
ii - Lack of Investments

Political instability and uncertainty have discouraged private investment hindering economic growth. Pakistan's poverty rate is recorded as 25.3% (WB, 2025)

iii - Rife Energy crisis:

Frequent Energy shortages and high costs are undermining competitiveness and economic growth. Pakistan ranks 101/148 countries in Energy Transition Index, making it a politically unstable country.

3- COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DIALOGUE FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION: KEY TERMS OF REFERENCE.

Pakistan needs a comprehensive national dialogue to address deep-seated issues and promote integration

a - National platform to address grievances.

Pakistan needs a platform

for all stakeholders to share their concerns and grievances.

b- Promote National unity.

To promote a sense of national unity and shared identity national integration is crucial.

Example: Practical implementation of single National curriculum is the need of the hour.

c- Need of Constitutional reforms:

Pakistan must do constitutional reforms to review and amend the constitution to address issues like provincial autonomy and fundamental rights.

d- Tackling Terrorism through peaceful negotiations:

Fosters trust among different groups and regions to eradicate terrorism and extremism.

Example: National Action Plan is a good step in this regard.

4. CONCLUSION:

In summation, Pakistan political structure is non-consensual due to several factors, putting severe implications to country's peace. Hence, a multidimensional and comprehensive national dialogue can foster National integration.

Q. 3

3-INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan-US relations are the prime example of shifting global orders, with both countries navigating a complex web of interests and priorities. Pakistan fosters its relations with US in economic, terrorism efforts and regional affairs. For this Pakistan needs to balance its relations with Asia, Africa and foster its foreign policy according to set principles.

2- PAK-USA RELATIONS IN VIEW OF PAKISTAN GEOPOLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS:

Pakistan is diversifying its ~~inter~~relations with US to reduce dependence on China, while the US aims to counterbalance China influence in the region.

a- Economic Partnership:

Pakistan and the US are exploring ways to strengthen trade and investment ties with a focus on infrastructure, minerals and technology sectors.

b- Counter-terrorism Efforts:

The two countries are re-engaging on counterterrorism efforts, with Pakistan seeking US support to address security challenges.

c- Regional stability:

Pakistan's ^{strategic} stability and location makes it an important player in South and Central Asia. This ignites US interests with Pakistan.

3- PAK US RELATIONS: PAKISTAN STRATEGIES TO EVOLVE IN REGIONAL DYNAMICS:

i - Shifting priorities of countries:

The US is focussing on China rise and Russia resurgence, while Pakistan prioritizes economic growth and partnership.

4- STRATEGIES FOR PAKISTAN:

i - Foster Principle based foreign policy.

Prioritize long-term strategic interests over short term gains to focus on economic security and regional cooperation.

ii - Multi-Alignment with emerging countries:

Pakistan needs to diversify partnership with Asia, Africa and Latin America while maintaining ties with US.

5- CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, Pak-US relations thrive, seeking mutual interests. Pakistan focuses on economic and regional aspects while US wants to dominate China in global world order. Hence, both countries can foster relations through principle based foreign policy.
