

Current Affairs 2020

Q. No. 2

What impact will global climate change have on the water resources of Pakistan? How will it affect inter-provincial harmony?

1. Introduction

- Pakistan is highly vulnerable to climate-induced changes in the hydrological cycle.
- Glacier melt, changing monsoon patterns, floods, droughts and rising temperatures threaten both **water availability and water governance**.
- Unequal impacts can intensify tensions among provinces.

2. Climate change is altering the quantity and timing of Pakistan's water resources

- 2.1 Accelerated glacier and snow melt can initially increase river flows but eventually reduce long-term water availability.
- 2.2 Irregular monsoon patterns can produce simultaneous floods and prolonged droughts.
- 2.3 Rising temperatures will increase evaporation and agricultural water demand.
- 2.4 Glacial lake outburst floods can threaten downstream communities and infrastructure.
- 2.5 Sea-level rise and reduced freshwater flows can accelerate **saline intrusion in the Indus Delta**.

3. Climate-induced water stress will intensify Pakistan's existing provincial disparities

- 3.1 Punjab's dependence on irrigation makes changes in Indus flows directly relevant to agricultural productivity.
- 3.2 Sindh remains particularly vulnerable to downstream shortages and seawater intrusion.
- 3.3 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faces glacier-related hazards, floods and changing precipitation patterns.
- 3.4 Balochistan's arid environment makes groundwater depletion and drought particularly severe.
- 3.5 Competition over irrigation, hydropower and drinking water can intensify perceptions of inequity.

4. Water insecurity can become a serious challenge to inter-provincial harmony

- 4.1 Perceived violations of the **Water Apportionment Accord 1991** can generate political mistrust.
- 4.2 Disputes over dams, canals and water distribution can acquire strong provincial dimensions.
- 4.3 Climate uncertainty makes historical water-sharing assumptions increasingly difficult to sustain.

- 4.4 Upstream-downstream tensions can deepen political polarisation.
4.5 Water scarcity may transform an environmental challenge into a federalism and national-cohesion issue.

5. Climate-resilient water governance can protect both resources and federal harmony

- 5.1 Strengthen the **Indus River System Authority (IRSA)** through transparent real-time flow monitoring.
5.2 Develop a climate-adjusted national water strategy through the Council of Common Interests.
5.3 Expand water storage, drip irrigation, groundwater regulation and wastewater recycling.
5.4 Develop joint provincial mechanisms for flood forecasting and drought management.
5.5 Ensure transparent implementation of the 1991 Accord rather than allowing water disputes to become political confrontations.

6. Conclusion

Climate change can turn Pakistan's water challenge into a **federal harmony challenge** unless water is governed through transparency, scientific evidence, constitutional institutions and equitable provincial cooperation.

Q. No. 3

Why was Pakistan placed on the Grey List of FATF? What are the implications and what measures should Pakistan take to move out of this list?

1. Introduction

The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** placed Pakistan under increased monitoring because of deficiencies in its framework for combating **money laundering and terrorist financing**.

2. Pakistan's Grey Listing reflected weaknesses in its AML/CFT framework

- 2.1 Pakistan faced deficiencies in investigating and prosecuting money laundering and terrorist financing.
2.2 Financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses required stronger risk-based monitoring.
2.3 Enforcement against organisations and individuals associated with terrorism was considered insufficient.
2.4 Asset-freezing and sanctions mechanisms required improvement.
2.5 Weak coordination among financial, regulatory, law-enforcement and judicial institutions compounded the problem.

3. Grey Listing generated significant economic and diplomatic costs

- 3.1 Increased compliance requirements raised transaction and banking costs.
- 3.2 Investor confidence and Pakistan's international financial reputation were affected.
- 3.3 International financial institutions and correspondent banks exercised greater caution.
- 3.4 Pakistan's access to international finance and investment became more difficult.
- 3.5 The listing increased diplomatic pressure to strengthen counterterrorism financing mechanisms.

4. Pakistan undertook extensive reforms to address FATF requirements

- 4.1 Pakistan strengthened its AML/CFT legislation and regulatory framework.
- 4.2 Law-enforcement and financial-intelligence mechanisms were improved.
- 4.3 Authorities increased monitoring of suspicious financial transactions.
- 4.4 Terrorist financing investigations, prosecutions and asset-freezing mechanisms were strengthened.
- 4.5 Pakistan completed the required action plans and was removed from increased monitoring in October 2022.

5. Pakistan should institutionalise FATF reforms rather than treating them as a one-time compliance exercise

- 5.1 Strengthen the independence and capacity of financial regulators and law-enforcement agencies.
- 5.2 Improve prosecution and conviction of financial crimes.
- 5.3 Expand beneficial-ownership transparency and financial-sector monitoring.
- 5.4 Strengthen inter-agency coordination and digital financial intelligence.
- 5.5 Maintain international cooperation against money laundering, terrorist financing and illicit financial flows.

6. Conclusion

Pakistan's experience demonstrates that FATF compliance is not merely a diplomatic requirement; **strong AML/CFT institutions are essential for financial stability, investment confidence and national security.**

Q. No. 4

Given the volatile lockdown in Indian Occupied Kashmir, what are the viable policy choices available to Pakistan? What can Pakistan realistically do to ease the sufferings of Kashmiri people?

1. Introduction

The post-2019 situation in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir transformed Pakistan's Kashmir diplomacy into a challenge involving **human rights, international law, diplomacy and regional security**.

2. Pakistan's immediate priority should be internationalising the humanitarian and human-rights dimension of the Kashmir dispute

- 2.1 Continue raising Kashmir at the UN General Assembly and Security Council.
- 2.2 Engage the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international mechanisms.
- 2.3 Document and diplomatically highlight verified human-rights concerns.
- 2.4 Mobilise support from OIC members and other sympathetic states.
- 2.5 Use international media and parliamentary diplomacy to maintain global attention.

3. Pakistan should pursue sustained diplomacy rather than relying exclusively on international statements

- 3.1 Maintain dialogue with major powers including China, the US, Russia and the EU.
- 3.2 Engage influential middle powers and human-rights organisations.
- 3.3 Use parliamentary delegations and diplomatic missions to explain Pakistan's position.
- 3.4 Build international support around principles of human rights and peaceful dispute resolution.
- 3.5 Avoid policies that could internationalise the issue primarily as a Pakistan-India military confrontation.

4. Pakistan can ease Kashmiri suffering mainly through humanitarian and diplomatic instruments

- 4.1 Support humanitarian assistance through credible international organisations where access is possible.
- 4.2 Advocate restoration of communication, healthcare, education and freedom of movement.
- 4.3 Raise cases of detainees and alleged human-rights violations through appropriate international forums.
- 4.4 Provide scholarships and educational opportunities for Kashmiri students.
- 4.5 Preserve Kashmiri voices and representation in international diplomatic advocacy.

5. Pakistan's policy should combine principled advocacy with regional stability

- 5.1 Maintain the right of Kashmiris to peaceful political expression and self-determination.
- 5.2 Avoid escalation that could endanger the civilian population.
- 5.3 Explore confidence-building measures and humanitarian openings with India.
- 5.4 Keep the Kashmir dispute connected with broader regional peace and security.
- 5.5 Strengthen Pakistan's own democratic, economic and diplomatic capacity to sustain its Kashmir policy.

6. Conclusion

Pakistan's realistic leverage lies primarily in **diplomatic mobilisation, humanitarian advocacy, international law and sustained engagement**, rather than military escalation.

Q. No. 5

Discuss the strategic contours of Indo-US evolving partnership and how will it impact Pakistan-US and Pakistan-China relations?

1. Introduction

The Indo-US partnership has evolved from a limited strategic relationship into a broad partnership covering **defence, technology, trade, maritime security and the Indo-Pacific**, largely shaped by China's rise.

2. The Indo-US partnership is increasingly centred on balancing China's growing power

- 2.1 The US views India as an important Indo-Pacific strategic partner.
- 2.2 Defence cooperation and military exercises have expanded significantly.
- 2.3 India has become increasingly important to US supply-chain and technology strategies.
- 2.4 The **Quad** provides a platform for cooperation among the US, India, Japan and Australia.
- 2.5 Bilateral cooperation increasingly encompasses critical and emerging technologies.

3. The evolving partnership creates strategic complications for Pakistan-US relations

- 3.1 India's growing strategic importance may reduce Pakistan's relative significance in Washington.
- 3.2 US support for India can deepen Pakistan's concerns regarding the regional military balance.
- 3.3 Nevertheless, Pakistan remains relevant to US interests in counterterrorism, Afghanistan, nuclear security and regional stability.
- 3.4 Pakistan should shift its US relationship from aid/security dependence towards trade, investment and technology.

4. Indo-US alignment may simultaneously deepen Pakistan-China strategic cooperation

- 4.1 Pakistan's strategic partnership with China remains central to its security and economic calculations.
- 4.2 CPEC and broader China-Pakistan economic cooperation reinforce this relationship.

4.3 Intensifying US-China competition may increase pressure on Pakistan to choose sides.
4.4 Pakistan therefore needs to preserve strategic autonomy rather than become an arena for great-power rivalry.

5. Pakistan should pursue balanced relations with all major powers

5.1 Strengthen Pakistan-China cooperation without converting it into an anti-US alignment.
5.2 Improve Pakistan-US relations through economic diplomacy and counterterrorism cooperation.
5.3 Maintain constructive engagement with India where possible.
5.4 Diversify external economic partnerships with the EU, Gulf states, Central Asia and Türkiye.
5.5 Follow an issue-based foreign policy based on national interests rather than bloc politics.

6. Conclusion

The Indo-US partnership will reshape South Asian geopolitics, but Pakistan can protect its interests through **strategic autonomy, balanced diplomacy and an economically driven foreign policy.**

Q. No. 6

Strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific is increasingly becoming intense. Define the interests and role of US, China, India, Japan and Australia.

1. Introduction

The Indo-Pacific has become the central arena of contemporary geopolitical competition because of its **economic significance, maritime routes, military geography and China's growing power.**

2. The United States seeks to preserve an open regional order and its strategic primacy

2.1 Protect freedom of navigation and maritime trade routes.
2.2 Contain excessive Chinese military and strategic expansion.
2.3 Strengthen alliances with Japan, Australia, South Korea and the Philippines.
2.4 Promote the Quad and AUKUS as strategic partnerships.
2.5 Maintain access to critical technologies and supply chains.

3. China seeks to expand its regional influence and prevent strategic encirclement

- 3.1 Protect maritime trade and energy supply routes.
- 3.2 Assert its territorial claims, particularly in the South China Sea and around Taiwan.
- 3.3 Expand economic influence through the Belt and Road Initiative.
- 3.4 Reduce US military dominance in China's immediate neighbourhood.
- 3.5 Develop naval and technological capabilities to strengthen strategic deterrence.

4. India seeks strategic autonomy while expanding its regional influence

- 4.1 Prevent Chinese strategic dominance in the Indian Ocean.
- 4.2 Protect India's maritime trade and energy routes.
- 4.3 Strengthen partnerships with the US, Japan and Australia without formally joining a military alliance.
- 4.4 Promote India as a major regional and global power.
- 4.5 Use its geographical position to enhance influence across the Indian Ocean.

5. Japan and Australia are strengthening the US-led regional balance

- 5.1 **Japan** seeks secure sea lanes, protection against Chinese military pressure and stronger defence partnerships.
- 5.2 **Australia** seeks to prevent coercive domination of the Indo-Pacific while protecting maritime trade.
- **5.3 Both countries are major members of the **Quad**.
- **5.4 Australia has deepened defence cooperation with the US and UK through **AUKUS**.
- **5.5 Japan and Australia increasingly cooperate on maritime security, critical technologies and resilient supply chains.

6. Conclusion

The Indo-Pacific is evolving into a region of **strategic competition and selective cooperation**, with the US-China rivalry at its core and India, Japan and Australia playing increasingly important balancing roles.

Q. No. 7

Discuss in detail the role of OIC, Arab League and GCC in the Middle East crises and conflicts.

1. Introduction

The **OIC, Arab League and GCC** provide important regional platforms for responding to Middle Eastern conflicts, but their effectiveness is constrained by divergent national interests and intra-regional rivalries.

2. OIC provides the broader Muslim-world diplomatic platform

- 2.1 It provides collective diplomatic support for the Palestinian cause.
- 2.2 It raises Muslim-world concerns at international forums.
- 2.3 It facilitates humanitarian and political coordination.
- 2.4 It has repeatedly called for ceasefires and protection of civilians in regional conflicts.
- 2.5 Its effectiveness is limited by the divergent interests of its 57 member states.

3. The Arab League provides a collective Arab political framework

- 3.1 It coordinates Arab positions on Palestine and regional conflicts.
- 3.2 It has supported Arab peace initiatives concerning the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- 3.3 It provides a diplomatic platform for addressing crises in Syria, Yemen, Libya and Sudan.
- 3.4 Its decisions are often weakened by divisions among member states.
- 3.5 Rival approaches towards Iran, Israel and regional interventions have constrained collective action.

4. GCC plays a more focused role in Gulf security and regional diplomacy

- 4.1 GCC states coordinate positions on Gulf security and Iranian regional influence.
- 4.2 Saudi Arabia and other members have increasingly used diplomacy to de-escalate regional tensions.
- 4.3 GCC states provide substantial humanitarian and economic assistance in regional crises.
- 4.4 Gulf states increasingly use economic and diplomatic leverage alongside security policies.
- 4.5 Internal differences among GCC members have historically limited collective action.

5. These institutions need stronger mechanisms for conflict prevention and collective diplomacy

- 5.1 Develop permanent mediation and early-warning mechanisms.
- 5.2 Coordinate humanitarian responses to regional conflicts.
- 5.3 Reduce intra-Arab and intra-Muslim rivalries through institutional dialogue.
- 5.4 Develop common positions without requiring complete agreement on every geopolitical issue.
- 5.5 Strengthen cooperation with the UN and other international organisations.

6. Conclusion

The OIC, Arab League and GCC possess considerable **diplomatic, economic and political potential**, but their impact will remain limited until regional states prioritise collective conflict resolution over competing national agendas.

Q. No. 8

In view of evolving global alignments and changing major-power relationships, what is the future of globalism and multilateralism?

1. Introduction

Globalisation and multilateralism are under pressure from **great-power rivalry, nationalism, protectionism and geopolitical fragmentation**, yet global interdependence makes their complete reversal unrealistic.

2. Great-power rivalry is weakening the traditional liberal multilateral order

- 2.1 US-China strategic competition is dividing economic and technological systems.
- 2.2 The Russia-Ukraine War has intensified confrontation between Russia and the West.
- 2.3 Trade restrictions and sanctions are increasingly used as geopolitical instruments.
- 2.4 Institutions such as the UN Security Council face paralysis over major conflicts.

3. Globalism is being transformed rather than completely abandoned

- 3.1 Global supply chains are shifting towards diversification and resilience rather than disappearing.
- 3.2 Digital connectivity continues to integrate economies and societies.
- 3.3 Climate change, pandemics and financial instability cannot be managed by states individually.
- 3.4 Global trade remains indispensable to both developed and developing economies.

4. A more multipolar form of multilateralism is emerging

- 4.1 BRICS expansion reflects demands for greater representation by emerging economies.
- 4.2 Regional organisations such as ASEAN, SCO, AU, EU and GCC are becoming more important.
- 4.3 Middle powers are increasingly pursuing flexible, issue-based partnerships.
- 4.4 The Global South is demanding reform of global financial and political institutions.

5. The future of multilateralism depends on institutional reform and inclusive cooperation

- 5.1 UN Security Council representation and decision-making require reform.
- 5.2 International financial institutions need to reflect contemporary economic realities.
- 5.3 Multilateral institutions must address climate finance, debt, technology and development more equitably.
- 5.4 Great powers must preserve minimum areas of cooperation despite strategic competition.
- 5.5 A flexible and more representative multilateralism can coexist with strategic rivalry.

6. Conclusion

The future is unlikely to be the **end of globalism**, but rather its transformation into a more **multipolar, regionalised and issue-based system of multilateral cooperation**.

