

Current Affairs: Indus Water Treaty

Indus Water Treaty was signed between Pakistan and India with the mediated role of world bank in **1960**. According to the treaty Indus River System was divided in Pakistan and India. Ravi river, Sutlej River and Beas River had been considered under Indian control. Whereas, Jhelum, Chenab and Sindh Rivers were under Pakistan domain. As per treaty few conditions had been acknowledged by both countries as:

→ India will not be allowed to construct projects on Western Rivers from **1960** till **1980**. During this time Pakistan will construct projects as dams and canals on the river.

→ India would construct the projects only when Pakistan has no desire for water.

→ If India construct dams or canals on the river, it will share the design of construction with Pakistan.

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→ India will also be confined to allow Pakistan to inspect about the project constructed by India.

→ India will not divert the routes of rivers by construction of canals and dams.

→ Pakistan can also raise structural and legal questions over the projects.

→ In case of disagreement, both countries can not suspend the treaty unilaterally. But they are confined to approach world bank as it is the facilitator between both countries. Secondly, they can approach to International court of Arbitration to resolve disagreement but both countries can not end the treaty unilaterally.

Problems:-

Pakistan is facing problem regarding water since 1919

During winter season water flow in Pakistan ~~is~~ declines from November to May. Whereas, it get to rise to cause flood from May to October.

India give a stance that climate is changing gradually. Raining and Snowfalling ratio is getting low ~~at~~ year by year which is resulting to decline in water flow.

On the other side, Pakistan claims that rain can cause only 30% of water. It claims that Pakistan has glacier as in K-2 and Himalaya which can remain for couple of years. So, India has constructed dams on Western River and Wuller Canal as well. The dams have structural flows as their heights are probably **33%**. These canals are resulting in the cut of Water towards Pakistan.

Another problem is Pakistan's over dependency on the dams. Approximately, **70%** of Sindh and Punjab

agriculture is dependent on these rivers which contributes **25%** in GDP of the country. Domestic and Industrial systems are also dependent on the Rivers. Due to the cut in water flow in rivers; agriculture, domestic and industrial system is highly affected. Taubela and Mangla Dams are also at their dead levels.

Suspension of Treaty:

India is keenly demanding to suspend the treat and threats Pakistan that it would unilaterally suspend the treaty. But it can not be suspended unilaterally. In case the treaty is suspended Pakistan will face the severe consequences. As India will cut down the flow of river or divert its way to other. India will also construct dams on rivers which will become the cause

decline in water flow towards Pakistan. Hand in hand, India will also be able cause floods towards Pakistan without prior notification as Pakistan would not be the part of treaty. So, it is highly important to sustain the treaty.

Solutions:

As India always violate the conditions of treaty and plan to suspend the treat. There are multiple ways stop India's violation. First of all Pakistan needs to construct dams, as every year Pakistan waste huge volume of water into the sea. The water in the form of floods can be stored into dams and canals. Pakistan has inaugurated dams as Diamer Bhasha dam which can store water of 8.1 FAM, Kalabagh dam in Chenab and Dasu dam in Indus river. Also, Pakistan

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has inaugurated the construction of Canal projects as Chashma Right Canal II in KP, Greater Thal Canal in Punjab, Raining and Thar canals in Sindh and Chullistan canals. These projects need to be complete to reduce the violation of treaty by India.

Secondly, Pakistan can approach Vienna Court and World Bank as it was mentioned in the Vienna convention that the treaty can unilaterally violated. Also, India is highly dependent on Brahmaputra River, which headwork is in China. China has announced to construct dam on Brahmaputra River. If it happens, India will have to suffer consequences. India will ~~complain~~ bring the case to Vienna Court. In this regard, Pakistan will also approach to Vienna Court. So, India will refrain to violate the treaty.

Hurdles in the construction of Dams:-

There is need of hour for Pakistan to construct dams and canals. However, Pakistan is facing provisional challenges. Sindh is not in favor to construct project on Indus River. As, Sindh is most affected province of water. 25% of Sindh canal based land has barren. Also, Sindh has not its share from Jehlam and Chenab as per 1991.

However dams can be constructed as Diames Bhakasha dam and Dasu dams etc.