

How did Indus Waters Treaty (1960) affect water distribution and relations between Pakistan and India?

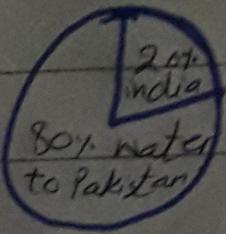
Introduction

Indus River System, one of the largest River systems in the world, has been life line for millions of people in South Asia, particularly in Pakistan and India. However, the management of its water resources has been a bone of contention between two nations, especially considering the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) signed in 1960. To elaborate, the treaty was framed to regulate the allocation and usage of river's water, providing framework for peaceful cooperation. As climate change, water scarcity, agriculture demand intensify, the treaty's implications become increasingly intricate. To conclude, the paper sheds light upon the multifaceted impact of IWT on water distribution and Pak-India relations, examining both negative consequences, such as ecological imbalance, rising tensions, and positive aspects such as infrastructure.

Distribution Setup

Pakistan

- Indus
- Chenab
- Jhelum



India

- Beas
- Ravi
- Sutlej

Brokered by the World Bank and signed on Sept 19, 1960, by former PM Jawaharlal Nehru and then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan.

Key Provisions of IWT

a) Water Sharing:

India can develop "run of the river" hydro power projects with minimum storage for conservation and flood management.

leave a line space between headings for neatness.

b) Dispute Resolution Mechanism:

Provides a three-tiered mechanism

- Permanent Indus Commission: A platform for direct negotiation, meeting at least one a year.

- Neutral Expert: Appointed by World

- Bank to address technical disagreement
- Court of arbitration: If not satisfied by above mechanisms

A sustainable and Cooperative IWT

relate your headings and arguments to the qs statement.

- Align treaty with global norms to protect river eco-system.
(e.g) Brisbane Declaration.
- Include clauses for adapting to climate change and unpredictable water flow changes.
- Modernize the treaty to reflect global standards like 1977 UN Watercourses Convention

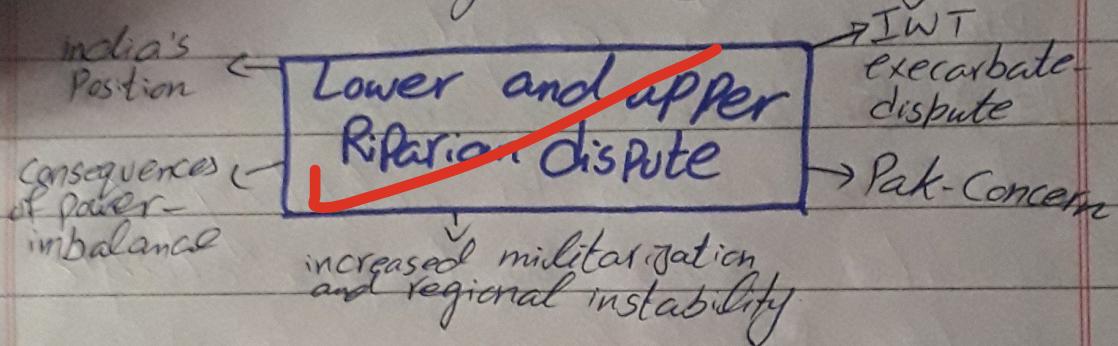
Effects of IWT between Pak-India

It have both negative and positive Impact on both states

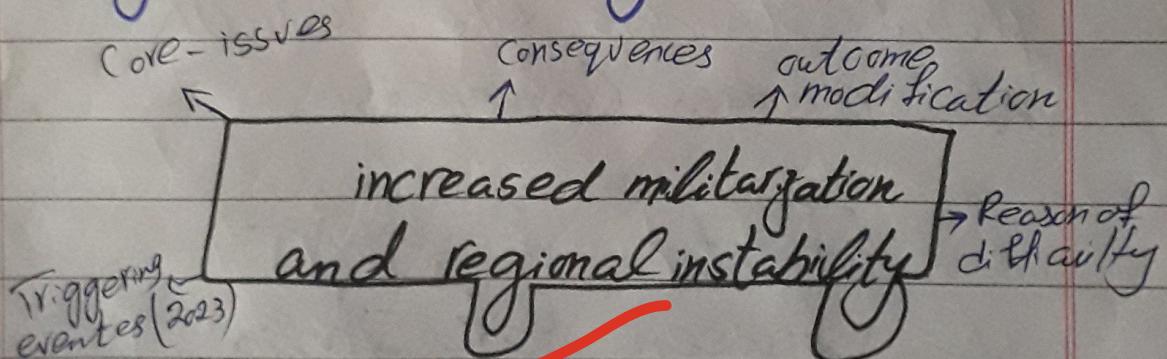
Negative Impacts

- Lower-riparian and upper riparian disputes.

To begin, the IWT has exacerbated this dispute adversely worsening both nation relations. Pakistan being afraid of India's construction of dams and that deter flow of water and effect Pakistan agriculture sector. Therefore imbalance of control over Indus River would worsen long standing hostility.



① Regional instability.



Core issues: Increased militarization and regional instability due to IWT becoming a source of tension.

Triggering events: India boycotting the Court of Arbitration (CoA)

- Pakistan objects over two hydroelectric projects [HEPs] by India.

Outcome:

Exacerbation of situation
increased instability

Reason: Modification to IWT
would be "Dam-breaking work"

c)

used to paralyze
progress

Pak Response

Use of water
as Political Tool

→ out-
come

• IWT used to paralyze progress between India and Pakistan due to broader tussles and geopolitical tensions.

India's Threat to restrict water flow to western rivers following the Uri attack.

- Objections to dam / hydroelectric plants
- Weaponization of water issues to exert pressure.

d)

Growing concern over water scarcity.

- Source of tension
- intensifying scarcity
- World Bank as mediator strained

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments/

Positive Impacts

a) IWTs Role in Conflict Prevention

Function: Preventing water wars and contributing positively to relations despite tensions

Key mechanism:

- Clear framework for water distribution
- Dispute resolution mechanisms (e.g. Permanent Indus Commission- PIC)
- Regular communication and data exchange.

b) (Foundation) IWTs Framework for Cooperation & Communication.

Foundation: Laid groundwork for cooperative and communicative work, fostering harmony.

Cooperative Practices:

- Annual meeting between Pakistan and India (once a year)
- Discussion of operational issues
- Ensuring compliance with treaty terms
- Reporting all developments to the other party.

Resilience & effectiveness:

Demonstrated survival through four wars and various political tensions, proving its effectiveness.

Pak Benefits

- Facilitated financial for major projects (canal system, development)

- India contributed 62.06 million Euros for replacement work.

Helped utilize -

Indo-Water Treaty

India-Benefits.

- Accelerating planning of major hydroelectric projects including: Baglihar • Ratle

• Kishanganga

• Sawaydkote

• Patal Dul.

- enhanced India energy security

- contributed to regional development

Critical Analysis

- Political rhetoric and accusation of treaty violations

Both nations have misused issue of water.

As declared by "PM Modi"

"Blood and water can't flow together";
implies water restrictions in retaliation
to "Line border freedom Pak, as a
response, accuse India of "water terrorism".
particularly pointing to infrastructure project
like Shahpurkandi barrage on River Panj

Conclusion

IWT is crucial management
relations between Pakistan and India,
despite ongoing challenges like ecological
impacts and water distribution issues,
making IWT more vital. Both
nations must move beyond political
rhetoric and engage in constructive
dialogue and creative solution to
turn potential water conflict into
opportunities for collaboration. This
requires mutual understanding, respect for
shared resources, adaptability to
evolve water management in an
interdependent world.