

Date

Subject

Indus Water Treaty

Afghanistan

Kabul

SAWAT

THELUM

INDUS

China

CHENAB

Pakistan

INDUS

RAVI

BEAS

SUTLEJ

SUTLEJ

India

Silent Features:

→ Signed in 1960 and the World bank acted ~~as~~ only as a facilitator, not an arbitrator.

1) Eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) belong to India, Ravi and Sutlej transferred with Pakistan's consent in 1960s.

2) Western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) belong to Pakistan, but Indus is shared river where India can use 10% water for non-consumptive uses, and 90% belong to Pakistan.

3) From 1960 to 1980, India was not allowed to build any reservoir or dam on western rivers, giving Pakistan time to expand water storage, canals and agriculture/industrial water use.

4) From 1980 onwards, India received limited rights to build on-of-the-river hydropower projects on Western Rivers under strict technical conditions.

5) Disputes are resolved through a 3-step process.
In case of disagreement.

i) Indus Water Commission tries to solve structural issues.

ii) Neutral Experts (WB-facilitated) technical issues.

Eg:- 2013 Kishanganga case → Neutral experts appointed ICA

iii) International Court of Arbitration, which handles legal issues.

Issue:

1) Winter river flows decline due to reduced snowmelt, minimal rainfall (under 20%), and upstream winter storage. The World Bank reports a drastic drop over 50% in Indus and Jhelum, and more than 55% in Chenab.

2) Pakistan is overwhelmingly dependent on the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab over 70% of total water for agriculture, 20% industrial and 25% domestic use come from these rivers (World Bank).

EDEN NOTES

→ Major dams like Tarbala on Indus and Mangla on Jhelum further increase this reliance.

Reasons:

- Climate change has reduced rainfall and snowfall, causing less river inflow.
- India has built more dams ^{upstreams} which increasing storage capacity.
- Illegal extra height and diversion (e.g., Wullar barrage) further cuts the flow.
- Over 20% irrigated land in Sindh is turning barren due to shortage.
- Southern Punjab and Sui districts of Balochistan face acute water shortage.
- Pakistan has only 15 MAF storage for 30 days of water.
- India has 230 MAF storage for 220 days.
- Tarbela and Mangla reached dead level showing extreme decline.
- Pakistan wastes water into sea due to lack of dams.

Issue (2nd):

India has repeatedly demanded renegotiation of the IWT (2023, 2024).

→ Treaty is more than 60 years old ^{now.}

PMD → Pakistan Meteorological Department

Date

Subject _____

- climate change has reduced river flow.
- India's water needs have increased.
- Pakistan wastes water into the sea, showing less needs.

Issue (38d):

India unilaterally suspended the IWT after pahalgam attack (Kashmir, 2023), Modi government threatened water war against Pakistan.

Impact:

- 1) Increased decline in river flow, especially in winter, due to India build higher dams and increasing storage capacity.
- 2) Floods in Pakistan, multiple causes:
 - 1) Torrential rainfall (PMD reports).
 - 2) Glaciers bursts in Gilgit-Baltistan (around 32°N latitude).
- 3) Urbanization of riverbeds.
e.g., Capacity of Ravi river reduced from 350 KQs to 150 KQs → 80 KQs in 2025.
- 4) Late release of water data by India under the Indus Water Commission (2025: shared via high commissioners, giving Pakistan only 5 days to respond)

Solutions: 1) Permanent Issue:-

- 1) Pakistan should increase its water storage and management by building more dams and canals to avoid Indian violations and prevent

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floods to

- 1) Prevent water wastage and reduce flood damage.
- 2) Ensure long-term water availability for agriculture.
- 3) Increase hydel generation.

Examples of Major proposed dams:

Kalabagh Dam: 10 MAF Capacity

Basha (Dasu) Dam: 8.1 MAF

Mohmand Dam: 1.3 MAF

→ If these dams are completed, India's ability to reduce river flow on Indus will be limited.

- 2) Pakistan must fight its case against India legally and diplomatically.

Legally:

- a) Serve notes to India for keeping the treaty in abeyance, legally cannot do.
- b) Approach the World Bank for its opinion (already done). India cannot quit, suspend or hold the treaty in abeyance.
- c) Go to the International Court Arbitration (ICA) to stop further violations by India.

Diplomatically:

- d) Seek China's support, China and India already have water disputes on the Brahmaputra.
- e) If India goes to ICA, China can counter India using India's own violations against Pakistan.

International Law:

f) Under Article 12 of IWT, India cannot suspend or quit the treaty.

Under Vienna Convention Articles 52 and 57, it highlights that India cannot unilaterally suspend or exit the treaty.

→ Combine all these tools to pressurize India and prevent further treaty violations.

3) Pakistan must be well prepared by forming technical and legal experts team. India dominated the 2017 dialogue due to expert representation, while Pakistan relied on diplomats only. Pakistan can also use China's water pressure on India as a diplomatic tool.

4) Due to practical pressures, India being powerful, ignores some obligations; e.g. Pakistan inspection team blocked since 2019.

→ Pakistan can use China's space technology to monitor violations or also approach WB and ICA to resolve the issue.

→ Pakistan and India relations are mainly shaped by Kashmir disputes.

→ India's water violations are by Pakistan as a threat, potentially amounting to an act of war launched by India.