

Current Affairs

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Indus Water Treaty:

Definition:-

It is an international agreement which is signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank to resolve the dispute over the use of the waters of the Indus River System.

Division of Rivers:-

- The three Eastern rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej were given to India
- The three Western rivers Indus, Jhelum, Chenab were given to Pakistan.

Forbidding and Permission to India:

Forbidden:-

- From 1960 to 1980, India was not allowed to build any projects like developing canals and dams on Western rivers.

Permission:-

- From onwards of 1980, India is entitled to build any projects like to build reservoirs, Dams etc on Western rivers.
- When India is developing any project, then they should take care of the following conditions:

Conditions:

1) Pak need water:

- If Pakistan need more water, then India is not allowed to build any building or dams and reservoirs.
- If Pakistan wastes much water, then India is not restricted to build dams and reservoirs.

2) Initiation of Project:-

- Before initiation of any project on western rivers, India should send designing of the dams to Pakistan.
- Pakistan is allowed to raise structural questions on projects such as:
 - ⇒ Diverting channels
 - ⇒ Height of the project should be as per law (IWT).
- India should facilitate Pakistani team after every six months to inspect the projects, to verify compliance with the treaty supervision.
- India can not use the water of the western rivers for their domestic, agricultural and industries.
- India can construct run of the river hydroelectric projects which do not involve significant water storage.

In Case of disagreement:-

To resolve disagreements between Pakistan and India regarding the use of shared river waters must involve three levels:

a) Indus Water Commission:-

- Both India and Pakistan, in case of raising questions, it should be resolved through dialogue and cooperation. It includes:
 - ⇒ Technical
 - ⇒ Structural
 - ⇒ Legal questions
- If the issue resolves successfully, the matter is concluded. If not, the issue escalates to the next level.

b) Neutral Expert:-

- The neutral expert can be the World Bank.
- The World Bank appoints the neutral expert to provide an independent technical assessment.
- The neutral expert examines the technical aspects of the disagreements and makes a decision aimed at resolving the issue.

3) Court of Arbitration:-

- If there is a dispute over the interpretation of the treaty, the matter is referred to a court of arbitration.
- It comprises independent experts and operates under the rules set forth in the treaty.
- The court decision is final and binding on both parties.

Problems:-

a) Declining Water Availability:-

- Pakistan has experienced a significant decline in water inflows, particularly in the Indus River up to more than 50% from 1990 to present days.
- Pakistan is overwhelmingly dependent on three rivers Indus, Indus and Jhelum, such as:
 - ⇒ More than 70% of water is used in agriculture
 - ⇒ At least 25% is used for domestic purposes.
 - ⇒ More than 20% is used for industrial purposes.

(i) Major Dams of Pakistan:-

- The major dams of Pakistan are Tarbela Dam and Mangla Dam.
- The water of these two dams is used for:
 - ⇒ Electricity generation
 - ⇒ Agricultural purposes
 - ⇒ Industrial purposes
 - ⇒ Domestic purposes
 - ⇒ For storage in future

b) Barren of lands:-

- Due to decline in water availability, more than 30% of the lands of Sindh become barren.
- In Punjab, 25% to 30% of Indus based lands become barren.
- In 2025, Tarbela dam and Mangla dam is on dead level.

④ Energy Shortage: ^{Page (4)}

→ The Indus river system also support hydroelectric power station or generation.

→ Reduced water availability hampers electricity production which leads to energy crises.

Why Cut off occurs in flow:

Pakistan Perspective:

① Water diversion by India:

Pakistan accuses India of constructing hydroelectric projects on the western rivers such as the Salal and Baglihar dams are believed to divert water upstream, reducing the flow downstream into Pakistan.

② Climate Change:

→ Glacial melt from the Himalayas contributes significantly to the Indus river's flow. However, rising temperatures are accelerating glacier retreat, leading to reduced melted water and consequently, lower river levels.

→ Pakistan partially agreed and stand to World Bank because:

⇒ Rainfall is contributor about 33%

⇒ Snowfall is about 67% in which 50% is about glaciers and about 10% is temporary snow.

→ More dams are building means more water storage and more cut off occur in water.

India Perspective:

① Hydroelectric development:

India emphasizes the need for hydropower projects to meet its growing energy demands.

② Climate change:

India acknowledges the impact of climate change on water resources including altered monsoon pattern, reduced glacier melt etc.

Reasons of Cut off:-

a) More Dams:-

More dams are built by India which means more water storage and more cut off in water.

b) Height:-

33 feet is found in Kishanganga which is observe by ICA Person.

c) Diversion:-

Wuller barrage is built on Whuller lake which divert natural flow of water.

⑥ Problem:-

- After phalgum attack, India refused to obey Indus Water Treaty.
- India would launch more and more water wars against Pakistan.
- India would not allow Pakistani team to inspect the projects made by them.

→ India will not go to ICA.

Solution:-

Pakistan is actively addressing its declining water resources through a combination of infrastructure development.

⑥ Building and Upgrading water storage:-

Pakistan has to focus on constructing and enhancing its water utilization capacity like the Dargai Dam and Kurram Tangi Dam to increase water storage capacity.

b) Pakistan must fight more proactive:-

Pakistan should take stronger and earlier actions instead of just reacting to problems after they happen.

Example:

In 2017, dialogue between Pakistan and India conducted by World Bank from India Legal experts, Dams experts and river experts were present but from Pakistan Burecrater and foreign ministers were present.

c) India Cannot unilaterally withdraw:-

India is not allowed to cancel or break the treaty on its own without agreement from Pakistan because it is a binding international agreement.

d) Unilaterally Withdraw from IWT :-

- No country unilaterally withdraw from the Indus Water Treaty.
- It contains no exit clause which means neither party can terminate or alter it alone.
- Any changes or withdrawal must be mutually agreed upon.

Canals:-

Definition:-

An artificial channel built for conveying water to the fields to irrigate them.

- Water in canals is diverted from rivers, tanks or reservoirs to the fields.

Importance:-

- Major source of water for agriculture
- Serves as cheap and efficient routes for transportation of goods
- Support farming and industries by providing water

Rivers:-

A natural water course that usually flows towards an ocean, sea or lake.

- The Indus River System is enriched by five significant tributaries:

① Jhelum River

② Chenab River

③ Ravi River

④ Beas River

⑤ Sutlej River

IRSA:-

Full Form:

Indus River System Authority

Establishment:

Formed in 1991

Composition:

→ Consists of five members, one from the center and one from each province

→ These five members commission is called water commission.

Decision Making:

→ Decision is typically made by the majority of three members

→ In case of disagreement between the three members, it can be reviewed by center.

→ In case of disagreement between provinces, then the issue is referred to the CCI, which consists of Prime Minister and Chief Minister.

Canals Building:-

IRSA in 2024, 4/5 members were in favour of constructing canals due to disagreement of one member, issue referred to the CCI, which take decision whenever five members become agree, then build canals.

→ The canals building were:

- ① Great Thal Canal in Punjab on Indus River System
- ② Thar Canal in Sindh on Indus River System
- ③ Raing Canal in Sindh on Indus River System
- ④ Kachi Canal in Balochistan on Indus River System.
- ⑤ Chashma Right Bank Canal II in KP on Indus River System.
- ⑥ Cholistan Canal in Punjab for Bahawalpur on Sutlej

Perspective of Center and Provinces:-

The Perspectives of both center and provinces about 6 canals building were:

a) Center Perspective:-

- Pakistan is an agriculture Society
- Agriculture is the backbone of economy
- About 23% of economy is fulfilled by Agriculture to GDP

b) Punjab Perspective:-

- Punjab is the main part of agriculture because
 - ⇒ It fulfills all International demands
 - ⇒ It exports agri based products
- To attract investments from China and Middle East, the projects will lead to economic growth because
 - ⇒ Distination of China and Middle East is on Pakistan for their crops (Pulses, wheat), Fruits, Vegetables and life stock requirements.
 - ⇒ Annual 5 lack camels needed by South Asia from Cholistan
 - ⇒ China needs donkey, Cows, buffalows, Sheeps for life stock farming
- All these projects need water and water is fulfilled by these Canals.
- Investments occur only by minerals and agriculture.
- Not a single drop of water will be taken from Sutlej.

c) Sindh Perspective:-

- Sindh from 1970 to 2024 receives 27 Million Acre Feet of water.
- Sutlej is dried, in 1960 India divert its water.
- From 2010-2024, Sutlej receives only one time of water in 2014 from Sarab
- Take water from Chenab and not from Sutlej
- Consume central water from Punjab which receives 14 MAF from 2000 to 2024.

- Need of Sindh has increased for agriculture and about 25% is increased for domestic purposes.
- Water is more driven into seas to irrigate coastal lines.

Neutral observer and experts perspective:-

- The World Bank, Asian Development Bank stated that canals systems never succeeded in deserts
- In deserts, Orift Irrigation System become success.