

Qno.2 How did Indus Water Treaty (1960) ^{and relations} affect water distribution between Pakistan and India?

Answer:

① Introduction

The Indus-Water Treaty is a bilateral water-sharing agreement in 1960, brokered by the World Bank. It was signed to ensure fair distribution of waters between the two arch-rivals. Before Partition, the Indus Basin system was integrated, and post-partition water-sharing problems grew the need to divide the rivers between India and Pakistan. This has affected their bilateral ties, and despite major wars and mini-skirmishes for decades between them, it has survived their mutual hostility and distrust.

② Historical Background

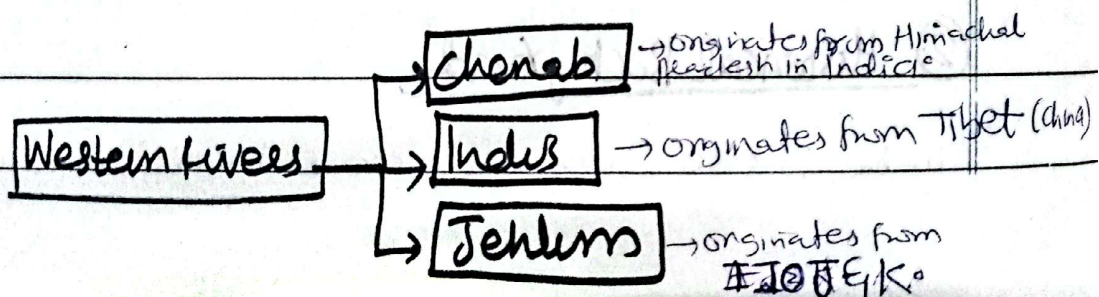
In the British colonial period, the Indus River

Basin was integrated. Post-Pakistan
Stand Still Agreement was signed between
India and Pakistan. However, when the
agreement expired in 1948, India held
Pakistan's waters to fulfil its own domestic
needs, the World Bank intervened as a mediator.
A mutual treaty (IWT) was signed
in 1960 to deter India to weaponize its
upper-riparian status to harm Pakistan's
agricultural economy.

③ IWT's Effect on Water Distribution

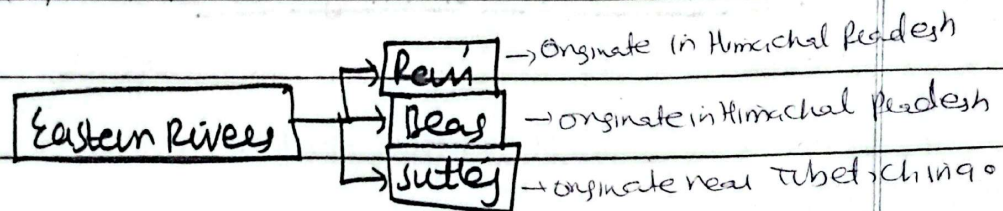
(a) Allocation of Western Rivers to Pakistan

There are 6 main rivers of the Indus River
system. According to the Indus water
Treaty, the western rivers have been
allocated to Pakistan to fulfil its
domestic needs in agriculture and
power sector.



ch) Reserubon of Eastern Rives to India

The treaty has allocated eastern rivers to India. They include Perai, Beas and Sutlej (originate in Tibet, China). This makes India an upper riparian country, having the leverage to stop water flow to Pakistan.



(c) Permanent Indus Commission

PIC is a bilateral body under the IWT to manage and implement shared goals under the treaty. It includes representatives from both New Delhi and Islamabad who meet annually to share water-related data.

④ IWT's Impact on Pak-India Bilateral Ties

(a) Hydrological Vulnerability of Pakistan

The IWT, though mutually beneficial to a certain extent, has put Pakistan in a

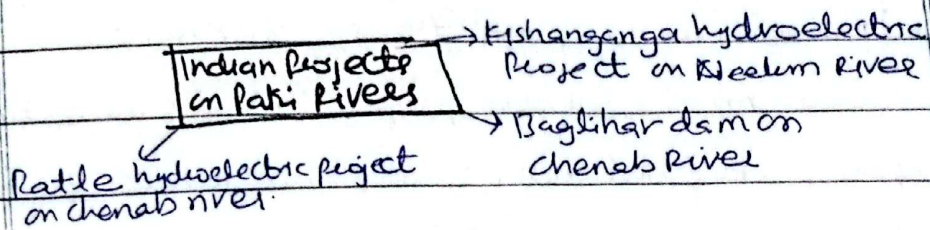
strategically vulnerable position as
a downstream and lower-riparian
state. India can restrict water flow
to Pakistan ~~to~~ harm its agricultural
economy.

(2) India as a Water Hegemon

India has the hydrological leverage to
stop water flow to both Pakistan and
Bangladesh. It has misused its geographical
constrains to settle historical disputes with
Pakistan.

(a) India's Controversial R-O-R Projects on Pakistani Rivers

India has constructed dams on the
Pakistani waters by exploiting certain
provisions in the IWT. It has constructed
Run-of-the-river projects such as
Rattle hydroelectric projects, Rugglihar dam
and Kishanganga hydroelectric projects on
the Pakistani rivers.



(b) Water as a Diplomatic Tool

India has threatened Pakistan to stop the flow of western rivers towards it. After 2016 Uri attack, India wanted to suspend Pakistan's water rights as a punitive measure.

(c) Instrumentalize IWT to sideline Kashmir Issue

India has time and again instrumentalized the treaty to sideline the Kashmir issue. It wants to reduce the bilateral concerns to terrorism and other neutralizing Pakistan's concerns related to Kashmir.

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

③ Critical Analysis

After the recent 22 April, Peshawar crisis, India has unilaterally revoked the treaty. Under the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court, diversion of natural resources, such as rivers,

to achieve military objectives constitute a "war crime". Pakistan professes internationalization of the water, but India insists bilateralism to maintain regional hegemony.

Conclusion

Thus, Indus Water Treaty has survived many decades of wars and skirmishes between the two arch-rivals in the South Asian region. It has to a certain extent resolved the transboundary issues between Pakistan and India. However, India's hegemonic designs and its attempts to reduce it to a bilateral issue have weakened Pakistan's efforts to internationalize the issue.