

Q Indus Water Treaty, Historical Background, its features, the need of revisiting it & recommendations?

Introduction:

Indus water treaty one of most important & successful water agreement, that saw three wars but still remained. 99

— Ban Ki-moon

(General Secretary of UN)

Indus water treaty signed on Sep, 19, 1960 serve as the most influential treaty in South-Asia because it kept two rival countries from waging a war. It consist of certain provisions which help both countries to regulate water and relations in a good manner. But with the passage of time, it feels a need of revisiting it due to changing climate, regional & political reasons. Along with that, transboundary cooperation, good government regulation and

Suitable climate strategies, would help both countries to control the ongoing water conflict and crisis.

Historical Background:

After 1947, division of the Subcontinent into India and Pakistan led to severe water crisis bcz all headworks were given to India. And on 1 April, 1948 India stopped water towards Pakistan. And after, eight years long negotiation on 19 September 1960, both countries signed treaty in Karachi with the help of World Bank. World Bank serve as a mediator, and Jawahar Lal Nehru and President Ayub Khan signed the treaty named Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

> Division of the Rivers:

Eastern Rivers
to India

Ravi

Beas

Sutlej

} 41 billion m³
yearly flow

Western Rivers to Pakistan

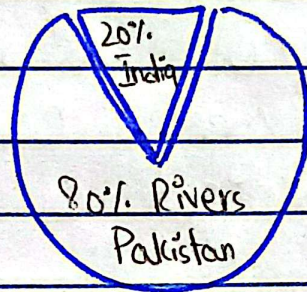
Ravi

Chenab

Sutlej

} 99 billion m³
annual flow

This division give 80% control of rivers to Pakistan, while 20% to India. But India is allowed to use western rivers but in limited manner. Such as for irrigation etc.



Certain Features of Indus Water treaty:

1. Provisions regarding Eastern Rivers.

- > All Eastern rivers belong to India but Pakistan could use for limited purposes.
- > Pakistan should allow free flow of water in their area
- > Pak could use water of tributaries that join Indian rivers.
- > A transitional period 1960-70 is given to Pakistan so that

it could build dams and canals.

2 Provisions regarding Western Rivers.

- > All western rivers belong to Pakistan, but India could use it for irrigation, fishing and other conventional purposes.
- > India must allow free flow of water in their area
- > India is not allowed to build any dam, barrage or any other project on Pakistan rivers.

3 Daily Exchange of Data:

- > Data must be exchanged annually by both countries with each other.
- > Data about extraction of water from reservoirs
- > Data about withdrawal from government canal and link canals.
- > If any country is about to build any or plan any project other side should be informed before starting the project.

4 Dispute Settlement:

Dispute about water regulation between two nations must be solved in a systematic manner through legal bodies;

Commission Body

For Example, Indus Permanent Commission, but if dispute could not settle down, it should be transferred to expert body.

Expert Body / Stage

~~If it also could not~~ Expert must be selected from both countries to negotiate on crisis. But if it also ~~failed~~ then mediator should be asked.

Mediator

For direct talks between two countries.

Court of Arbitration

If mediator failed to solve the issue, then court of Arbitration is the last resort.

The Need For Revisiting IWT:

Indus water treaty Signed in 1960

was suitable for that time problems and crisis. But with the passage of time climate issues are emerging on a large scale. Political crisis are emerging. Recent Pahalgaon issue cannot be ignored. Keeping in view all these problems, IWT should be revised so that certain changes could be introduced according to the emerging problems.

a Climate Degradation

As International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMD) warns that Himalayan glacier could shrink up to 38% by 2100.

This highlights the increasing water and climate crisis. Trans-boundary climate issue cannot be ignored. During recent monsoon India release water into Sutlej and Ravi, due to over-flow of water in India.

Pakistan which is a country

of huge population facing low per capita water availability.

In 1952, Pakistan per capita water availability was 5,290 cubic meter per person.

1952 → 5,290 m³ per person

2016 → 1000 m³ per person

2025 → 860 m³ per person

(while minimum requirement is 1100 m³)

This shows severe water crisis.

According to World Bank, India Basin is under severe pressure due to high pollution and greater population. These problems highlight the necessity for changes in water IWT to solve emerging issues.

keep the description of a single argument brief and increase the no of arguments instead.

(2) Political Uncertainty:

Being a rival country there is always a fear of uprising or war. In 2016 after Uri attack, Narendra Modi stated, Blood and Water could not flow equally. After that in 2019, India started their project of Kishanganga Dam and Balighar Dam.

without even notifying Pakistan about the project. This causes a kind of resentment ~~and~~ between both states.

• Recent Pahalgam Attack:

After recent Pahalgam attack, India accused Pakistan for the attack and in return held in abeyance Indus water treaty. But with the help of ~~an~~ Arbitration Court, ~~issue~~ got solved. Even Pakistani leadership appreciated Bank's regional Vice president Osmare Dione for recognizing Pakistan legal concerns about IWT by regarding India's ~~of~~ stance as unlawful. These ~~issues~~ make it necessary for both countries to revisit the treaty and introduce changes in it.

→ Recommendations:

For smooth water regulation and flow both countries should take careful steps so that uprisings could be avoided.

The following recommendations could be suggested:

① Transparent data Sharing:

According to TWT data should be exchange with each other. So that both can take actions according to it. But it must be transparent and should be shared ~~on~~ timely. Pakistan being a vulnerable country with only 30 days water storage capacity need on time data about water.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

② Adopt Climate Suitable Policies:

As climate change is not limited to boundaries. Therefore, both countries need to take such measures that could avoid or limit transboundary pollution. This pollution could affect glaciers melting rate; ultimately rivers ~~as~~ quantity and quality both.

③ Take Part in negotiation:

Day: _____

Date: _____

Most of the time, negotiation is avoided which lead to severe crisis. In 2018, when Pakistan took matter of India Projects to Arbitration Expert bodies. India refused to take part. Hence, India complete their project and Pakistan left vulnerable. This highlight intense need of negotiation and meeting. This could avoid direct conflict.

end the answer with conclusion.