

India-Pakistan Water Dispute

An Alarming Issue

Outline:

1. Introduction

2. Overview of India-Pakistan Water Dispute Since Independence

3. Causes Behind the India-Pakistan Water Dispute

- (i) Boundries Interference of both nation
 - (a) Recent Pahalgam attack in India
controlled part in the Kashmir region
- (ii) Climate Change caused Water Scarcity
- (iii) India development projects Impacting availability of water
- (iv) Violation of Indus Water Treaty
 - (a) Agriculture dependency makes water Security Criticle

4. How the Dispute is Alarming?

- (i) Threat to regional Stability of Both nations
- (ii) Havildy dependency of Agriculture Sector on water
 - (a) 23% GDP of Pakistan depend

on agriculture Sector

(iii) Displaced million of people due to floods

(a) PDMA Report: casualties and displaces masses due to 2022 and 2025 floods

(iv) Water Shortage impacting energy projects of Pakistan

(v) Climate change impacts like melting glaciers and unpredictable rainfall strain Indus Basin

(vi) Chances of war between both and changes in regional integration

(vi) Rising of Provincial prejudices among the public

5. Impacts of India-Pakistan Water Dispute

(i) Inter Provincial disharmony

(ii) Conflicts over construction of new water reservoirs

(iii) Ever decreasing agriculture output leads to economic disparity

- (iv) India's action might damage its international reputation and lead to regional legal dispute
- (v) Water Scarcity and pollution could increase waterborne disease
- (vi) Encroachment of coastal areas leads to migration which bring socio-economic issues

6. Possible Settlements to Resolve the Water Dispute

- (i) Update the Indus Water Treaty to address realities
- (ii) Bilateral negotiations to address mutual concerns
- (iii) Joint water management Projects for mutual benefits
- (iv) International mediation to resolve dispute peacefully
- (v) Need to make win-win Policy for mutual benefits

7. Conclusion

"The Indus Water Treaty
stood beacon of cooperation" for decades but faces strain due to unilateral action by India. The India-Pakistan water dispute is an alarming issue that threatens regional stability and peace.

Centered around the Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960, the conflict revolves around India construction of hydroelectric projects like Kichanganga and Ratle on rivers allocated to Pakistan. Sparking fears of water scarcity and control.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has condemned India's suspension of the IWT as "weaponization of water" warning it endangers millions of lives and regional peace. With

Pakistan agricultural heavily reliant on the Indus River System (over 90% dependent) reduced water flow could devastate food security, livelihoods and exacerbate economic instability.

Date: 1/20

M T W T F S

Climat Change compound tensions, altering participation pattern and glaciers melt, heightening water stress in the Indus basin. Therefore India - Pakistan water dispute alarming for the integration of Pakistan including economic, health, environmental and Services Sectors for Pakistan.

Moreover, Some Settlement needs to do for the Stability of Pakistan integration and Socio-economics factors behind it.

India - Pakistan ^{water} dispute not only a yet issue but also Since the independence of Pakistan. After the partition of India and Pakistan, the Indus water treaty was signed in 1960 with some leaders negotiations. This treaty was signed under the United nation council with mutual negotiation. The Eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej)

are allocated the India Rivers, while the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) are allocated to Pakistan. The treaty aimed to resolve water disputes and facilitate cooperation despite geopolitical tension between India and Pakistan. Tensions persist with India's Project like Vishanganga and Rattle dams sparking concerns over water scarcity and control. Pakistan agriculture, heavily dependent on the Indus, faces risks from reduced flow and sometimes heavy flow of water in Ravi that cause floods, migration and agricultural disasters. Since the independence, Pakistan has faced four wars with India in 1947, 1965, 1971, 1999 after every war with India, India changed the water flow toward Pakistan, that was causing the hurdle between the Pakistan and its developments, and progress as well.

There are many causes behind the India - Pakistan water disputes that promote the regional integration, socio-economic, infrastructure and climate casualties towards Pakistan.

Boundaries interference of both nation that leads to the dispute between both countries. The recent attack in Indian occupied Kashmir part at Pahalgam areas caused almost 30+ casualties and destroyed the infrastructure as well. After this attack India also launched rifles towards Pakistan that effected the regional integration of Pakistan. Therefore, that kind of dispute lead to the water disruption of Pakistan. India always provoked the Indus water treaty due to any clash between both countries. Hence, boundaries interference leads the water dispute of India-Pakistan.

Climate change is an other factor behind the India-Pakistan water dispute. Due to climate change, the scarcity of water leads to tension between both countries. Therefore, the shortage of water due to climate change destroys the infrastructure and agricultural sector of India and Pakistan. According to the IPCC report, Pakistan is one of the countries highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Pakistan's agriculture sector is highly reliant on the Indus River system (90% dependent) and faces significant risks from reduced water flow, leading to potential food shortage and livelihood. No doubt, climate change is another factor that promotes the India-Pakistan water dispute.

Similarly the water dispute between India and Pakistan primarily stem from the sharing of river resources from the Indus Basin, governed by The Indus Water Treaty. India development projects, such as the construction of dams and irrigation system on the Sutlej, beas and Ravi rivers, have heightened tensions, as these flow into Pakistan. India's hydroelectric projects like the Keshanganga Dam, are seen by Pakistan as potential threats to its water security.

According to a 2017 report by the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources, reduced water flow due to upstream diversions could severely impact Pakistan's agriculture, increasing regional friction.

Moreover, violation of Indus water treaty causes

Date: ___/___/2025

the India-Pakistan water dispute. As the Pakistan agriculture dependency on water needs more water but due to over flow and Unsustainable flow of water from India causes badly for the economy of Pakistan. Due to that behaviours, both nation leads to war like situation in the regions that caused water dispute and Shortage of water from India. Therefore, continuously violation of IWT leads the water dispute between both more intensely and resultedly, both nation start disrupt the national integration from differently ways.

Same as, the agriculture dependency makes water security critical. Agriculture sector need water to grow the crops and foods season wise, but due to shortage

of water and sometimes over flow of water in ravi rivers destroy the every crop from roots. Due to that, both countries faced critical situation and start clashes between territories and through water in rivers.

So, the both countries water distribution caused the critical regional situation between both nations.

However, India-Pakistan water dispute having different caused behind it, besides, this dispute is alarming for both nation specially to the Pakistan. The alarming factors are describe below.

Firstly India Pakistan dispute is alarming for the regional stability of both countries. When the one country faces the water scarcity, it starts the clashes between both, Resultdly, face the regional wars and terrorist

attack to prevail the dispute. The recent Pahalgam attack in India occupied Kashmir Part by India changed the regional integration of the Pakistan. Even that, this attack condemned by the United Nation and BBC news proved it by the side of India. Hence, it proved that the India - Pakistan water dispute is alarming to the regional integration of Pakistan.

Secondly, heavily dependency of agriculture on water, effective by the shortage of water. The GDP of Pakistan largely dependent on the agricultural trade sector. Due to the shortage or scarcity of water, impacted and the country faces trade deficit in agricultural products. According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan almost 23% of total GDP reliant on the agriculture revenue of the country. So, the dispute is

badly effects the trade sector and agriculture sector of Pakistan.

Thirdly, the water dispute between both armed country also leads towards the migration of masses due to floods crises. The India - Pakistan water dispute is alarming for the people due to heavy floods in India shared rivers. According to the disaster management Authority of Pakistan, 2022 and 2025 floods in Pakistan, nearly 8 million displaced overall and the IOM estimating 1.7 million in December 2022. (International organization on Migration)

There is no doubt, India - Pakistan water dispute is alarming because the heavy flow of water caused migration and displace people from their own sites.

Fourthly, the water dispute between India and Pakistan effected badly the Pakistan energy Projects due high and low water

flow. The heavy water flow affects the infrastructure of energy sectors and the scarcity of water caused the delay in energy projects. Due to that kind of issues in energy sector caused the electricity shortage and also affects the economy of Pakistan. However, the energy projects in Pakistan can boost the economy of Pakistan but the water dispute with India hinders it.

Moreover, the India-Pakistan dispute over climate change is intensifying, with both nations facing severe impacts on water resources, due to melting glaciers and unpredictable rainfall patterns in the Indus Basin. The Indus, which flows through both countries is essential for daily life. However, climate change has led to erratic weather, reduced snowfall, and accelerated glacier melt, threatening

water security for millions. As water availability declines, tensions rise over inevitable sharing of the river's resources. Without cooperation, this dispute could exacerbate food and water scarcity, destabilizing the region and deepening existing geopolitical conflicts. So, no doubt, India-Pakistan water dispute is alarming for the climatic changes and regional as well.

Lastly, The India-Pakistan water dispute is amplifying provincial ^{du}predices, especially within both countries. As water scarcity worsens, regional tensions rise, with provincial blaming each other for mismanagement and inequitable distribution. In Pakistan, Provinces like Sindh accuse Punjab of diverting water unfairly. While in India, States like Punjab and Haryana claim reduced water flow due to upstream action by neighboring regions. These

growing provincial divides fuel mistrust and exacerbate internal conflicts, making cooperative solutions more challenging and stoking public resentment across borders. This escalating prejudice threatens both national ^{unity} and regional peace.

Therefore, India-Pakistan water dispute is alarming for the both countries and it causing different impacts in the regional integration and other ways. They all are discussed below.

The India-Pakistan water dispute, particularly over the Indus River, has significant implication for inter-provincial harmony in both countries. In Pakistan, provinces like Punjab & Sindh often clash over water distribution, with Punjab receiving a larger share, exacerbating regional tensions. Similarly, in India, states like

Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab face similar issues, creating discord over equitable access to water resources.

These disputes hinder national unity, as regional disparities over water rights can fuel local conflicts and weaken overall cooperation.

Besides, the construction of new water reservoirs by both India and Pakistan exacerbates tensions over shared river system, particularly the Indus River. India's dam projects, like the Kishanganga and Baglihar, are viewed by Pakistan as violations of the Indus Water Treaty, threatening its water supply. These projects escalate distrust, heightening the risk of conflicts over water allocation and regional stability.

On the other side, the water dispute between both

Date: ___/___/2025

causing the drastically change in agriculture sector. Due to that, the economy destabilized and effect on national or international level. The huge part of GDP dependent on agricultural sector, if the sector not grow properly, resulted effects the masses employment and liberal force as well. Due to the country faces disparity the Socio-economic sectors.

Moreover, due to India - Pakistan water Clashes, India brings the problem to his own country. Therefore, different terrorist attack and border interference after the shortage or overflow of water caused the India reputation badly. United nation and other news-channels BBC as well proved the terrorist attacked by the India side

that damage the reputation of India at level of international level.

The India-Pakistan water disputes have exacerbated water scarcity, especially in regions dependent on shared river systems like the Indus. This scarcity leads to over-extraction of groundwaters, further depleting resources. With limited clean water available, pollution from industrial, agricultural, and domestic waste contaminates remaining sources, increasing the spread of waterborne diseases. The lack of effective water management exacerbates these issues, threatening public health, agricultural productivity, and socio-economic stability in both countries.

Besides, encroachments of coastal areas leads to migration which brings socio-economic crises in

Date: ___/___/20

country. Coastal communities face displacement due to loss of land and livelihoods, leading to mass migration to urban areas. This influx strains resources, infrastructure, and social services, triggering socio-economic crises. Job scarcity, overcrowding, and increased poverty contribute to tensions between migrants and locals, complicating efforts to address regional stability and economic growth.

Therefore, the countries facing different crises due to water dispute between both. These reasons are causing hindrances between both development and progress. So, there are many possible settlement needs to apply on both for the best progress and socio-economic developments.

Firstly, need to update the Indus Water Treaty to address

the realities between both. The Treaty Signed in 1960, should be revised to reflect modern realities like population growth, climate change, and changing water demands.

A framework for joint management of water resources, equitable sharing, and data transparency could foster cooperation reducing tensions and ensuring sustainable water use for both nations.

Bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan can help address mutual concerns regarding water disputes. Regular dialogues focusing on equitable water sharing, collaborative monitoring, and conflicts prevention mechanisms are essential. Both countries should prioritize diplomatic engagement over unilateral actions, ensuring that water resources

Date: ___/___/2025

management benefits both nations. A joint commission could facilitate trust-building and resolve disputes before they escalate.

Moreover, joint water management projects could provide a practical solution to the India - Pakistan water dispute. By collaborating on dam construction, water storage, and irrigation systems, both nations could ensure more efficient use of resources. Shared projects would foster trust, allow for better distribution, and address both countries' agricultural and energy needs, promoting regional stability and long-term cooperation.

Besides, international mediation needs to resolve the dispute between both nations, peacefully.

Neutral third parties, such as the United Nations or International

Date: 1/2025

M T W T F S

Water management organizations, could facilitate dialogue, propose fair solutions, and monitor agreement. Mediation would help ensure transparency, reduce mistrust, and offer unbiased perspectives, encouraging both nations to reach a peaceful, equitable resolution for shared water resources.

Lastly, a win-win policy is essential to resolve the India - Pakistan water dispute. Both countries need to prioritize mutual benefits, focusing on equitable water sharing, resources conservation, and long-term sustainability collaborative solutions. Such as joint infrastructure projects and shared monitoring system, can ensure that both nations meet their agricultural and energy needs, fostering trust and reducing the

risk of conflicts.

To be concluded,
the India-Pakistan water dispute
since the Independence causing different
factors behind the both nation that
are contributing as a hurdle in the
progress of both countries. This disputed
affecting infrastructure, agricultural and
Socio-economic Sectors. Therefore,
this dispute is alarming for the
both nation that caused the
regional integration of both nations.
Due to this dispute, largely agricultural
sector and massive bulge of youth
facing displacement due to floods
or water scarcity. However, mutual policies
and international negotiations can resolve
the dispute between both peacefully.

"Through cooperation, not conflict, we can
transform the shared rivers of the
subcontinent into bridges of peace,
where every drop flows towards prosperity
of all."