

INDIA - PAKISTAN

WATER DISPUTE -

AN ALARMING ISSUE

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2 - Historical background of India-Pakistan water dispute. ✓

3 - Steps of India that make India-Pakistan water dispute - an alarming issue:

a) - Belligerent attitude of India over the Siachen Glacier ✓

b) - Stubbornness of India over the Sir Creek issue

c) - India's construction of Barrage on Pakistan's river

d) - Development of dams by India on the western rivers.

e) - Announcement of building hydroelectric project on Pakistan's rivers.

f) - Marginalization of the Indus Water Commission meeting

g) - Suspension of the Indus Water Treaty

4)- How India's repugnant attitude regarding the Indus Water Treaty is an alarming issue for Pakistan?

a)- Threat to Pakistan's economy

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c)- Exacerbating Inter-provincial conflict

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5)- India - Pakistan water dispute is an alarming issue for the region:

a)- Imminent threat of nuclear war

b)- Failure of the International arbitration

6)- Pragmatic measures to overcome the threats of India-Pakistan water dispute:

a)- Proper enforcement mechanism of the International arbitration

b)- Transformation of pursuing country's interests.

7)- Conclusion

Improve your argumentation

Avoid irrelevant points

Properly deconstruct the topic

Directly integrate attention

grabber into the essay

“

In this century,
nations are fighting
over resources and
in the next century
they will be wrangling
over water.”

(Dr. Jinnah)

Introduction must b of one para

The abovementioned words of a renowned scholar highlight that water is inevitable for life. There is no life without water. Therefore, it is a matter of national security for a state.

Pakistan and India are an immediate neighbour. Both the countries got independence from the British empire. However, Pakistan and India share resources with each other. This sharing causes dispute between

them. In this aspect, India is an upper riparian country. It shows its ascendancy over the resources, especially on water. For this purpose, it has been taking various steps to suppress its lower riparian country - Pakistan. These developments includes belligerent attitude of India over the Siachen Glacier, construction of barrage on Pakistan's rivers and the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty.

Evidently, these steps are the matter of concern for the national security of Pakistan. They are posing serious threat to the economy of Pakistan along with energy crisis in Pakistan and exacerbating inter-provincial conflicts in the country.

Furthermore, India-Pakistan water dispute is also an intimidation for the region. The

major threats are imminent jeopardy of nuclear^{war} and the failure of the international arbitration.

However, these menaces can be reduced by adopting some pragmatic measures. These steps includes: proper enforcement mechanism of the international arbitration and the transformation of pursuing country interests. Thus, India-Pakistan water dispute is adopting a shape of horrible peril not only for Pakistan but also for the region due to Indian belligerent attitude. It can be stopped by adopting some affirmative measures.

Historically, India and Pakistan relationships have been marked as "conflict and confrontation." India is an upper riparian country and Pakistan is a lower riparian country in terms of flow of

water. Therefore, on **1 April, 1948**, India stopped the flow of water to Pakistan. On Pakistan's protest, India provisionally released water on **4 May, 1948**. Therefore, in order to resolve this issue Pakistan knocked at the door of the World Bank in 1959. Aftermath, Pakistan and India signed an agreement on **19 September, 1960** - called **The Indus Water Treaty**.

This treaty stood the test of time for **65 years**. Lamently, on **23 April, 2025**, India unilaterally suspended the treaty and further exacerbated the water dispute between two countries.

Moreover, in order to pursue its ultimate aim, India has taken various steps against the requirements of the treaty. These factors make India-Pakistan water dispute an alarming issue. They are as described below:

First, belligerent attitude of India over the Siachin Glacier was the first step of India that escalated India-Pakistan water dispute. Since independence-1947, this glacier had been controlled by Pakistan, but ~~at~~ India annexed it on **13 April, 1984** by launching "Operation Meghdoot". It was the clear violation of the international law. It is evident that India wanted to suppress Pakistan by seizing its limited resources of water. Thus, the annexation of the Siachin Glacier paved the way for water dispute between two nuclear countries.

Secondly, the stubbornness of India over the Sir Creek issue is also escalating the water conflict between two immediate neighbours. Creeks play an imperative role in

fulfilling the irrigation requirements of a country. Therefore, India wants to disturb the irrigation mechanism of Pakistan. In order to achieve its abhorrent desire, it has been creating the issue of Sir Creek. For this purpose, India has not been accepting the **resolution of 1914**, which had solved the Sir Creek issue between Sindh — the part of Pakistan after independence and the Ran of Kutch — the part of India after 1947. Therefore, ~~stubbornness~~ of India over the Sir Creek issue is further aggravating India-Pakistan water dispute.

Third, India's ^{construction} ~~construction~~ of barrage on Pakistan's river is also worsening the issue of water sharing between two countries. India has ^{always} been pursuing policy of confrontation to show its ascendancy in the region.

especially to Pakistan. Therefore, it utilized its upper riparian position to stop the flow of water to Pakistan. For this purpose, India developed **Wullar Bana** on the Jhelam river in 1985.

Therefore, the construction of bana on Pakistan's river is exacerbating the water dispute between two nuclear states.

Fourth, development of dams on the western rivers by India is also aggravating the water dispute between Pakistan and India. There is no right of India to build dams on the western rivers. These rivers were allocated to Pakistan in 1960. India has right to build dams on the eastern rivers. Alas, India has been adopted belligerent attitude since 1947 to suppress Pakistan. For this purpose, India has built

the Kishanganga dam on the Neelum river — Pakistan's river and the Baglihar dam on the Chenab river — Pakistan's river. Thus, development of dams on the western rivers is further worsening the water dispute between Pakistan and India.

or

It is an unequal distribution of the IWT, all the cards in the hands of upper riparian."

(John Briscoe)

Fifth, announcement of building hydroelectric project on Pakistan's rivers is also brewing the water dispute between two nuclear states. It would create the impediment in the flow of water. In

2016, India announced the development of the Ratle hydroelectric project on the Chenab river. It incited the new state of conflict over the issue of water flow between Pakistan and India. Additionally, the Indian leaders are threatening about the creation of further hydroelectric projects on Pakistan's rivers. Thus, the declaration of hydroelectric projects development is aggravating the water dispute between two countries.

“Blood and water cannot flow together.”

(Narendra Modi)

Sixth, the marginalization of the meeting of the permanent Indus Water Commission ^{by India} had

indicated the worst attitude of India on Pakistan's solicits for the solution of water dispute. Since 1985, Pakistan has been raising concern over the development of dams on Pakistan's rivers. On its appeal, the Permanent Indus Water Commission called a meeting for the solution of Pakistan's concern in 2023. Surprisingly, in January 2023, India boycotted to attend the meeting. **It was the clear violation of Article 26 of the Vienna Convention.** Thus, it questioned the credibility of the institution and showed the bellicose behaviour of India regarding India-Pakistan water dispute.

Finally, the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty was the ultimate aim of India. It attained its goal on **23 April, 2025** on the pretext of the pahalgaon incident. This

act of India is the clear and obvious infringement of Article 42 and 57 of the Indus Water Treaty as well as Article 26 of the Vienna Convention.

Therefore, this suspension ~~has been~~ ^{is} aggravating the water sharing conflict between two nuclear states and it was the final aim of India.

Additionally, India's abhorrent act of putting the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance is posing an existential threats ~~to~~ ^{to} Pakistan.

However, it ~~is~~ ^{has} is an alarming issue for Pakistan. Some of menaces are as attornated below:

First, the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty is a serious threat to Pakistan's economy. Pakistan is an agriculture-based economy.

According to the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council,

90% of Pakistan's water is used for agriculture purposes. However, the suspension of the treaty would cause extensive reduction in the share of water to Pakistan. In this way, it would reduce the productivity of the country. Hence, the act of India of putting the treaty in abeyance is a vivid threat to the economy of Pakistan.

“Strong economy works as a fuel of a country.”

(Adam Smith)

Secondly, the stoppage of the flow of water of Pakistan causes energy crisis in Islamabad. Initially, India had showed its bellicosity and installed

the Kishanganga dam on the Neelum river. It stops the flow of water to Pakistan and ceases the working of the Neelum-Jhelum hydroelectric power project. It puts the country in dire energy crisis. Hence, the damming of the treaty would cause decline in Pakistan's share of water and eventually would cause energy crisis in the country.

Third, exacerbating inter-provincial conflict is another ~~can~~ threat of the suspension of the treaty. Pakistan is already a water-stressed country.

According to the IMF report, of the water scarce country, Pakistan is at third position in facing water scarcity.

Apparently, Pakistan is facing inter-provincial distress due to shortage of water. Meanwhile, the suspension of the treaty would further reduce the share of water of the country. It would provoke

the already existing inter-provincial conflict. Thus, it is also a alarming threat for Pakistan.

Lastly, dismal conditions of the Pakistan's citizens is also a matter of concern of Pakistan. According to the World Bank report 2025, 16.5% population of Pakistan is living in absolute poverty.

It manifests that the major chunk of Pakistan population does not have access to clean water and food.

Therefore, the suspense of the treaty would further aggravate the situation. Hence, it is an alarming issue for Pakistan.

Furthermore, India-Pakistan water dispute is also a threat for the region. This threat has various manifestations. They are as elaborated below:

First, imminent threat of nuclear war is an alarming issue for the region, ~~the~~ posing

by India-Pakistan water dispute. Among the four nuclear households of Pakistan, the stoppage of water of the country is considered as a threat to economic sovereignty of the country. In this way, it ^{become a} can cause of nuclear war in the region.

"Any stoppage of water to the flow to Pakistan would be considered an act of war."

(Ishaq Dar)
Foreign Minister
of Pakistan

Second, failure of the international arbitration is another alarming issue for the region due to bellicose behaviour of India. New Delhi has been

continuously ignoring the ruling of the permanent Indus Water Treaty. It is the vivid violation of the Article IX of the treaty. This article demand the settlement of disputes through negotiation rather than unilateral decision. Unfortunately, India did not do so. Therefore, New Delhi's act of suspension has tainted the image of the international arbitration.

Moreover, every issue can be solved by adopting some pertinent and robust measures. Some steps for the solution of these flights are as described below:

First, there is a need of proper enforcement mechanism of the international arbitration. It would restore the image of the international institution in terms of justice without any prejudice. Therefore, the international

social ~~institution~~ institution should develop robust implementation mechanism.

Secondly, countries should pursue their interests by adopting the policy of collaboration rather than confrontation. It would help in developing peace in the region. In this way, states should transform their framework from ~~diast~~ the scourge of catastrophe to peace.

In the nutshell, Pakistan and India have unpalatable memories. Pakistan got independence from both the British and the Indian rule. Unfortunately, unjust demarcation of boundaries ~~is~~ causing innumerable issues for Pakistan most notably the water scarcity. Being an upper riparian country, India has been adopted abhorrent steps to harm the sovereignty of Pakistan. Some of these developments includes: Belligerent

attitude of India over the glacier and the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty. Therefore, these factors are posing serious threats to the economy of Pakistan and causing energy crisis in Pakistan.

Despite this, India-Pakistan water dispute is an alarming issue for the region in the form of imminent threat of nuclear war.

However, these woes can be resolved by adopting some pertinent measures like introducing the proper enforcement mechanism of the international mediation. Thus, the water dispute between India and Pakistan is an alarming issue not only for Pakistan, but also for the region as well. However, it is resolvable by taking some robust and affirmative measures.