

QUESTION - 01

Enlist the major contours of Indus Water Treaty 1960 between India and Pakistan. Explain the ramifications for both countries if the treaty is held in abeyance.

ANSWERINTRODUCTION

The next war in our region will not be fought over oil, but over water." - Ismail Serageldin, Former Vice President of the World Bank.

The recent suspension of IWT by India raises precisely this fear, threatening not only Pakistan's water security but also regional stability in South Asia. The partition of Indian Sub-continent in 1947 not only divided land and people but also bifurcated the water system of Indus River, creating one of the most sensitive



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disputes between India and Pakistan. Water scarcity soon became a pressing challenge, compelling both states to seek a long-term arrangement with the mediation of World Bank. This effort resulted in the signing of Indus Water Treaty in 1960, a rare example of cooperation that endured despite wars and hostilities. Today, however, its suspension has reopened debates about water security, agriculture, and regional peace in South Asia.

keep the introduction a bit brief.



## Bird's Eye View On The Background of IWT

Indus Water treaty was signed on September 19, 1960, by Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru and President of Pakistan, Muhammad Ayub Khan. The treaty was brokered by World Bank. After the partition, the headworks went to India and canals running through Pakistan.



After the expiration of short-term stand-still agreement of 1947. Indian cut down water supply of Pakistan of April 1, 1948. Again, another agreement, Inter-Dominion Accord of May 1948 took place on the condition of annual payments. Negotiations soon came to a standstill with no party ready to compromise. In 1951, David Lilienthal visited the region and suggested that both the countries should work towards an agreement to jointly develop and administer the Indus River system, possibly with advice and financing from World Bank. Eugene Black, the then President of World Bank, agreed. At his suggestion, a working party was formed, consisting of engineers from both countries and engineers from World Bank for advice. In 1954, World Bank submitted its report. On Sep 19, 1960, finally the treaty was signed. It was the longest endured water treaty despite of wars and hostilities.

keep the description of a single heading brief and divide into subheadings.



## Major Provisions of the Treaty

### • Division of Rivers between India and Pakistan

The IWT divided the rivers between two countries. The western rivers - Indus, Jhelum and Chenab were given to Pakistan. The eastern rivers - Ravi, Beas and Sutlej were given to India.

### • Financial Aid and Infrastructure Support

The treaty provided financial aid for the construction of link canals, dams, barrages and tube wells - notably, Tarbela dam on the Indus River and Mangla dam on Jhelum River. These helped provide water to Pakistan in amount, it has recovered from the rivers now assigned for Indian exclusive use. Much of the financing was contributed by the member countries of World Bank.



## • Creation of Permanent Indus Commission

The treaty required the creation of Permanent Indus commission, with commission from each country, in order to maintain channel for communication and to try to try to resolve question about the implementation of treaty.

## • Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

In addition, mechanisms for resolving disputes were provided including a neutral expert mechanism to resolve technical issues and a court of arbitration mechanism for broader and binding adjudications. Numerous disputes were previously resolved, settled over the years through the commission.

## MAJOR REASON BEHIND SUSPENSION OF IWT

In April, gunmen carried out the deadliest attack against civilians in Indian-administered Kashmir. The responsibility was claimed by



Kashmir Resistance group, whose commandless according to Indian security officials, were associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba group. India claim that this group is supported by Pakistan and blamed Pakistan for this attack. But Islamabad government clearly refused the blame. India as a result suspended Indus Water treaty unilaterally.

Blood and water cannot flow together -  
Mr Narendra Modi

### IMPACTS OF SUSPENSION ON PAKISTAN

#### • Predictability and Water Security

while the physical and political limits on disruptions by India are real, the erosion of treaty protection still matters. This is not because water will stop tomorrow, but because the system it support was never built for uncertainty. The flow of the Indus, Jehlum and cherab are the backbone of



our agriculture, our cities, our energy system. At this moment, we simply do not have a substitute of these waters.

For Pakistan, the impact of India's water disruption could be far-reaching. Pakistan's irrigation system is one of the largest in world and it depends almost entirely on the predictable timings of flow from the western rivers. Farmers plan their sowings around those flows. Canal schedules are designed based on assumption that have held for decades. If that rhythm is even slightly disrupted the water system will begin to fray.

too lengthy description.

### Threat of agriculture Productivity

Pakistan is an agrarian country and agro sector is its backbone. The agriculture contributes 24% to the total GDP of Pakistan. The disruption in the water system will have massive impacts on the agriculture sector. The most immediate risk is water predictability.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.



Even if the total volume of water coming to Pakistan does not change immediately, small changes in, when the water arrives, can cause serious problems. A late-season delay during the wheat planning cycle, or an unexpected dip in flow during the dry winter months, can mean missed sowing windows, lower yields and higher costs.

### • Intensification of Provincial water disputes and social unrest

Any shortfall or shift in river timings will force the state to make hard choices about water allocation. This risks intensifying provincial tensions, especially between Punjab and Sindh where water sharing debates are already politically charged. This will cause another social unrest in the country.



## • ENERGY SHORTAGES DUE TO

### REDUCED HYDROPOWER GENERATION

Almost 7000 MW energy in Pakistan is generated by Hydropower. This energy is generated from water flowing through Tarbela, Mangla and other reservoirs. If upstream flows are reduced are cut down completely, it could cut into generation capacity. Pakistan is already a water-scarce country, living close to the edge. A system that has long been run on the margin, now faces a new layer of uncertainty.

## • Increased Risk of floods and

### droughts due to lack of data-sharing

India's decision to suspend the treaty and withhold hydrological data disrupts Pakistan's ability to prepare for both floods and droughts. Stopping data sharing causes severe disruptions to irrigation planning and



and disaster preparedness, especially since the monsoon season forecast for 2025 are for heavy rain.

## • ECONOMIC LOSSES, TRADE DECLINE

### AND GROWING DEBT DEPENDENCY

The suspension of IWT poses grave challenges to economy of Pakistan, threatening agriculture, the backbone of the country.

Declining crop yield and reduced hydropower output would erode export reserves and industrial productivity, accelerating trade decline.

This economic strain coupled with rising import bill will increase dependency on foreign loans.

## IMPACTS OF SUSPENSION ON INDIA

### • DAMAGE TO INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC IMAGE

India's decision to suspend the treaty unilaterally undermines its credibility as a trustworthy state in handling international



agreements. This erodes its soft power and weakens its ability to present itself as a responsible regional leader. This reputational loss is particularly significant because India itself is a downstream state on the Brahmaputra River, where China holds the upper hand. If India abandons treaty, it weakens its moral and diplomatic standing to demand cooperative behavior from China.

### • RIISING ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL RISKS

Unregulated dam operation and altered water flows may lead to flooding, draughts and long-term ecological imbalances in the Indus Basin. These risks could strain India's own river-dependent communities and increase the cost of environmental management.

### • EXPOSURE TO LEGAL AND INTERNATIONAL

### CHALLENGES



By stepping away from treaty backed by world Bank and recognised globally. India risks facing arbitration, international disputes and criticism from global institutions for disregarding international water sharing norms.

### 6. PRESSURE TO RAPIDLY EXPAND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DOMESTICALLY

India's suspension of the treaty has pushed it to speed up new dams, and canals to divert Indus water. It creates financial burden, environmental risks and possible social unrest from land displacement and ecological damage.

### CRITICAL ANALYSIS

The IWR was a bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan, but in recent days it has been suspended unilaterally by India. This decision has had severe repercussions for both countries. It has not



endangered Pakistan's water security and agriculture but has also damaged India's credibility as a treaty abiding state. By violating internationally recognized agreement, India faces global criticism and risks its diplomatic standing.

## CONCLUSION

In the nutshell the suspension of IWT marries not just a legal or diplomatic rupture, but a challenge to regional stability and food security. Both countries must recognize that water is not a weapon, but a shared lifeline. Only through sustained dialogue and renewed commitment to cooperation, South Asia can avoid turning its most vital resource into a source of perpetual conflict.

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improve the references and the paper presentation part.