

## PART - II

Q2: Enlist major contours of Indus water treaty IWT 1960 between India and Pakistan. Explain ramifications for both countries if treaty is held in Abeyance.

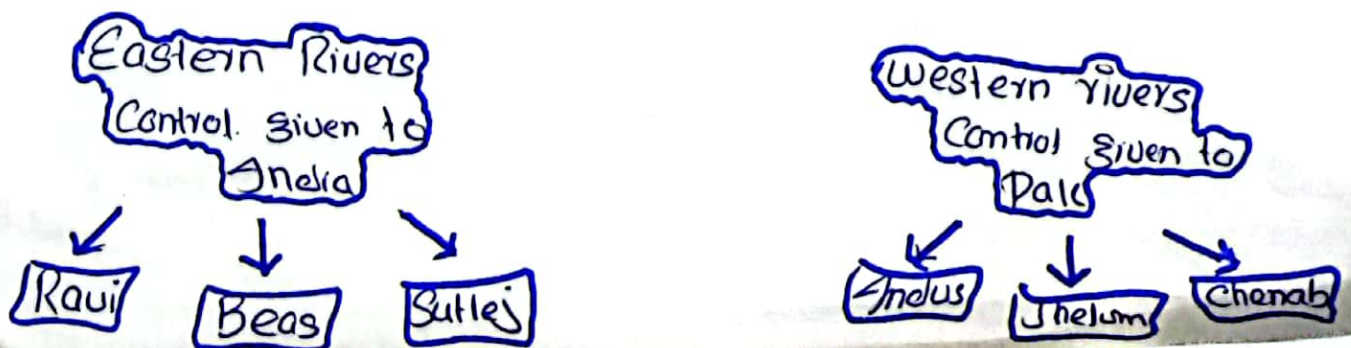
### ⇒ Introduction:

Water is lifeline for survival, agriculture and development. In South Asia, Indus river system is <sup>man</sup> water source for both India and Pakistan. To avoid future conflicts Indus water treaty was signed in 1960 between two nations India and Pakistan with the help of world bank. It was considered as one of the most successful water sharing treaty in the world.

### ⇒ Major Contours of the treaty:

#### (i) Division of Rivers:

- The treaty divides the Indus river system into Eastern and Western rivers.



- India received full control over Eastern rivers
- Pakistan receive Exclusive rights over western rivers, although India is allowed limited use.

## 2) India limited use of western rivers:

India Can use western rivers for

- (1) Domestic use (Drinking, Sanitation)
- (2) Non-consumptive use (fishing)
- (3) To run river hydropower projects (without storing)

However India can't divert or store water which can affect flow to Pakistan.

## 3) Permanent Indus Commission: (PIC)

- A bilateral Commission was formed under treaty.
- It consists <sup>1</sup> Commissioner from each country.

### \* Functions

- (1) Share data & technical information
- (2) Inspect river projects
- (3) Resolve minor issues
- (4) Hold annual meetings alternatively in both countries.

#### 4) Dispute Resolution Mechanism:

- If dispute arises, treaty outline three resolution processes:

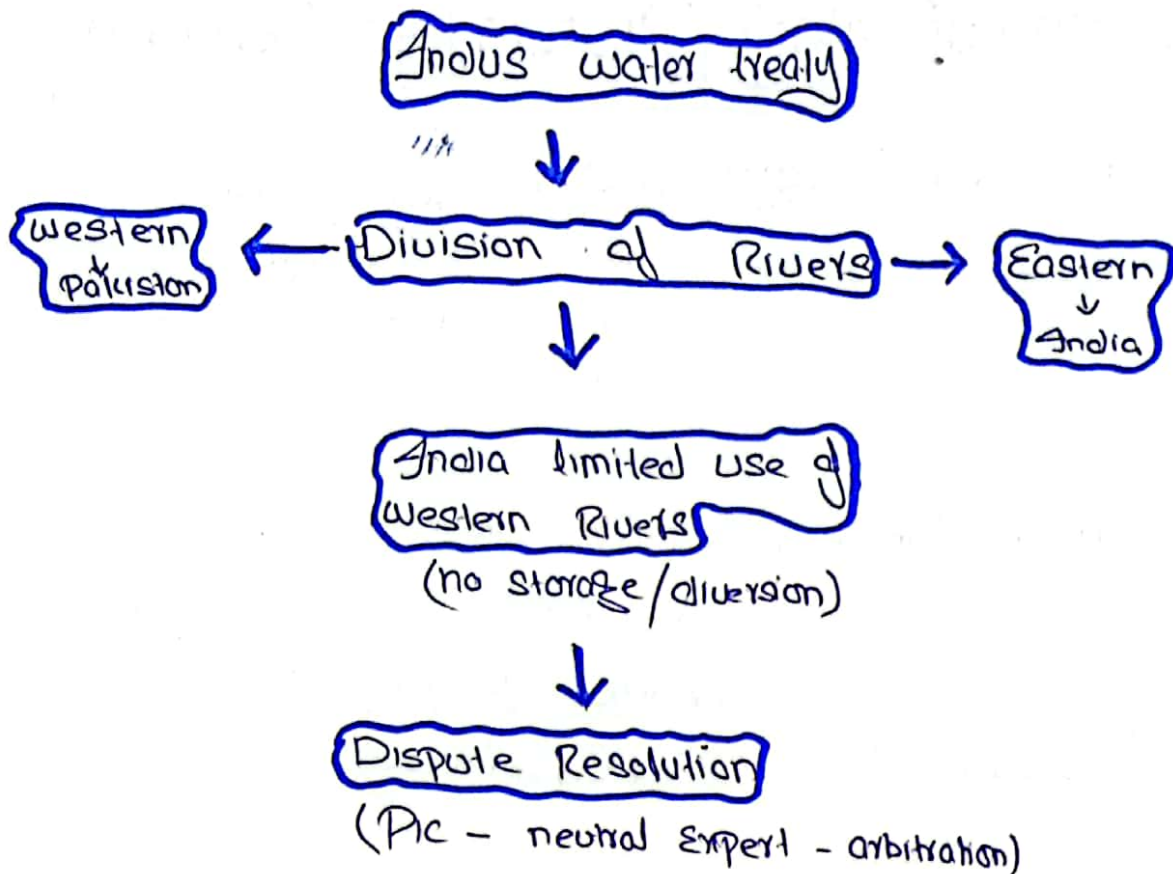
- (1) Bilateral discussion through PIC
- (2) Neutral Expert appointed by world bank for technical matters.
- (3) Court of arbitration, for major legal disputes.

This multi-stage process helped to avoid water wars even during tensions period like Kargil conflict.

#### 5) Notifications and Approval of Projects:

- India must notify Pakistan 6 months ago/before starting any new hydroelectric project on western rivers.
- Pakistan has right to raise objections and ask for design changes if needed.





## Treaty Mechanism

⇒ Ramifications if treaty held in Abeyance:

### (1) water Scarcity in Pakistan:

- Pakistan gets over 80% of its water ~~flow~~ from Western rivers
- without treaty India can delay or limit water flow leading to
  - (1) Droughts
  - (2) Crop failure
  - (3) Water Stress for People & livestock.

## 2) Breakdown of Diplomatic Relations:

- IWT has survived several wars and remain symbol of peaceful cooperation
- If suspended IWT, bilateral tensions may increase, possibly affecting
  - (a) Trade
  - (b) SAARC Cooperation
  - (c) Regional Stability,

## 3) Environmental Degradation:

→ unregulated dam construction by either country may:

- (1) Disrupt river ecosystem
- (2) Impact fish migration
- (3) Change flood patterns,

## 4) Threat to food security:

→ Agriculture in Pakistan is heavily irrigation based

→ Reduced water availability would

- (1) affect rice, cotton, wheat production
- (2) increased food prices
- (3) lead to malnutrition and unemployment (rural).

## 5) Possibility of Conflict:

- water can become a source of war in nuclear region
- Small dispute could escalate into military confrontation.
- Suspension of IWT may lead to aggressive posturing