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# Indus Water Treaty

**Relevance for Prelims:** Indus Water Treaty

**Relevance for Mains:** Recent changes, Hydrological resources

## SIGNIFICANT OF INDUS WATER TREATY

The Indus Water Treaty, signed in 1960, is a historic agreement between India and Pakistan that outlines the sharing of water resources from the Indus River system. The treaty was brokered by the World Bank and is considered one of the most successful water-sharing agreements in the world.

## ABOUT INDUS RIVER SYSTEM

The **Indus River system** is a vital source of water for both India and Pakistan, and the treaty was necessary to prevent disputes and conflicts over the use of these resources. The treaty divides the Indus River system into three main parts: the Western Rivers, the Eastern Rivers, and the Indus River itself.

Under the treaty, India has exclusive rights to the use of the Western Rivers, which include the **Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab**. Pakistan, on the other hand, has exclusive rights to the use of the Eastern Rivers, which include the **Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej**. Both countries are also allowed to use the Indus River for irrigation and other purposes, but with certain limitations.

## KEY PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY

One of the key provisions of the treaty is the **construction of dams and hydroelectric power projects** on the rivers. India is allowed to build hydroelectric power projects on the **Western Rivers** but is required to provide Pakistan with a certain amount of water for **irrigation and other purposes**. Pakistan, on the other hand, is **not allowed** to build dams on the **Eastern Rivers** but is allowed to use the water for irrigation and other purposes.

The treaty also established a **Permanent Indus Commission**, which is responsible for implementing the treaty and resolving any disputes that may arise between the two

countries. The commission is made up of representatives from both India and Pakistan and is chaired by a neutral party appointed by the World Bank.

## **BENEFITS OF THE INDUS WATER TREATY**

The **Indus Water Treaty** has been successful in preventing conflicts and disputes over water resources between India and Pakistan. However, there have been some challenges in implementing the treaty, including the construction of dams and hydroelectric power projects in India that have caused concerns for Pakistan. In recent years, there have been calls for the treaty to be revised to address these concerns and ensure that water resources are used in a sustainable and equitable way.

## **CONCLUSION**

Overall, the Indus Water Treaty is a vital agreement that has helped to prevent conflicts and disputes over water resources between India and Pakistan. The treaty has been successful in providing a framework for the sharing of these resources and has played a key role in maintaining peace and stability in the region. However, as the needs and demands for water resources continue to grow, it is important to ensure that the treaty remains relevant and effective in the years to come.

**Shibaji biswas**

