

## Indus Water Treaty Suspension

**Prelims** - Current events of national and international importance.

**Mains (GS II)** - India and its neighbourhood - relations| Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

### Why in news?

India has declared the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) of 1960 with Pakistan "in abeyance" with immediate effect in response to terror strike in Pahalgam.

- **Held in abeyance** - India has **temporarily suspended** the enforcement of the treaty until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.
- **Scope of suspension** - There is no explicit provision for treaty suspension in the original water treaty agreement.
- **Article 62 of the Vienna Convention on Law of Treaties** - Provide grounds for rejecting a treaty due to fundamental change of circumstances.

*The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT) adopted on 1969 is an international agreement that regulates treaties among sovereign states.*

### Implications of Suspension

- India is no longer obligated to follow restrictions on reservoir flushing of the Kishanganga and other projects on western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab) in Jammu and Kashmir.

*Reservoir flushing is a technique used to remove accumulated sediment from a reservoir by releasing water at a high flow rate to wipe out the sediment.*

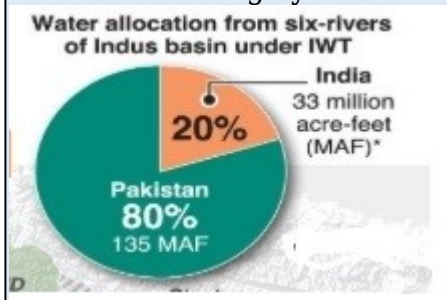
- Reservoir filling can now be done anytime instead of only during August (peak monsoon).
- There are no operational restrictions on how reservoirs are to be filled and operated.
- There will be no restrictions on designing building structures like dams on western rivers.
  - In the past almost every project has been objected to by Pakistan over the designs.
- India can stop sharing flood data on the rivers with Pakistan.
- India can take flood control measures to mitigate floods in the Valley.

## Indus Water Treaty

- The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is a water-distribution treaty between ***India and Pakistan***.
- **Negotiated by** - The World Bank.
- **Signed in** - 1960.
- The treaty covers the Indus system of rivers which includes:
  - The main Indus River
  - Five left bank tributaries - Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Jhelum, and Chenab

### Water Allocation Under Treaty

- **Eastern rivers** (Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi)
  - Allocated to India for unrestricted use
- **Western rivers** (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab)
  - Allocated largely to Pakistan.



- India can use western rivers for *domestic use, agriculture, and hydroelectric power*.

## Reference

[The Hindu| Indus Water Treaty suspension](#)

**Related Article:** [Indus Waters Treaty \(IWT\)](#)