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.

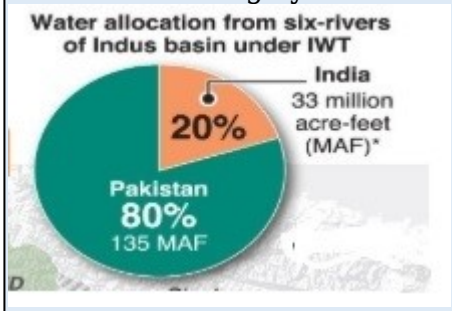
- Reservoir filling can now be *done anytime* instead of only during August (peak monsoon).
- There are *no operational restrictions* on how reservoirs are to be filled and operated.
- There will be *no restrictions on designing building structures* like dams on western rivers.
  - In the past almost 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)

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