River Teesta

Prelims: *Current events of national and international relations | Geography*

Why in News?

Recently, the Bangladesh Prime Minister visited China, where the two sides discussed the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project (TRCMRP).

- **River Teesta –** It is a tributary of the Jamuna River (Brahmaputra River), flowing through India (*Sikkim & West Bengal*) and Bangladesh.
- **Origin** – It rises from *Tso Lhamo Lake* (also known as Chho Lhamo Lake) in the eastern Himalayas near Chunthang in Sikkim.
- It flows to the south, cuts a deep gorge through the Siwalik Hills east of Darjeeling, then turns southeast through the Sivok Khola pass into the plains of West Bengal before entering Bangladesh.
- On entering Bangladesh, it merges with the river Jamuna and eventually *drains into the Bay of Bengal*.

- **Tributaries**
  - The major right bank tributaries include River Rangeet (largest tributary), Kanaka, Ringyong Chhu, etc.
  - Left bank tributaries include Rangpo, Lachung, Ranikhola, Relli, etc.
- **Hydroelectric Potential** – The Teesta River basin in India is a major hub for hydroelectric power; the largest generating facility is the 1200 MW Teesta-III project in Sikkim.

About TRCMRP

- **TRCMRP** – It is a river management & infrastructure initiative (for a 100 km stretch) between Bangladesh and China, which provides funding and implementation support.
- **China's Interest –** China has for years shown interest in developing this project, located near India's sensitive Siliguri Corridor connecting the mainland with the northeastern states.
- The CBMEC, if completed, will give China direct access to the Bay of Bengal.

Quick Fact

Other River Agreements between India & Bangladesh
• **Ganga Water Treaty (1996)** – A 30-year treaty for sharing the dry-season flows of the Ganga at the Farakka Barrage. • **Kushiyara River Treaty (2022)** – It is in the state of Tripura to ease seasonal water shortages and flooding; it allows Bangladesh to withdraw 153 cusecs of water for its Sylhet region for irrigation. • **Feni River Agreement (2019)** – It allows India to withdraw 1.82 cusecs of water for drinking purposes in Tripura.

References

1. The Hindu | Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project (TRCMRP)
2. Economic Times | Bangladesh, China agree to strengthen cooperation on Teesta river

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