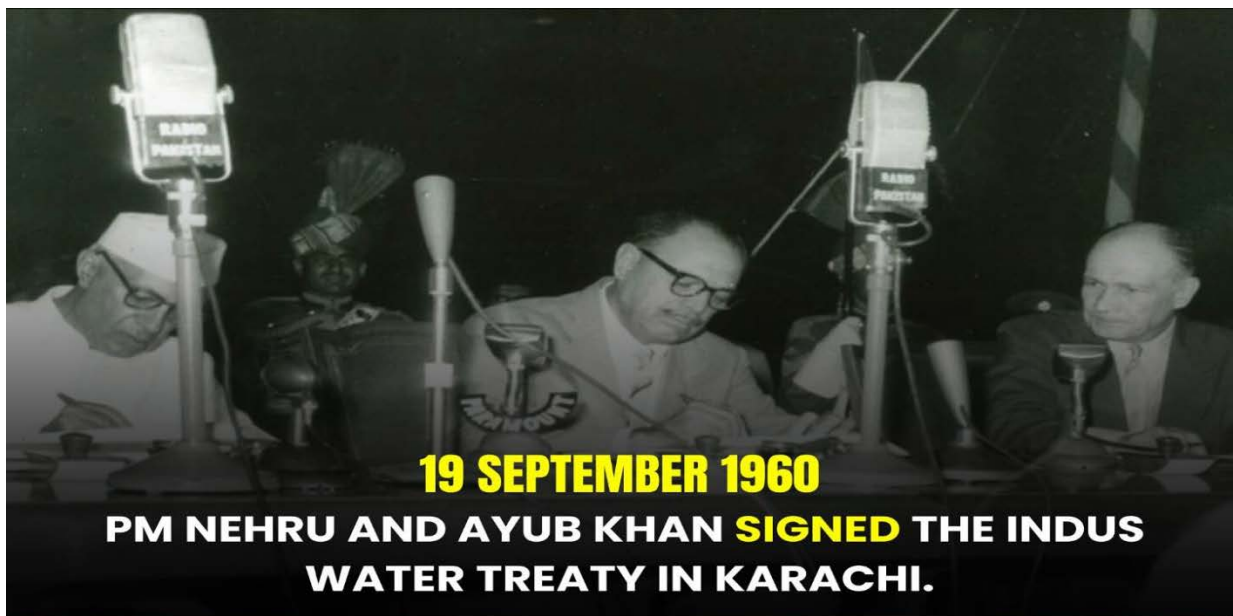


Indus Water Treaty Explained: India vs Pakistan



Context:

- **India** has **suspended the Indus Waters Treaty**, a key water-sharing treaty, with **neighbouring Pakistan** a day after **gunmen in Pahalgam** carried out the **region's worst attack on civilians** in years.
- **Pakistan** in retaliation suspended the **1972 Simla Agreement** and immediate closure of its **airspace to all Indian-owned and Indian-operated airlines**.

**1. What is the Indus Waters Treaty?**

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

■ The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

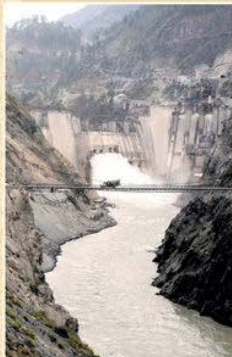
■ Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after eight years of negotiations.

■ Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.

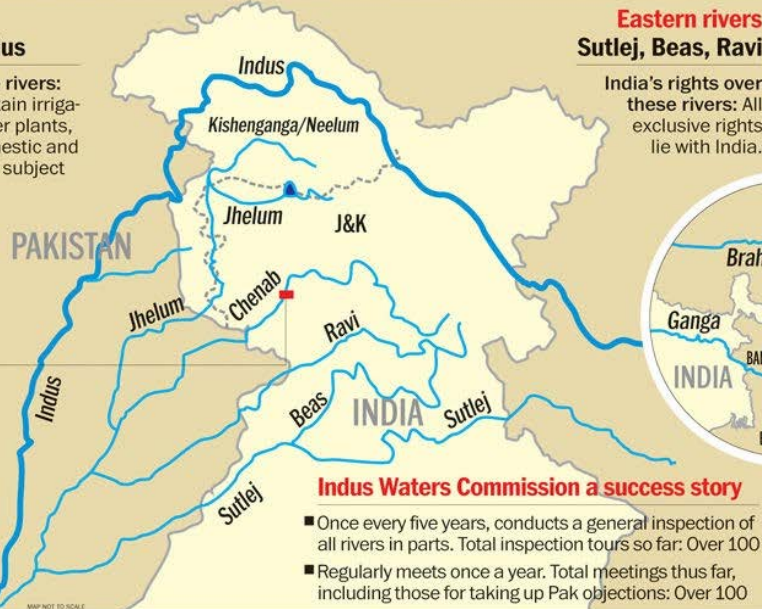
Western rivers

Chenab, Jhelum, Indus

India's rights over these rivers: Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions



Baglihar dam on Chenab



Eastern rivers

Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.

Indus Waters Commission a success story

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

The Indus river treaty is considered to be the most amicable treaty in the world. As per the treaty, **India supplies 80.52% of water** from its three rivers, mainly the Indus, river, to Pakistan.

The treaty was signed on 19 September, 1960, between Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** and the President of Pakistan, General **Ayub Khan**.

Mediated by the World Bank, Pakistan and India agreed under the treaty on how to share waters from **six rivers - the Beas (Vyas), Ravi, Sutlej, Sindhu (Indus), Chenab and Jhelum**.

THE INDUS WATER TREATY

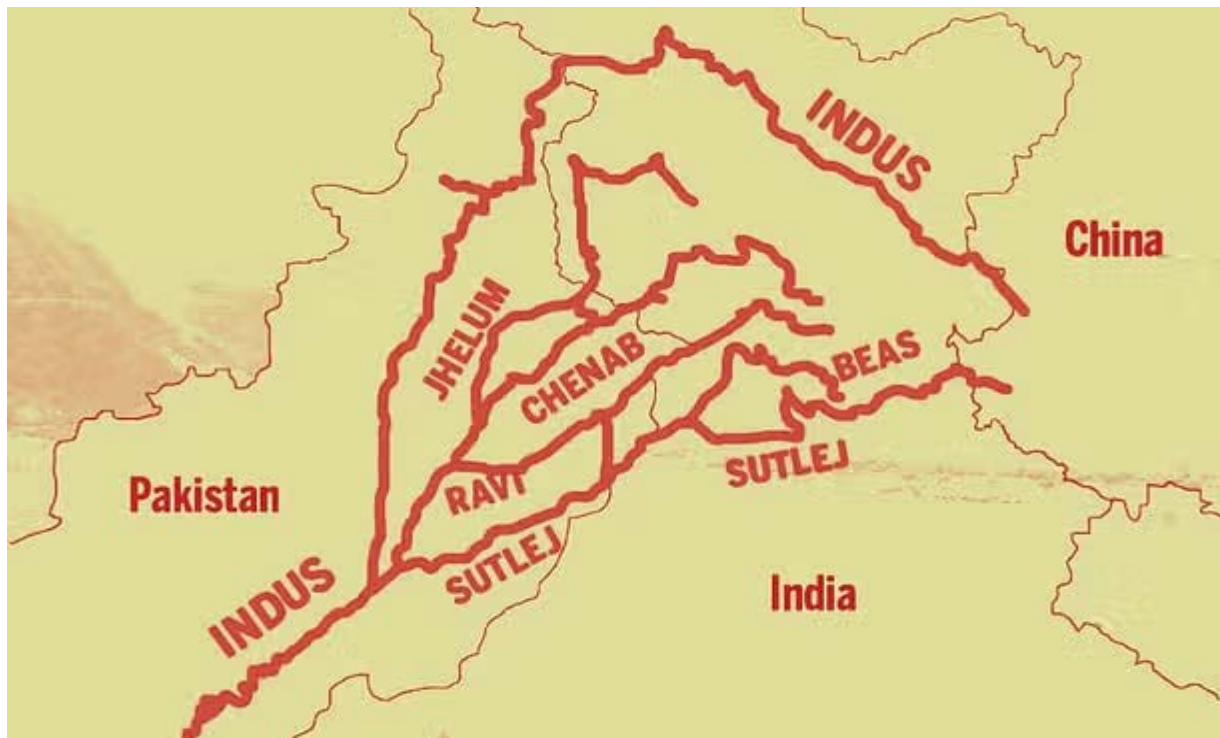
According to this Treaty, **India is the custodian of Beas, Ravi and Sutlej rivers and Pakistan of Indus, Chenab and Jhelum**.

The Indus river is spread across an area of **11.2 lakh kilometers**, 47% of which lies in Pakistan, 39% in India, 8% in China and 6% in Afghanistan.

Close to **30 crore people** live in the Indus river basin. In 1948, when India and Pakistan were deadlocked, India had stopped the release of water from **two important canals**.



- The **Indus Water Treaty (IWT)** was signed in **Karachi** on **September 19, 1960**, following **nine years of negotiations** between **India and Pakistan**.
- The Treaty has **12 Articles and 8 Annexures (from A to H)**.
- It was brokered by the **World Bank** after **nine years of talks** and signed by **India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** and **Pakistan's President Ayub Khan** to manage shared rivers.
- According to the provisions of the Treaty, all the water of the **“Eastern Rivers” of the Indus system — Sutlej, Beas and Ravi —** shall be available for the **“unrestricted use” of India**.
- Pakistan shall receive water from the **“Western Rivers” — Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab**.
- The treaty divides the **six major rivers** of the Indus basin into **two categories**:
- **Eastern Rivers: Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej** – allocated to India for exclusive and unrestricted use, including for purposes such as irrigation, domestic supply, and hydropower generation.
- **Western Rivers: Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab** – largely allocated to Pakistan, but India is permitted limited use of their waters for non-consumptive needs (like hydropower generation, navigation, and domestic use), as well as restricted agricultural usage and small-scale storage, provided these projects do not adversely affect the flow to Pakistan.



INDUS WATER TREATY SEP, 1960



On April 1, 1948, India stopped the supply of water to Pakistan from every canal flowing from India to Pakistan. Pakistan protested and India finally agreed on an interim agreement on May 4, 1948. This agreement was not a permanent solution; therefore, Pakistan approached the World Bank in 1952 finally in Ayub Khan's regime that an agreement was signed between India and Pakistan in September 1960.



■ Indian PM Jawaharlal Nehru with Pakistan President Ayub Khan in Karachi before signing the treaty in 1960.

WHAT IS THE INDUS WATERS TREATY ABOUT?

WHEN WAS THE TREATY SIGNED?

On September 19, 1960, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan president Ayub Khan signed an agreement to share water of Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum. As Indus was the biggest of them, the treaty was named the 'Indus Waters Treaty'.

WHAT LED TO IT?

After Partition, Pakistan and India locked horns over the share of water in the Indus Basin as its

source remained in India. In the early years after Partition, an Inter-Dominion Accord of 1948 apportioned the share. Pakistan was keen on a permanent solution. As both sides could not compromise, the World Bank negotiated a deal between them.

WHAT ROLE DID THE WORLD BANK PLAY?

In 1954, the World Bank offered a proposal to the two nations under which India retains control over the three eastern tributaries while Pakistan controls the three

ivers in the west. While India was eager to seal this deal, Pakistan turned hostile, even threatening to walk out. After deliberations, talks gained momentum again in 1954. The Bank also helped to fund the construction of canals for Pakistan.



WHAT ARE THE TREATY'S MAIN PROVISIONS?

Waters of the eastern rivers were allocated to India; New Delhi is under obligation to let waters of the western rivers flow, except for certain consumptive use, with Pakistan getting 80% of it. The treaty gives lower riparian Pakistan more "than four times" the water available to India.

2. Mention major events in the Indus Waters Treaty Timeline?



ARTICLE XII

Final Provisions

(1) This Treaty consists of the Preamble, the Articles hereof and Annexures A to H hereto, and may be cited as "The Indus Waters Treaty 1960".

(2) This Treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged in New Delhi. It shall enter into force upto the exchange of ratifications, and will then take effect retrospectively from the first of April 1960.

(3) The provisions of this Treaty may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments.

(4) The provision of this Treaty, or the provisions of this Treaty as modified under the provisions of Paragraph (3), shall continue in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this Treaty and have hereunto affixed their seals.

Done in triplicate in English at Karachi on this Nineteenth day of September, 1960.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA :


(Sd.) Jawaharlal Nehru


FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN :


(Sd.) Mohammed Ayub Khan

Field Marshal, H.P., H.J.

Events	About
1947 Partition of British India and Water Dispute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the partition of British India in 1947 and the formation of the two states, border lines were drawn following what was defined as the "Indus watershed" The 1947 partition of British India separated the Indus River basin between India and Pakistan, making Pakistan the lower riparian. Important irrigation headworks at Madhopur (Ravi River) and Ferozepur (Sutlej River) fell within Indian borders, resulting in water use disputes.

	 <p>The map illustrates the Indus river system and the surrounding regions. It shows the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, which is administered by Pakistan. The map also indicates areas ceded by Pakistan to China and areas held by China, both claimed by India. The virtual line in the Indus treaty partitioning rivers is shown. The map includes labels for Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, China, and the cities of Kabul, Shabqadar, Abbottabad, Islamabad, Jammu, and Jhelum. The rivers Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej are also labeled.</p>
<p>1948 Water Withholding and Inter-Dominion Accord</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the end of the Standstill Agreement on April 1, 1948, India started withholding water entering Pakistan. • An interim Inter-Dominion Accord on May 4, 1948, obliged India to provide water to Pakistan in exchange for compensation, as a stopgap arrangement.
<p>1951 Pakistan's UN Complaint and World Bank Mediation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan escalated the water issue to the United Nations in 1951, blaming India for interrupting water supply. • The World Bank, led by President Eugene Black, started mediation and technical negotiations to settle the dispute.

	
<p>Signing of Indus Waters Treaty- 1960</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It took nine years of discussion for the treaty to be finally signed by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Pakistani President Ayub Khan, and World Bank official W.A.B. Illiff on September 19, 1960. • The treaty came into force retrospectively from April 1, 1960.
<p>Post-Treaty Developments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The treaty divided the three eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) between India and the three western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) between Pakistan. • It also set up the Permanent Indus Commission for continuous cooperation and resolution of disputes.

	
<p>Recent Suspension of the Treaty in 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 23, 2025, India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty after a terrorist attack in the Baisaran Valley of Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. • India stopped the flow of water from the western rivers to Pakistan and initiated various diplomatic and security actions, including shutting down the Attari border crossing for all traffic and requesting Pakistani nationals in India to depart within 48 hours.

3. How does the Indus Waters Treaty work?

- According to the agreement, **India has control over the eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej—while Pakistan gets the waters from the western rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab.**
- The treaty benefits **Pakistan as it receives about 80% of the total water flow from these rivers**, which are vital for agriculture in Pakistan, especially in the provinces of Punjab and Sindh.



- According to the World Bank, the treaty set up a framework for **fair and cooperative management of the Indus River system**, which is essential for **agriculture, drinking water, and industry in both India and Pakistan**.
- It outlined clear guidelines for the equitable sharing of the river and its tributaries to ensure both nations could meet their water needs.
- However, both countries are **allowed limited use of the rivers** assigned to the other for specific purposes like **irrigation and power generation**.

4. What are India's rights under the Indus Water Treaty?

- India can develop **13.4 lakh acres of irrigation in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh** under the Indus Waters Treaty.
- It has **only 6.42 lakh acres of land irrigated in the Union Territories**.
- Further, the treaty **allows India to store 3.60 million acre-feet water** from the **western rivers Jhelum, Indus and Chenab**.
- There is **practically no storage capacity developed so far in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- India is also **allowed to build run-of-river dams, that is, without blocking the flow on the Jhelum, Chenab and Indus**.

- This provision also gives India an advantage of temporarily **choking the flow of waters** in the rivers given to **Pakistan** under the treaty.

5. Why is the treaty often called “generous”?

- Under the treaty, around **80 per cent of the total water flow** from the Indus system was **allocated to Pakistan**.
- This makes it an **unusually generous agreement** for a **lower riparian country like India**.
- By comparison, **Mexico receives a far smaller share of water under its treaty with the United States**.
- **India is entitled to only 20 percent** of the **Indus system’s water** and is restricted in its use of the western rivers, even though these **rivers originate or flow through Indian territory**.
- Although **India was allowed limited use of the western rivers** for domestic purposes, agriculture, and hydroelectric power generation, **it could not alter the natural flow of these rivers into Pakistan**.
- **Pakistan, in return, was allowed to build infrastructure like dams and canals** on its rivers with **financial assistance from the World Bank** and other countries.
- Key infrastructure built under this arrangement includes the **Tarbela Dam on the Indus** and the **Mangla Dam on the Jhelum**.

6. What is the significance of the Indus Water Treaty?

Significance	Description
Peaceful Water Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For over six decades, the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) has been crucial in facilitating peaceful water sharing between India and Pakistan, even during times of heightened political and military tensions.

Unique Regional Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indus water Treaty is the only cross border water sharing treaty between two nations in Asia.
Resilience During Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Permanent Indus Commission, the body responsible for resolving disputes, continued its functions even during the wars of 1965 and 1971, demonstrating the resilience of the treaty framework.
India's Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite facing multiple terror attacks, including the 2001 Indian Parliament attack and the 2019 Pulwama attack, India has not withdrawn from the treaty. • It has also not invoked the Vienna Convention, underscoring its commitment to international agreements.
Global Model for Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The treaty is often cited globally as a successful model for water cooperation between rival nations, showcasing how dialogue and legal frameworks can effectively manage shared natural resources.

7. What is the dispute resolution mechanism under the treaty?

- Under the IWT, the **countries have established a Permanent Indus Commission**, with a **commissioner from each side**.
- For resolving disputes, the **IWT outlines distinct mechanisms**:
 - **‘Questions’** are addressed by the **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)**.

- **‘Differences’** are addressed by a **Neutral Expert**.
- **‘Disputes’** are addressed by a **Court of Arbitration**.
- **Minor disputes** are addressed through the **commission**, but **unresolved issues** can be **referred to a neutral expert** appointed by the **World Bank**, which **facilitates the treaty’s dispute resolution mechanism**.
- **Pakistan** had initially **sought the appointment of a neutral expert to settle the dispute over Indian projects on western rivers** but had then approached the PCA.
- **India, meanwhile, then sought the appointment of a neutral expert**.
- The World Bank decided, in 2022, to **both appoint a neutral expert and allow proceedings at the PCA**.
- **India only participates in the neutral expert’s mediations**.

8. Can India walk out of the Indus Water Treaty?

- According to the wording of the IWT signed between then-Indian **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** and his Pakistani counterpart, **General Ayub Khan** **neither India nor Pakistan can unilaterally cancel the treaty, nor can either country abandon the pact**.
- *"The provisions of this Treaty, or the provisions of this Treaty as modified under the provisions of Paragraph (3), shall continue in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two governments,"* says Article XII of the IWT.
- Under a circumstance where **India wants to abrogate the treaty, the 1969 Vienna convention on the law of treaties**, which regulates the formation, regulation and termination of treaties between two sovereign states, comes into play.
- **India is not a signatory to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties**.

- However, **India takes guidance from relevant sections** even though it is **not party to the 1969 Convention**.
- As per the wording of the IWT, **neither party can unilaterally exit the treaty nor can it stop the flow of water entirely**.
- However, **India can reduce the flow of water through provisions under Article 3 of the IWT**.

TIME TO RECONSIDER 1960 PACT?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Indus water treaty between India and Pakistan came into effect from April 1, 1960 ➤ Under the treaty, waters of the eastern rivers of Indus system – Ravi, Beas, Sutlej and their tributaries – allocated to India while western rivers – Indus, Jhelum, Chenab and their tributaries – went to Pakistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India is permitted agricultural use of 7 lakh acres over and above the irrigated cropped area (ICA as on Apr 1, 1960. Out of this, only 2.7 lakh can be developed till storage is built and 0.5 MAF released from there every year) ➤ India has to give Pak information of its storage and hydroelectric projects ➤ Where disputes aren't bilaterally resolved, both countries can seek resolution through a neutral expert or court of arbitration. Pak has used this provision twice for Baglihar & Kishenganga hydel projects in J&K
<p>Exceptions provided for some uses of water from western rivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India can construct storage facilities on western rivers up to 3.6 MAF (million acre feet) but no storage has been developed so far 	

9. Can Pakistan trigger any arbitration clause under the IWT in response to India's decision to suspend the Treaty?

- The **Indus Waters Treaty lacks an exit clause**, meaning **neither India nor Pakistan can legally abrogate it unilaterally**.
- The **Treaty has no end date**, and any modification requires the consent of both parties.
- But while the Treaty cannot be exited, it does contain a dispute resolution mechanism:

- **Article IX, along with Annexures F and G, lays out procedures for raising grievances, first before the Permanent Indus Commission, then a neutral expert, and eventually, a forum of arbitrators.**
- **Pakistan is yet to issue an official response to India's suspension of the IWT.**
- **However, in a 2016 interview with Dawn newspaper, a former Pakistani federal law minister, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, had said that arbitration may not offer much recourse if India chooses not to follow the Treaty.**
- **In case India 'revokes' the treaty, it literally means it has shunned it.**
- **The dispute resolution mechanism under Article IX and Annexes F and G of the IWT will be of no use and assistance to Pakistan.**
- **"Since there is no provision in the IWT about its duration or suspension, there is no avenue that Pakistan can approach for 'revival' of the treaty.**
- **Nor can Pakistan approach the International Court of Justice seeking specific performance to implement the Treaty because of the Indian reservation given under the ICJ statute that bars the filing of a case by Pakistan against India.**
- **In other words, Pakistan will not be left with any peaceful mechanism for seeking performance of the treaty by India.**

10. How will the suspension of IWT impact Pakistan?

- **According to the Treaty, India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through run of the river projects on the western rivers subject to specific criteria for design and operation.**
- **The Treaty also gives the right to Pakistan to raise objections on the design of Indian hydroelectric projects on western rivers.**

- **Pakistan** roughly got **80%** of the water in the **Indus** drainage system.
- India got about **3.3 crore** of **16.8 crore** acre-feet of water in the **Indus** system.
- At current usage, **India** utilises a little over **90%** of its quota of **Indus** waters.
- The **Indus** River network, comprising the **Jhelum**, **Chenab**, **Ravi**, **Beas**, and **Sutlej** rivers, serves as **Pakistan's** **principal** water resource, supporting a population of tens of millions.
- The water meets **23%** of **agricultural** needs which supports **Pakistan** **68%** of its rural inhabitants.
- **Pakistan** which is already facing an economic crisis will be impacted due to **reduced water availability** as it will lead to **lower crop yields**, **food shortages**, and **economic instability** in rural areas dependent on farming.
- The country's water storage capacity is low, with major dams like **Mangla** and **Tarbela** having a combined live storage of only about **14.4 MAF**, which is just **10%** of **Pakistan's** annual water share under the treaty.

11. Why will Pakistan not feel the suspension of IWT immediately?

- The impact of the **suspension of IWT** will not be felt immediately as **India's** decision to hold the treaty in abeyance doesn't mean an immediate halt to water flowing to **Pakistan**.
- This is so because **India** presently doesn't have the infrastructure to stop the flow of water from the **Indus** rivers into **Pakistan**, or divert it for its own use.
- At most, **India** can cut water flows by **5-10%**.

- The treaty restricts India from building reservoir dams on the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab.
- Suspending the treaty means India may not adhere to these restrictions, and begin constructing reservoir dams to plug water flow.
- However, building large reservoirs on these rivers will take years, if not a decade.
- It would require extensive surveys and funding for such a thing to fructify considering the ecological impact.
- Thus, at this point, India's move is more a pressure tactic on Pakistan to rein in terror groups and stop infiltration.

12. What can India plan to do next after the suspension of IWT?

- With the treaty suspended, India is likely to fast-track its hydroelectric ambitions.
- Projects such as the operational 330 MW Kishanganga Dam on the Jhelum and the 850 MW under-construction Ratle Dam on the Chenab could be redesigned to store more water, something Pakistan has strongly opposed in the past.
- India is also expected to prioritise usage of eastern rivers.
- The Shahpurkandi Dam on the Ravi, completed in 2024, already redirects flows into Indian territory.
- The planned Ujh Dam on the same river could further reduce surplus water entering Pakistan.
- According to estimates, India lets about 9.3 billion cubic metres flow into Pakistan from its share.
- India is likely to halt regulated releases from hydro projects and suspend data sharing with Pakistan.

- Future inspections of Indian hydropower facilities by Pakistani officials may also be blocked.

13. What Can Pakistan Do Now?

- While the **easiest and most plausible solution** for **Pakistan** is to **denounce terrorism**, initiate **action against terror outfits**, and resolve the **matter at the government level**, it is unlikely to do so.
- **Pakistan is expected to seek international mediation**, possibly turning to the **World Bank** or other global forums.
- The suspension of the treaty, **unprecedented in its history**, could **draw in major world powers** concerned about **stability in the region**.
- **India has shown** in the past that it is **more than willing to welcome any initiative** that could give the **two nations a shot at peace**.
- However, **Pakistan has refused to give up its reliance on cross-border infiltration** and has kept up its illegal occupation of parts of Kashmir.



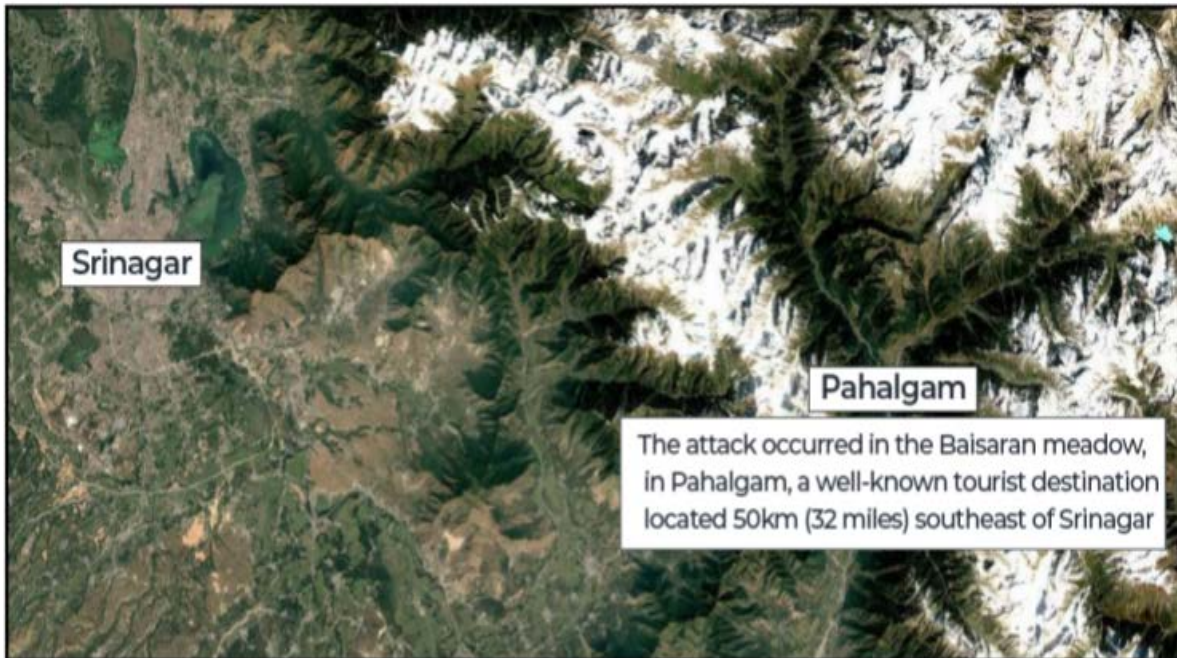
14. What is the Pahalgam attack?

- **Pahalgam**, which means “**valley of shepherds**” in Kashmiri, is one of the **most visited tourist destinations** in the region, located about **50km [31 miles]** from the **main city of Srinagar**.
- **The Resistance Front**, an offshoot of the **Lashkar-e-Taiba**, has claimed **responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack** that has **claimed the lives of 26 civilians**, including two foreigners.
- The attack was orchestrated by a **group of terrorists** who emerged from the **dense forests** around the **trekking paradise of the Baisaran meadows** in the **upper reaches of Pahalgam** in **Anantnag district** of Jammu and Kashmir.

KASHMIR

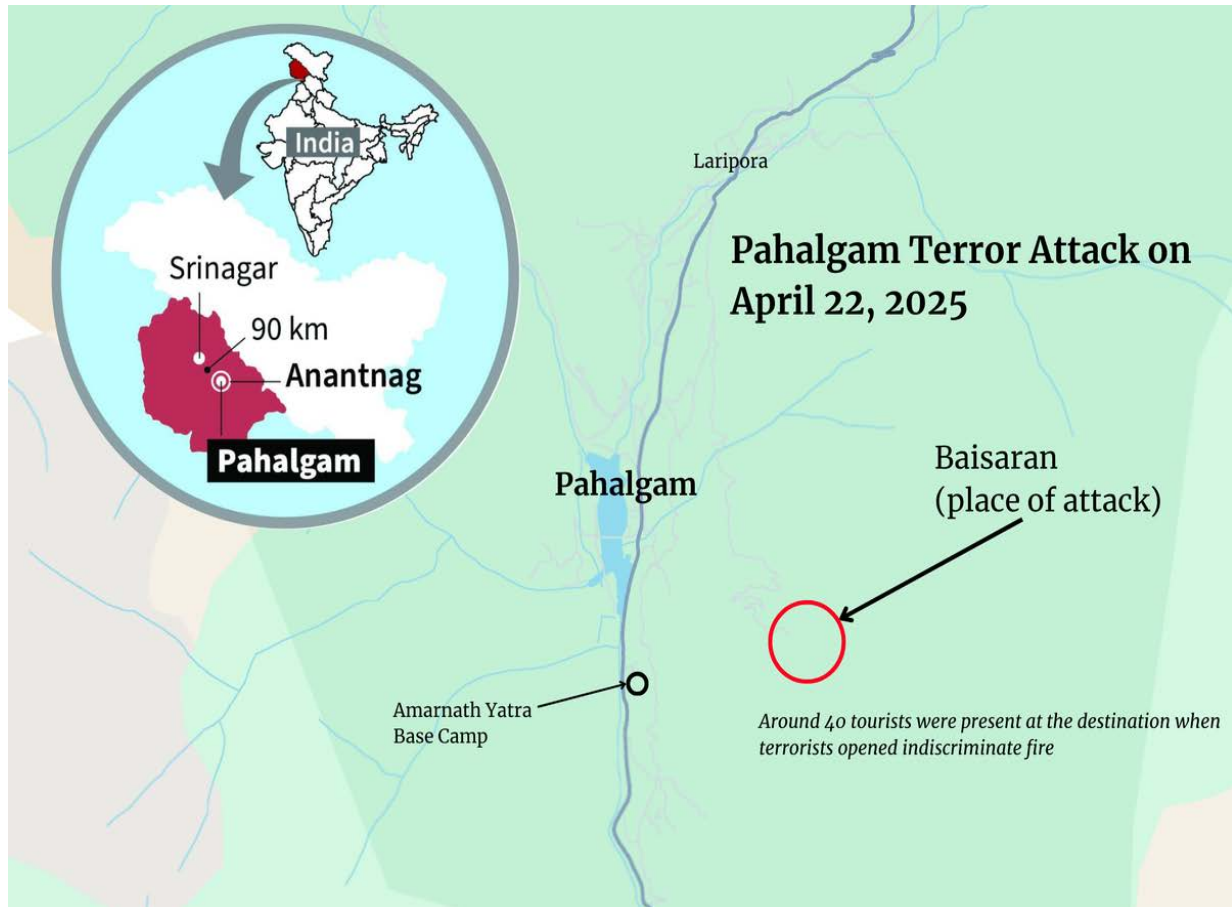
Gunmen kill at least 26 in Kashmir

Armed men opened fire on a group of tourists in Indian-administered Kashmir, killing at least 26 people, according to Indian police, in one of the deadliest attacks there in recent times.



Indian police officers stand guard at a checkpoint following an attack near Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, on April 22, 2025 [Stringer/Reuters]





15. What is India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack?



- The **Cabinet Committee on Security or CCS** - the country's **highest-decision making body on national security** has taken some strict and **punishing measures against Pakistan** over the "**cross-border linkages**" that have surfaced in the investigation over the dastardly terror **attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam**, in which 26 people, including one foreign national, were killed.

Measures	Description
Suspension Of Indus Water Treaty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CCS decided that the • Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance • With immediate effect, until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism. • The treaty, brokered by the World Bank in 1960, has survived multiple wars and diplomatic breakdowns between the two countries. • This is the first time India has chosen to pause the treaty in such explicit terms. • The suspension is likely to impact the flow of water from the eastern rivers of Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej and is likely to exacerbate the issues faced by Pakistani farmers.
Attari-Wagah Border Check Post To Be Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India also announced the immediate closure of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari for all cross-border movements involving Pakistani nationals. • Foreign Secretary of India • Vikram Misri said that individuals who have already crossed into India through the Attari post with valid travel endorsements will be allowed to return via the same route, but only until May 1, 2025.
India To Withdraw Staff From	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India announced to withdraw its military attaches from Pakistan and reduce the overall strength of its high commissions by May 1.

Islamabad High Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five support staff of the Service Advisors will also be withdrawn from both High Commissions.• The overall strength of the High Commissions will be brought down to 30 from the present 55 through further reductions, to be affected by May 1.
Pakistani Nationals Will Not Be Permitted To Travel To India Under The SAARC Visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centre further said that Pakistani nationals will not be allowed to travel to India under the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Visa Exemption Scheme.• Any Pakistanis in India on such visas will also have to leave the country within 48 hours.
Some Pakistani Diplomats Declared "Persona Non Grata"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The defence, military, naval and air Advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi have also been declared "Persona Non Grata."• They have a week to leave India. India later summoned Pakistan's top diplomat in Delhi, Saad Ahmad Warraich, and handed over the formal note for its military diplomats.

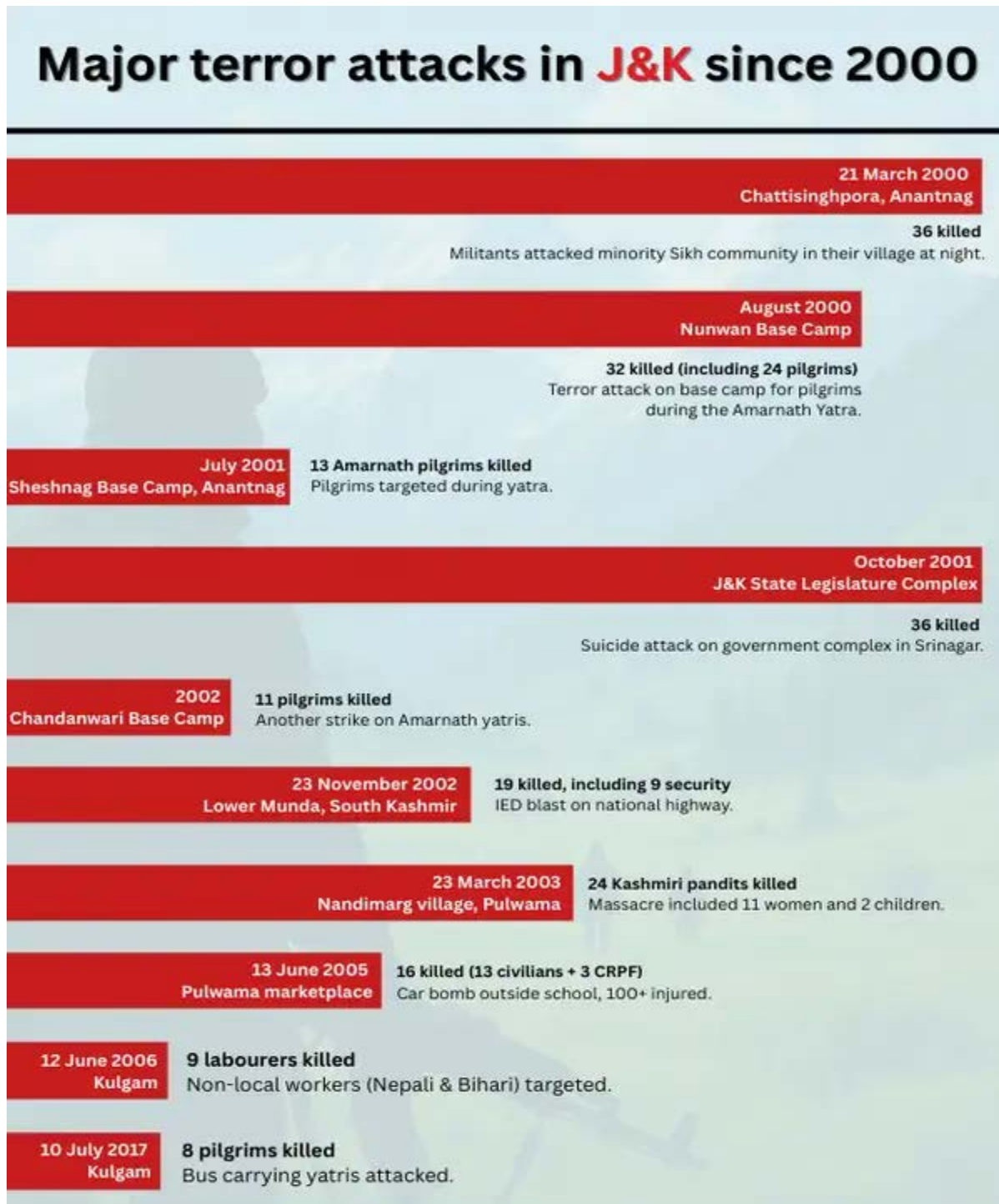
16. What is the significance of Attari Border?

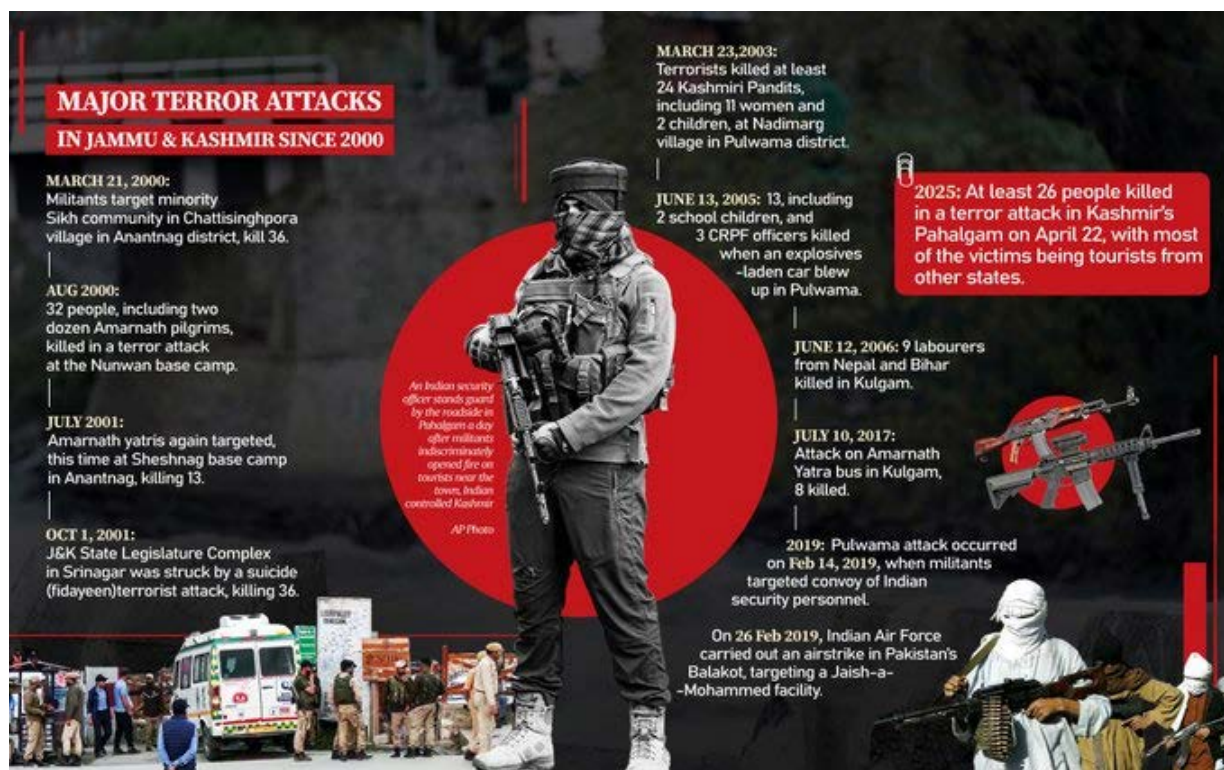


- **Attari and Wagah** refer to the **same international border** between **India and Pakistan**.
- **Attari** is the name of the **Indian village** on the border, while **Wagah** is the name of the **Pakistani village** on the border.
- Located **28 kilometres** from **Amritsar**, Attari is **India's first Land Port** and the **only permitted land route** for trade with Pakistan.
- The **border checkpoint** is a **popular site** where troops from both countries **exchange sweets** during the Muslim holiday of **Eid** and the Hindu holiday of **Diwali**.
- The **check post at Attari** has been a **critical trade conduit** between **India and Pakistan**, handling various goods.
- **Exports to Pakistan**, such as **soybean, chicken feed, vegetables, red chillies, plastic dana, and plastic yarn**, travel through this route.
- In **2023-24**, for example, the land port recorded trade worth **₹3,886.53 crore**, **6,871 cargo movements**, and **71,563 passenger crossings**, according to a report in The Times of India.

- The closure of the Attari Land Port will have significant economic repercussions on the movement of goods and passengers.

17. Enlist major terror attacks in Kashmir on civilians since 2000?





18. What is TRF who claimed responsibility for the recent Pahalgam attack?

THE RESISTANCE FRONT

TRF has claimed responsibility for the attack

INDIA OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED THE TRF AS A TERRORIST ORGANISATION IN 2023

FORMED:

2019, shortly after the abrogation of Article 370

ORIGIN:

It began as an online outfit and, within a few months, evolved into a physical group by integrating militants from various factions, including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

KEY FIGURES



Sheikh Sajjad Gul

CURRENT LEADER



Muhammad Abbas Sheikh


CO-FOUNDER



- **The Resistance Front (TRF)**, a little-known armed group that emerged in the **region in 2019**, claimed responsibility for the attack in Pahalgam.
- The Resistance Front (TRF), top intelligence sources say, came into the picture in **October 2019 after India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370** in August 2019.
- **TRF adopted non-religious symbols and rhetoric** to distance itself from **overtly Islamist groups like the LeT and Hizbul Mujahideen**.
- **TRF's leadership includes LeT operatives** such as **Sheikh Sajjad Gul** (designated a terrorist by India) and **Basit Ahmed Dar**.
- After the Indian government unilaterally revoked **Kashmir's partial autonomy in August 2019** the group first **took shape by starting messaging on social media**.
- However, **Indian officials have consistently maintained** that in reality **TRF is an offshoot** or just a front of the **Lashkar-e-Taiba**, a **Pakistan-based armed group**.
- India says **Pakistan supports the armed rebellion in Kashmir**, a charge denied by Islamabad.






19. Has TRF carried out attacks in the past?






- **By 2020**, the TRF started **taking responsibility for minor attacks**, including **targeted killings** of individuals.
- Its **recruits consisted of fighters** from an **amalgam of splinter rebel groups**.
- Since then, **Indian security agencies** have busted **multiple groups of TRF fighters**.
- **By 2022**, a **majority of the armed fighters killed** in gunfights in Kashmir were **affiliated with TRF**, according to government records.






- **TRF members were increasingly using small arms such as pistols to carry out targeted killings, including those of retired security personnel and people accused of being informers.**

Attack	Description
2020 Keran Encounter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Indian PARA SF soldiers were killed in a 4-day gunfight. 
2021 Sopore Ambush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attack on a BJP councillors' meeting killed 2 policemen and 2 politicians.
2022 Sedow Shopian IED Attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group targeted security forces, causing multiple casualties.
2023 Anantnag Encounter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an ambush, TRF killed 3 security officers, including a colonel.

	 <div data-bbox="532 573 706 678">COLONEL MANPREET SINGH</div> <div data-bbox="852 573 1031 678">MAJOR AASHISH DHONCHAK</div> <div data-bbox="1144 573 1383 678">DSP HIMAYUN MUZAMIL BHAT</div>
<p>2024 Reasi Attack</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June 2024, TRF also claimed responsibility for an attack on a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims, killing at least nine people and injuring 33, in Jammu's Reasi area. • The bus had plunged into a gorge during the attack. <div data-bbox="506 1161 1377 1650">  </div>
<p>2025 Pahalgam Massacre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deadliest attack on tourists since 2000, killing 26, including foreigners.

	<div><div>WANTED</div><div><u>BY THE</u> <u>JAMMU & KASHMIR</u> <u>POLICE</u></div></div>
	<div><div>ALI BHAI @ Talha Bhai</div><div>This Pak National LeT Terrorist is involved in the Terrorist Attack on Civilians in Baisaran, Pahalgam, Anantnag (J&K).</div></div>
	<div>REWARD: ₹20,00,000/-</div> <div>ANYONE SHARING INFORMATION/LEAD ABOUT THE AFORESAID TERRORIST ACT SHALL BE REWARDED ₹ 20 LAKHS.</div>
	<div>IDENTITY OF THE INFORMER SHALL BE KEPT SECRET</div> <div><div><u>CONTACT NUMBERS</u> 9596777666- SSP ANANTNAG 9596777669- PCR ANANTNAG Email: dpoanantnag-jk@nic.in</div></div>

	 <div><u>WANTED</u></div> <div><u>BY THE</u></div> <div><u>JAMMU & KASHMIR</u></div> <div><u>POLICE</u></div> 	
		<div>HASHIM MUSA @ <i>Suleiman</i></div> <div>This Pak National LeT Terrorist is involved in the Terrorist Attack on Civilians in Baisaran, Pahalgam, Anantnag (J&K).</div>
	<div>REWARD: ₹20,00,000/-</div> <div>ANYONE SHARING INFORMATION/LEAD ABOUT THE AFORESAID TERRORIST ACT SHALL BE REWARDED ₹ 20 LAKHS.</div>	
	<div>IDENTITY OF THE INFORMER SHALL BE KEPT SECRET</div> <div><div><u>CONTACT NUMBERS</u> 9596777666- SSP ANANTNAG 9596777669- PCR ANANTNAG Email: dpoanantnag-jk@nic.in</div></div>	

	 <div>WANTED</div> <div>BY THE JAMMU & KASHMIR POLICE</div> 	
		ADIL HUSSAIN THOKER R/o ANANTNAG
	This LeT Terrorist is involved in the Terrorist Attack on Civilians in Baisaran, Pahalgam, Anantnag (J&K).	
	REWARD: ₹20,00,000/-	
	ANYONE SHARING INFORMATION/LEAD ABOUT THE AFORESAID TERRORIST ACT SHALL BE REWARDED ₹ 20 LAKHS.	
IDENTITY OF THE INFORMER SHALL BE KEPT SECRET		
	CONTACT NUMBERS 9596777666- SSP ANANTNAG 9596777669- PCR ANANTNAG Email: dpoanantnag-jk@nic.in	

20. What is a Simla Agreement?

Simla Agreement: 1972

- On July 2, 1972, Mrs. Gandhi signed the Simla agreement with Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the first President and later Prime Minister of Pakistan. Under this agreement: "settling their differences through bilateral negotiations."
- They also agreed that in "Jammu and Kashmir, the Line of Control (LOC) resulting from the cease-fire of December 17, 1971, shall be respected by both sides without discrimination to the recognized position of either side." This agreement became the basis for the renewal of relations between the two countries.



- The **Simla Agreement**, officially titled the "**Agreement on Bilateral Relations between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan**," was signed on **July 2, 1972**, in **Simla**, the capital of the Indian state of **Himachal Pradesh**.
- This landmark accord was the **direct outcome of the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War**, a conflict that resulted in a decisive Indian victory and the creation of an **independent Bangladesh** (formerly **East Pakistan**).
- The signatories to this pivotal treaty were the then **Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi**, and the then **President of Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto**.
- The agreement was born out of a **need to establish a framework for peaceful coexistence** and to **normalize relations** between the two nations after a period of intense conflict and animosity.

- India, having emerged victorious and holding a significant number of Pakistani prisoners of war (POWs) and captured territories, sought to establish a lasting peace based on bilateralism.
- Pakistan, having suffered a humiliating defeat and the loss of its eastern wing, looked towards the agreement as a means to recover its territories and secure the release of its soldiers while salvaging some semblance of regional standing.


21. What are the key Outcomes of Simla Agreement?



- The Simla Agreement laid down a set of **guiding principles** that were intended to govern future relations between **India and Pakistan**.
- These included:

Outcomes	About
Peaceful Coexistence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both nations resolved to put an end to the conflict and confrontation that had marred their relations and to work towards promoting a friendly and harmonious relationship and establishing durable peace in the subcontinent. 
Bilateralism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agreement emphasized that the two countries were resolved to settle their differences through peaceful means via bilateral negotiations or any other peaceful means mutually agreed upon, without the involvement of third parties. This was a significant point for India, which had consistently sought to address the Kashmir issue bilaterally, resisting international mediation.
Respect for Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both nations committed to respecting each other's national unity, territorial integrity, political independence, and sovereign equality, and to refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs.

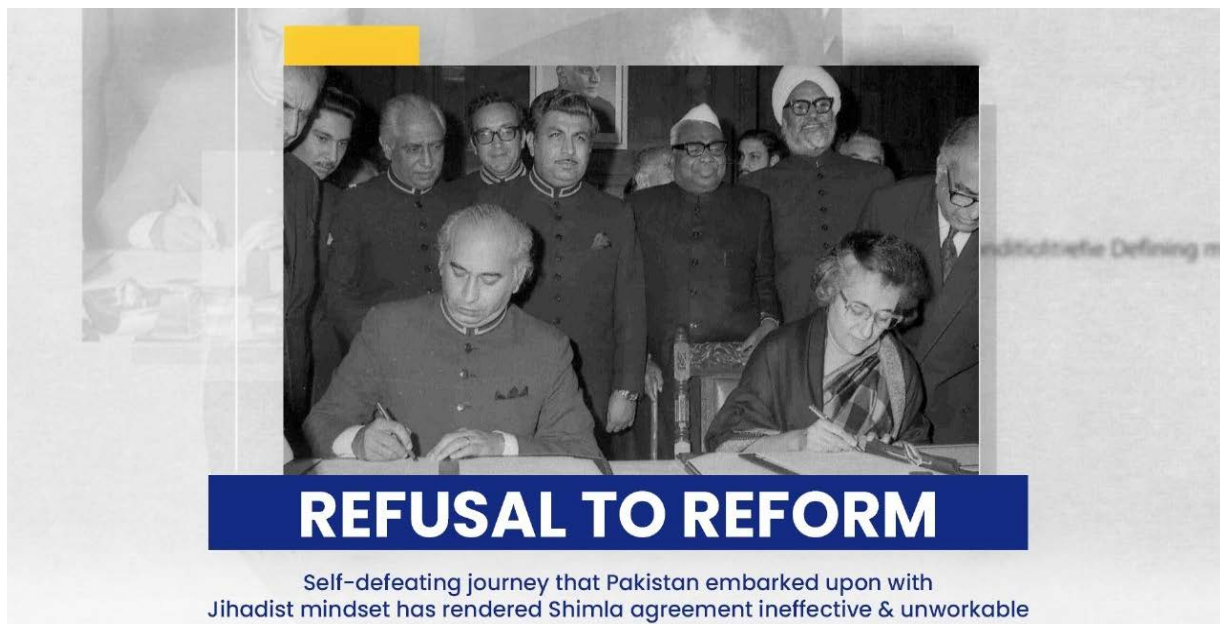
Non-Use of Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, both countries agreed to refrain from the threat or use of force against each other's territorial integrity or political independence.
Prevention of Hostile Propaganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both governments undertook to take all steps within their power to prevent hostile propaganda directed against each other and to encourage the dissemination of information that would promote friendly relations.
Step-by-Step Normalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agreement outlined a series of steps to progressively restore and normalize relations, including the resumption of communications (postal, telegraphic, sea, land, and air links), promotion of travel facilities, resumption of trade and cooperation in economic and other agreed fields, and promotion of exchanges in science and culture.
The Line of Control (LoC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A crucial provision of the Simla Agreement was the reiteration and formalization of the ceasefire line of December 17, 1971, as the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir. • Both sides agreed to respect this line without prejudice to their respective positions and to refrain from unilaterally altering it or using force to violate it.


	
<p>Withdrawal of Forces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agreement stipulated the withdrawal of Indian and Pakistani forces to their respective sides of the international border.


22. Who stands to be impacted by the suspension of the Simla Agreement?

- The most immediate and significant impact will be on the **bilateral relationship between India and Pakistan.**
- The **Simla Agreement**, despite its limitations and the numerous crises that have punctuated the relationship since its signing, has served as the **primary framework for managing disputes and maintaining a semblance of communication.**





Impact	Analysis
<p>Deepening the already entrenched mistrust and animosity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The abrogation of a key peace treaty will undoubtedly deepen the already entrenched mistrust and animosity between the two nations. • It signals a hardening of stances and a potential move away from peaceful, bilateral resolution of disputes. 

<p>Increased risk of miscalculation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the agreed-upon mechanisms for dialogue and peaceful resolution weakened, the risk of miscalculation and escalation, particularly along the volatile Line of Control, could increase significantly.
<p>Internationalization of the dispute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has consistently cited the Simla Agreement to resist third-party intervention in the Kashmir issue. Pakistan's suspension of the agreement could be interpreted as a move to potentially internationalize the dispute once again, a scenario India has long sought to avoid.
<p>Sanctity of the agreed-upon boundary may be altered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the LoC was a direct outcome of the 1971 ceasefire and formalized by the Simla Agreement, the suspension of the latter could raise questions about the sanctity of the agreed-upon boundary, although any unilateral alteration by either side would be fraught with severe consequences.  <p>The map illustrates the Kashmir region and its surrounding territories. It shows the Line of Control separating PAK OCCUPIED KASHMIR (green) from JAMMU & KASHMIR (yellow). A specific point, Kargil, is marked on the Line of Control. To the east, AKSAI CHIN (red) is shown as a territory ceded by Pakistan to China in 1963. The map also delineates the India-China Line of Actual Control and the international borders with AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA, and CHINA. A location named Chegg is marked in the northernmost part of the region.</p>

23. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **Prelims:** Kishanganga and Ratle Hydro Electric Projects, Indus Water Treaty (IWT), Indus and its tributaries
- **Mains:** Indus Waters Treaty and associated implementation issues, Terrorism, Targeted killings, Shimla Agreement.

Some previous years prelims questions.

Q1. Consider the following statements.(2023)

1. Jhelum River passes through Wular Lake.
2. Krishna River directly feeds Kolleru Lake.
3. Meandering of the Gandak River formed Kanwar Lake.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: (a)

Q2. With reference to the Indus river system, of the following four rivers, three of them pour into one of them which joins the Indus directly. Among the following, which one is such a river that joins the Indus directly? (2021)

- (a) Chenab
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Ravi
- (d) Satluj

Ans: (d)

Some previous years mains questions.

- Q1. “Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).” Explain with suitable. **(2016-12.5 Marks)**
- Q2. Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India-Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchanges could help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples. **(2015-12.5 Marks)**

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Sanjay Verma sir:

- We are allowing too much water from Indus to Pakistan.
- Shouldn't we stop that?

Board Sheel Vardhan Singh sir:

- What do you mean by water security?
- What is the Indus water treaty?
- Tell me about some recent news of IWT and why India wants to make changes?
- Why do Pakistan have issues even if our projects are run off the river?

Board Sanjay Verma sir:

- What is nuclear deterrence?
- Does nuclear deterrence work only for other NWS or non NWS also?
- What is extended deterrence?
- Has nuclear deterrence worked in the case of India - Pakistan ?

Board Suman Sharma mam:

- Gujarat shares a border with Pakistan, what is the border issue with Pakistan there?

Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

- You talked about the Indus Water Treaty, what is it?
- Who was the third party in it?
- Why are the people of J&K not happy with it?
- What is India doing about it?
- Your views on the treaty, what should we do?

Some questions for QUIZ.

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Indus River System.

1. Jhelum River originates from the Verinag Spring.
2. Chenab River directly feeds into the Indus River.
3. Zaskar River is the right-bank tributary of the Jhelum River.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: (a)

Some questions for POLL.

Q1. Do you think India should retaliate with military action against Pakistan?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q2. Should India go for occupying POK?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

