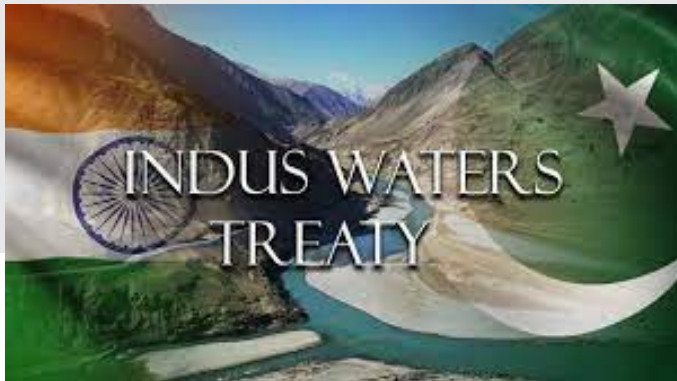


# WORDS OF VISIONARIES

Module: Current Affairs- Indus Waters Treaty Suspended

03-May -2025



Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

April 2025 is marked at D&I with a focus on **Current Affairs**, spotlighting the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty, and culminating in a series of engaging quizzes and activities rolled out by Dreamers and Innovators.

## SHARED WATER TURNED FOUL

By: Aayra Kapur, 13 years

India and Pakistan have had four wars since 1960, but throughout all those years, they have remained allied regarding the Indus Waters Treaty—until recently, when India suspended it. This treaty was significant because it allowed both nations to share water from the Indus River system, which is necessary for agriculture and everyday life.

The Indus River starts in Tibet and empties into Pakistan. The Indus has five major rivers: Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Bias, and Satluj. These are important to Punjab, which translates to "land of five rivers."

Once India and Pakistan had parted ways in 1947, the sharing of water became a huge concern. India had control over mostly all the rivers and had once shut off water to Pakistan. It resulted in a crisis, and with assistance from the World Bank, both nations agreed to sign the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960.

The treaty gave India ownership over three eastern rivers (Ravi, Bias, Satluj) and Pakistan authority over the three western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab).

Recently, India decided to suspend the treaty because of the ongoing terrorism and attacks in Pahalgam, which have resulted in the death of many Indian citizens. India threatens to build more dams, which could permanently stop the water from flowing into Pakistan. Pakistan has an agro-economy, meaning that its economy depends on agriculture. This could affect Pakistan's farming economy, which depends on irrigation.

For India, this water would help areas such as Jammu and Kashmir with agriculture and electricity. The future of Pakistan's agro-economy and India's safety depends on whether the two nations are able to find peace, or continue to wage a war.

## THE INDUS WATER TREATY

By: Samaira Bansal, 12 years

The Indus river is the only river which provides water to Pakistan. It is the main source of water for the country. In 1947 the partition of the country into India and Pakistan led to the division of the Indus basin. This impacted Pakistan as Indus was the only source of water. India resumed the water flow temporarily. In 1960 Jawaharlal Nehru and Ayub Khan signed the Indus water treaty. However this year India decided to stop the water flow in the river after the Pahalgam attack. This will impact the country as 80% of the water that they get is from the Indus river.

## WORD OF THE DAY

Riparian (adj.)

/ˈrɪpeəriən/

Meaning: Relating to or situated on the banks of a river.

Example: The Indus Waters Treaty outlines the rights of riparian states over shared river systems.

## CRACKS IN THE INDUS TREATY

By: Saayesha Chandrani, 17 years

Suspending the Indus Waters Treaty would trigger far more than a water dispute, it could unravel one of the last threads of uneasy peace between India and Pakistan. For over 60 years, the treaty has been quietly effective, surviving wars and diplomatic breakdowns. Ending it now could open the floodgates to crisis.

Pakistan, heavily dependent on the Indus and its tributaries, would face immediate fallout. These rivers are its agricultural lifeline. Any disruption could spark food shortages, economic chaos, and widespread unrest in an already fragile nation.

For India, suspension might seem like strategic pressure. But the risks are real. It would draw global criticism, damage its diplomatic standing, and push Pakistan closer to China. It could also set off a dangerous escalation between two nuclear-armed rivals.

This isn't just a legal agreement, it's a buffer. Turning water into a weapon could set off consequences neither side can fully control.

Instead of scrapping the treaty, the focus should be on modernizing it—addressing climate challenges, storage issues, and cooperation mechanisms. The rivers don't care for borders, but their mismanagement could redraw them in blood.

Once the waters are politicized, calming the tide won't be easy.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Students in diplomacy courses across the globe study the Indus Waters Treaty as a model for conflict management — it's in textbooks from Harvard to Hyderabad.

Over 90% of Pakistan's agriculture depends on the Indus River — making it one of the most irrigation-dependent economies in the world.

The Treaty does not include provisions for dispute resolution via war or violence — all conflicts must go through bilateral talks, neutral experts, or international arbitration.