



# Permanent Indus Commission

## Why in News

The **116<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)** between India and Pakistan is underway in **New Delhi**.

- The first day of the Meeting **coincided with the National Day of Pakistan** (marks **Lahore Resolution of 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1940**).

## Key Points

### ▪ About the Latest Meeting:

- The meeting is **being held after a gap of more than two-and-a-half years**, a period that witnessed:
  - **Pulwama attack** (14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019), **Balakot air strike** (26<sup>th</sup> february, 2019), and
  - **Abrogation of special provisions under [Article 370](#)** that gave special status to J&K.
- A discussion on **Pakistan's objections about two India Projects - Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai** - is expected to be held.
  - India is building **Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project** (1,000 MW) on river **Marusudar**, a tributary of the Chenab. The project is located in Kishtwar district of J&K.
  - The second project - **Lower Kalnai** - is being developed on the **Chenab**.
- **Routine issues such as flood data exchange mechanisms** are also expected to be discussed.
- The meeting is being seen as a positive step **after [both countries agreed to "strict observance of all agreements, understanding and ceasefire along the Line of Control and all other sectors"](#)** last month.

### ▪ About the Permanent Indus Commission:

- It is a **bilateral commission of officials from India and Pakistan**, created to implement and manage goals of the **[Indus Waters Treaty, 1960](#)**.
- The Commission, according to the treaty, **shall meet regularly at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan**.
- The **functions** of the Commission include:
  - To study and report to the two Governments on any problem relating to the development on the waters of the rivers.
  - To solve disputes arising over water sharing.
  - To arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river head works.
  - To undertake, once in every five years, a general tour of inspection of the Rivers for ascertaining the facts.
  - To take necessary steps for the implementation of the provisions of the treaty.

- The **115<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PIC was held in Lahore in August, 2018.**
- **Indus Water Treaty, 1960:**
  - It is a **treaty brokered by the World Bank** and signed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan which **administers how the waters of the Indus and its tributaries that flow in both the countries will be utilised.**
  - According to the treaty, **waters of the eastern rivers – Sutlej, Beas and Ravi had been allocated to India**, while the **western rivers – the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab to Pakistan.**
  - Under the treaty, **India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through a run of the river projects on the western rivers** subject to specific criteria for design and operation.
    - **India has cleared several hydropower projects** in Ladakh: Darbuk Shyok (19 MW), Shankoo (18.5 MW), Nimu Chilling (24 MW), Rongdo (12 MW), Ratan Nag (10.5 MW) for Leh; and Mangdum Sangra (19 MW), Kargil Hunderman (25 MW) and Tamasha (12 MW) for Kargil.
  - It also **gives Pakistan the right to raise concerns** on the design of Indian hydroelectric projects on western rivers.
  - The Treaty also **provides an arbitration mechanism** to solve disputes amicably.
  - There have been **disagreements and differences between India and Pakistan over dams.** For eg. In 2010, Pakistan instituted international arbitration proceedings over India's 330-megawatt hydropower project on a small Indus tributary, the **Kishenganga (known as Neelum in Pakistan).**
  - **Though Indus originates from Tibet, China has been kept out of the Treaty.** If China decides to stop or change the flow of the river, it will affect both India and Pakistan.
  - **Climate change is causing melting of ice in Tibetan plateau**, which scientists believe will affect the river in future.

#### Lahore Resolution

- A historic **session of the All-India Muslim League was held at Lahore in March 1940.**
  - **Muhammad Ali Jinnah** explained how Hindus and Muslims cannot co-exist peacefully.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, an epoch-making resolution was moved at that session demanding that **areas of the subcontinent of India in which the Muslims were numerically** in a majority, as in the **North-Western and Eastern Zones**, should be grouped to **constitute independent States.**
- Having regard to the place of its adoption, the resolution was **originally referred to as the Lahore Resolution.** The Hindu Press, however, dubbed it as the **Pakistan Resolution** and eventually, in popular parlance, it came to be called as such.
- The Lahore Resolution was the **beginning of the end of the administrative unity of the entire sub continent**, which had been created by the Muslim Emperors and continued by the British; **within eight years of its adoption the subcontinent was partitioned and Pakistan appeared as an independent sovereign State** on its map.

**Source: IE**