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Permanent Indus Commission

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Why in News

The **116th 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 23rd 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** (14th February, 2019), **Balakot air strike** (26th 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 **115th 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 23rd 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](#)