

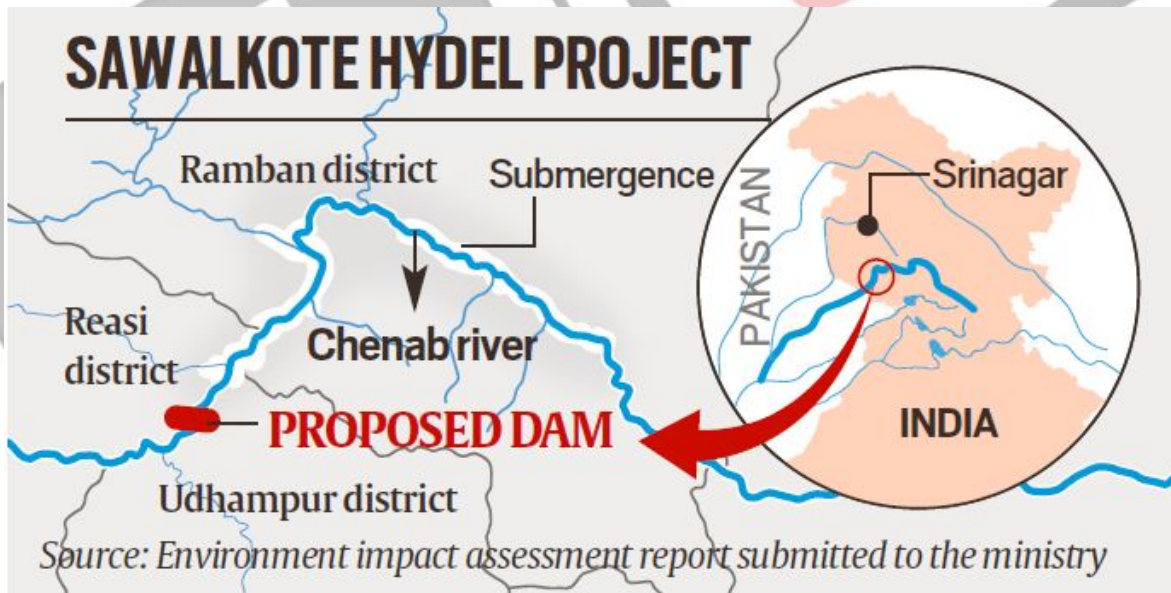


## Sawalkote Hydropower Project

[Source: IE](#)

Post the suspension of the [Indus Waters Treaty \(IWT\)](#) after the [Pahalgam terror attack 2025](#), the stalled [Sawalkote Hydropower Project](#) on the [Chenab River](#) is being fast-tracked for clearance as a project of **strategic and energy significance** for Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

- **Sawalkote Hydropower Project:** It is a 1,856 MW **run-of-the-river** (uses the natural flow of a river with little or no water storage) **hydroelectric project** located on the Chenab River ( a western river under IWT) in Ramban, J&K.
  - The project was initiated in 1984 and has faced multiple delays over the years. Declared as a **project of national importance**, it involves the construction of a **concrete gravity dam with a reservoir**.
  - Once operational, Sawalkote is expected to generate over **7,000 million units of electricity annually**, making it one of the largest hydroelectric projects in India.
- **Strategic Importance:** With the IWT in abeyance, the project is considered crucial for harnessing Chenab River's hydropower potential and enhancing India's control over western rivers of IWT. It is a strategic priority to optimize water resources and strengthen energy security.



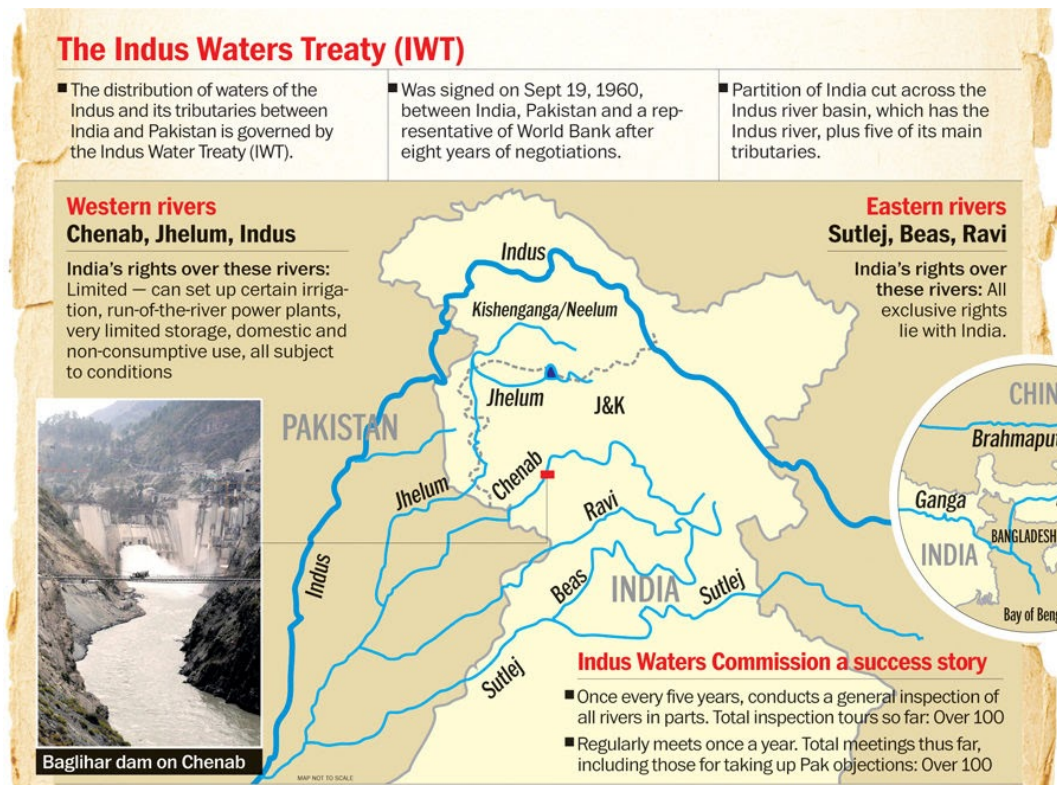
- **Hydroelectric Project on Chenab River:** The Chenab River hosts the **390-MW Dulhasti project** at Kishtwar, the **890-MW Baglihar project** at Ramban, and the **690-MW Salal project** at Reasi. These projects significantly contribute to the region's energy supply.

## Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- It was signed in 1960 in Karachi and was mediated by the **World Bank**, IWT allocates **eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej)** to India and **western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab)** to

**Pakistan**, giving Pakistan about 80% of the water.

- India can use the western rivers for limited non-consumptive purposes like hydroelectricity, navigation, and irrigation, following treaty conditions.



**Read more: [Pahalgam Terror Attack and Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty](#)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/sawalkote-hydropower-project>