

1. India Pakistan Permanent Indus Commission

Topic: International Relations

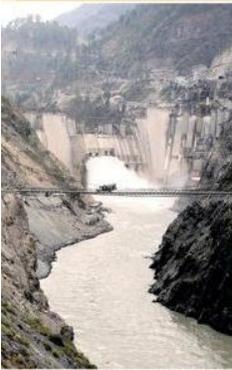
The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- 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

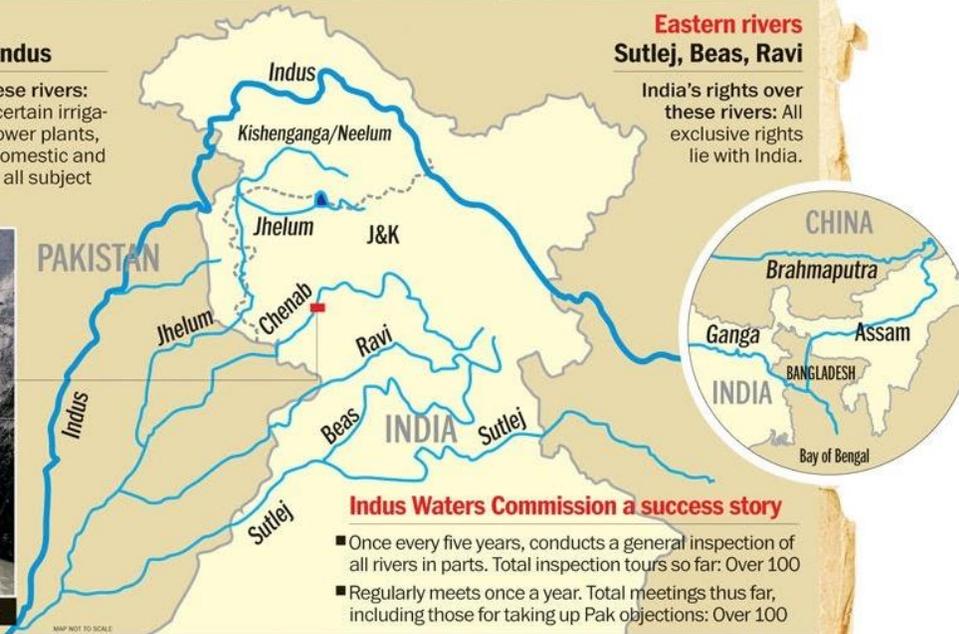


Baglihar dam on Chenab

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

In News: The 118th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) comprising Indus Commissioners of India and Pakistan concluded recently.

More on the Topic:

- A wide range of water-related issues between Pakistan and India were discussed which included the advance sharing of flood information.
- Both sides reiterated their commitment to implement the Indus Waters Treaty in its true spirit and expressed the hope that the next meeting of the Commission will be held at an early date in Pakistan.

Indus Water Treaty:

- The Indus River basin has six rivers- Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej; originating from Tibet and flowing through the Himalayan ranges to enter Pakistan, ending in the south of Karachi.
- Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was signed by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan in 1960.
- It was mediated by the world Bank.
- The treaty prescribed how water from the six rivers of the Indus River System would be shared between India and Pakistan.

- It allocated the three western rivers—Indus, Chenab and Jhelum—to Pakistan for unrestricted use, barring certain non-consumptive, agricultural and domestic uses by India and the three Eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas and Sutlej—were allocated to India for unrestricted usage.
- **This means that 80% of the share of water or about 135 Million Acre Feet (MAF) went to Pakistan, while leaving the rest 33 MAF or 20% of water for use by India.**

About Permanent Indus Commission:

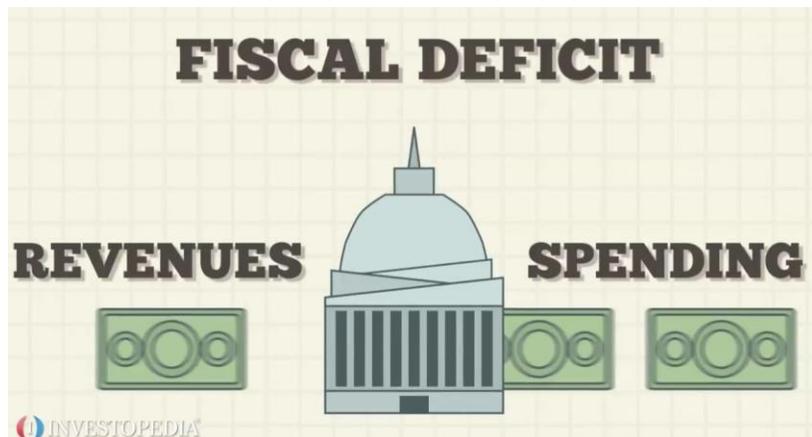
- The treaty required both the countries to establish a **Permanent Indus Commission** constituted by permanent commissioners on both sides.
- The Permanent Indus Commission is a **bilateral commission consisting of officials from India and Pakistan**, created to implement and manage the goals and objectives and outlines of the Indus Waters Treaty.

Source: Indian Express

2. Fiscal Deficit

Topic: Economy

In News: The government’s fiscal deficit for FY22 has come in at 6.7 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), skidding off the revised target of 6.9 percent.



More on the Topic:

- Fiscal deficit is an **indication of total borrowings by government to make up for higher expenditure.**
- The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is termed as fiscal deficit.
- It is **an indication of the total borrowings needed by the government.** While calculating the total revenue, borrowings are not included.
- Generally fiscal deficit takes place either due to revenue deficit or a major hike in capital expenditure. Capital expenditure is incurred to create long-term assets such as factories, buildings and other development.
- A deficit is usually financed through borrowing from either the central bank of the country or raising money from capital markets by issuing different instruments like treasury bills and bonds.

Source: Indian Express

3. Electronic transmission moratorium

Topic: International Affairs

In News: India is set to firmly oppose any further extension of a moratorium on the imposition of customs duties on electronic transmission at WTO's 12th ministerial conference (MC12).



More on the Topic:

- The issue pertains to a 'moratorium' that was included in the 1998 'Declaration on Global E-commerce,' adopted by the WTO member nations in **May 1998 at the global trade body's second Ministerial Conference (MC)**.
- According to the WTO, the **1998 declaration on the 'moratorium'** stated that **"member countries will continue their current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmission"**. This 'moratorium' – which is 'temporary' in nature – gets extended at every MC, which is held once in two years.
- Several countries are seeking to make the moratorium permanent.

Why India is asking for Ending the Moratorium?

- Since digital trade at present is dominated by big tech and developed countries, **the moratorium squarely favours the developed nations.**
- Meanwhile as per some estimated **India loses about \$500 million annually by foregoing duty on e-transmission.**
- India and South Africa (SA) have been making several joint submissions highlighting the adverse impact of the moratorium on developing nations and suggesting that a reconsideration of the moratorium is important for developing nations so as to preserve policy space for their digital advancements.

Source: Indian Express

4. Astra Mk-1 air-to-air missile

Topic: Science and Technology

In News: The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with the Hyderabad-based public-sector Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) for supply of the Astra Mark-1.

More on the Topic:

- The missile has been designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for deployment on fighter jets like Sukhoi-30 MKI and Tejas of the IAF and the Mig-29K of the Navy.
- BVM missiles are capable of engaging beyond the range of 20 nautical miles or 37 kilometers. AAMs are fired from an airborne asset to destroy an airborne target.
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Strategic significance:

- The missile has been designed based on requirements specified by the IAF for BVR as well as close-combat engagement, **reducing the dependency on foreign sources.**
- AAMs with BVR capability provides large stand-off ranges to own fighter aircraft which can **neutralise adversary airborne assets without exposing themselves to adversary air defence measures.**
- Stand-off range means the missile is launched at a distance sufficient to allow the attacking side to evade defensive fire from the target.
- The missile can travel at speeds more than four times that of sound and can reach a maximum altitude of 20 km, making it extremely flexible for air combat.

Source: Indian Express

5. Indian Textile Exports Highest Ever

Topic: Economy

In News: India's textile and apparel exports hit a new high of USD 44.4 billion in the fiscal year 2021-22.

More on the Topic:

- The total exports statistic, which includes handicrafts, shows a significant growth of 41% and 26% over the corresponding figures in FY21 and FY20, respectively.
- USA was the top export destination for the country's textiles and apparel shipments accounting for 27 per cent share, followed by the European Union (18 per cent), Bangladesh (12 per cent) and UAE (6 per cent).



India's Textile Industry:

- It employs large number of people (Second largest after agriculture)
- It has huge share in India's export (11% of India's total exports; US\$ 40 billion; 13% of world production of textiles)
- It contributes approximately 5% to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and 14% to overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Government Schemes Textile Sector:

- For Integrated Textile Park, Production Linked Incentive Scheme, PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks etc.

Source: Business Standard

6. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

Topic: Government Schemes

In News: The government has announced the extension of its scheme for employment generation Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

More on the Topic:

- The scheme has supported around 7.8 lakh micro enterprises with a subsidy of Rs 19,995 crore to create employment for around 64 lakh people.
- **PMEGP is a central sector scheme** administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- At the national level, the Scheme is being **implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**, a statutory organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME as the single nodal agency.
- At the State level, the Scheme will be implemented through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.
- The Government subsidy under the Scheme will be routed by KVIC through the identified Banks for eventual distribution to the beneficiaries / entrepreneurs in their Bank accounts.
- **Assistance under the Scheme is available only to new units to be established.**
- Existing units or units already availed any Govt. Subsidy either under State/Central Govt. Schemes are not eligible.

Source: Hindu



7. NTPC Biodiversity Policy

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: The NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated energy producer has issued renewed Biodiversity Policy 2022.

More on the Topic:

- The policy intends to establish a comprehensive vision and guiding principle for conservation, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity.
- This Biodiversity Policy is an integral part of NTPC's Environmental Policy.
- Its objectives are aligned with environmental and sustainability policies.

Expected Outcomes:

- To support all the professionals of the NTPC Group to help them contribute toward the achievement of the targets set in this field.
- To achieve a 'no net loss' of biodiversity at all of its currently operating sites and ensure there is a net positive balance wherever applicable.
- To mainstream the concept of biodiversity across NTPC's value chain and adopt a precautionary approach for sustainable management of biodiversity in all the decision-making processes.

Source: Hindu

