INDUS WATER TREATY & EMERGING WATER ISSUES

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Abstract:

The article introduces the Indus basin irrigation system in its historic context, and its economic impact on Pakistan's socio- economic development. The article also brings forth the problems and difficulty that emerged out of the interpretation and execution of the treaty with passage of time. The analyses of the data focuses to provide remedies of the current problem evolved around the treaty and its implementation.

Water is the greatest gift of nature and United Nations in a report has warned that that global warming is causing the melting of glaciers. That will raise the issue of people migration and shortage of water. In report the most victim countries are Pakistan and India where glaciers are melting rapidly and these countries are facing the increase in problem of water shortage day by day. According to report water shortage will impose a war from strong country to its neighbor, whose result will be bad.

India having not reconciled with the creation of Pakistan created a series of problems for Pakistan soon after independence. Indus Water Treaty for sharing of Indus River system waters was signed between

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India and Pakistan with the help of the World Bank in 1960. When the Treaty was signed, it was hoped that it would put an end to water issue between India and Pakistan forever. However, today it appears as if the wish was unfounded. Numerous water issues were created by India through violations of the treaty since then. All these issues remain unresolved even today. The core issue behind Pakistan's water problem is the forced annexation of Kashmir by India. United Nations Security Council's resolution requiring plebiscite in Kashmir has still not been implemented by India and the status of Kashmir along with control of the head reaches of Indus River system have still not been determined. It is feared that the ever increasing violations of Indus Water Treaty by India are setting stage which may lead to the world's first water war in Asia, whose result will be much terrible, as both India and Pakistan are Nuclear Powers and both have the capability of long range ballistic missile technology. (Siddiqui, 2010)

In this research report attempt has been made to highlight the water issue between India and Pakistan, Indus Water Treaty and violation of this treaty by India.

Background of the Water Issue: Indus river water system has been used for irrigation purposes in Indus Basin since the beginning of the civilization. In old days availability of river water was more than the requirements, principally because the population was small and demands were less as compared to the availability of water in the rivers. When the demand grew, substantially disputes started between various water users. Since middle of the 19th century, disputes were mostly between upper and lower riparian. During British India, Sindh which became a separate province, was a lower riparian, objected to Punjab, an upper riparian

water projects. Sindh feared that the use of water by Punjab would establish Punjab's water rights over Indus river water and may encroach upon Sindh's share of water. At those times these disputes were of domestic nature as they were between provinces of the same country, the British India.

However, the nature of these disputes changed after the creation of Pakistan. These disputes which were domestic disputes became international disputes between India and Pakistan by virtue of creation of the two independent countries because in the partition of Punjab, Radcliffe drew the partition line right across the Punjab province giving most of the water rich reaches of Indus Basin rivers to India.(siddiqui,2010).

On 1st April 1948, less than a year after the partition of the subcontinent and the creation of the separate states of India and Pakistan, Delhi stopped the flow of water from the canals on its side. India discontinued the delivery of water from the Ferozepur headworks to Dipalpur Canal and to main branches of the Upper Bari Doab Canal and denying water to some 5.5% of the sown area and almost 8% of the cultivated area. This act was criticized by Pakistan and Pakistan sent its delegation to New Delhi for negotiations on water supply. On 4th May 1948, India agreed to the Inter-Dominion Agreement with Pakistani 1948, India agreed to the Inter-Dominion Agreement with Pakistan, which allowed for the continuation of water supplies for irrigation purposes until the Pakistani side managed to develop alternative water resources. Sometime after this, then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru invited American expert David Lilenthal to survey the situation, but his observations, which bolstered Pakistan's arguments, failed to earn

recognition from Delhi. Later, the World Bank sponsored several rounds of talks in Washington from 1952 to 1960, eventually resulting in the signing of the Indus Water Treaty.(Gulhati,73). In 1951,when Lilienthal visited the region to write articles for Colliers magazine, he had a great interest in the subcontinent and was warmly welcomed by both India and Pakistan. He was also briefed by the US officials, to help bridge the gap between the USA and India. During his visit, it became clear to Lilienthal that tensions between India and Pakistan were acute, but also unable to be erased with one sweeping gesture. In his one article he wrote:-

"India and Pakistan were on the verge of war over Kashmir. There seemed to be no possibility of negotiating this issue until tensions abated. One way to reduce hostility…. Would be to concentrate on other important issues where cooperation was possible. Progress in these areas would promote a sence of community between the two nations, which might, in time, lead to a Kashmir settlement. Accordingly, I proposed that India and Pakistan would work out a program jointly to develop and jointly to operate the Indus Basin river system, upon which both nations were dependent for irrigation water. With new dams and irrigation canals, the Indus and its tributaries could be made to yield the additional water each country needed for increased food production. In the article, I had suggested that the World Bank might use its good offices to bring the parties to agreement, and help in the financing of an Indus Development program. (Gulhsti, 1973)

The plan Lilienthal was appreciated by the World Bank and US government. The head of th World Bank, Eugene R. Black informed Lilienthal that his proposal "makes good since all round", the Bank was

also interested in the economic development and progress of the subcontinent and wanted to solve the water dispute between the two countries which was the main hurdle in the progress of the region. Mr. Black differentiated between the political and functional aspects of the water dispute. In correspondence with the leaders of both countries he stressed that the water issue could be solved if the functional aspects of disagreement were negotiated apart from political aspects. He formed a group that handles the ways through which best to utilize the waters of the Indus Basin, leaving aside questions of historic rights of allocation.

Protected talks were held aimed mounting tensions and finally the Indus Water Treaty was signed by the Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India and Field Marshal Ayub Khan, the President of Pakistan and W.A.B.Illif, the President of World Bank, in Karachi in September 1960. This treaty provided for one of the most comprehensive dispute resolution

Mechanisms (Sridhar,2008). Under the Indus Water Treaty, India is not permitted to build dams for the purpose of water storage on the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum rivers, but it is allowed to make limited use of their water, including developing run of the river hydroelectric power projects.

In 1970s, India started the construction of Sallal hydro project on river Chenab River and information about this project was provided to Pakistan in 1974. Pakistan objected to design, which had six low-level outlets and over all height of spillways gates of 40 feet, in clear violation of the treaty. After a series of meetings, the issue got resolved through agreement between the two governments in April, 1978.(Ahmed, 2012).

The alarm bells again rang in 1984, when India announced plans to build the barrage on the Jhelum River at the mouth of Wullar Lake, the largest fresh water lake, near the town of So pure in the disputed Kashmir Valley. India called it Tubule Navigation Project, while Pakistan referred to it as the Wullar Barrage, owing to Pakistani protests; India has stopped construction work on the project. Then in 1992, Pakistan first learned of plans for another controversial water reservoir, the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River, which was also allotted to Pakistan by the 1960 treaty. Indian government violating the Indus Water Treaty for many years and over the years, India has planned construction of over a hundred large and small dams and reservoirs on the western rivers. The sharing of the Indus River system is significant for India-Pakistan relations and disputes over this issue could further complicate tension between the two countries.

INDUS WATER TREATY (IWT) 1960

The Indus River rises in the Tibetan plateau in the vicinity of Lake Mansarovar. It flows in Tibet for about 200 miles before it enters Ladakh (part of disputed Kashmir and then flows on towards Gilgit in Pakistan. Flowing through the north in a southerly direction along the entire length of Pakistan, it falls into the Arabian Sea near Pakistan's port city of Karachi with a total length of 3200 km, the river's estimated annual flow is approximately 207 billion m3. Its five major tributaries are the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Bias and Sutlej (also having origion in Tibetan plateau), another two tributaries of the Indus are River Kabul and River Kurram, rise in Afghanistan. Most of the Indus basin lies in Pakistan and India.(Akhtar, 2010)

The Indus Water Treaty is a water sharing treaty between Pakistan and India, brokered by the World Bank. The treaty was signed in Karachi on September19, 1960 by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and President of Pakistan Ayub Khan. The Indus Water Treaty governs trans boundary water rights and obligations of India and Pakistan in relation to each other. It assigned full use of water of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab rivers to Pakistan, with minor exception, for existing uses in Kashmir, this gave Pakistan 75% of the water of the Indus Basin system and allowed India under carefully specified conditions to tap the considerable hydropower potenial of the three Western rivers before they entered Pakistan while Ravi, Sutlej and Bias to India.(Tariq,2010).

Composition of the Indus Water Treaty:

The Indus Water Treaty consists of three parts; the preamble, twelve articles and annexure A to H. The principal subjects covered in the treaty's annexure are: the exchange of notes between the governments of India and Pakistan, India's agricultural use of certain tributries of the Ravi, India's agricultural use of the upper reaches of the western rivers, India generation of hydroelectric power and the storage of water from the western rivers, a procedure to solve disputes and differences through a commission, a neutral court of arbitration, and allocation to Pakistan of some waters from eastern rivers during the period of transition.

PRINCIPLES OF WATER SHARING:

Before the IWT, Pakistan emphasized historical uses while India as an upper riparian claimed absolute rights on the Indus Basin system. The treaty tried to find a solution that was not driven by legal principles, but

instead by principles of water engineering and economics. There were conflicting principles put on the table, India invoking the principle of equitable utilization, the favorite of International Law Association, while Pakistan stressing "no appreciable harm" the favorite of International Law Commission. The Treaty instead of dividing the water of rivers, divided the six rivers comprising the Indus Water system between India and Pakistan, which gave them independent control and regulation of supplies within their own territories. However each country was allowed certain uses in the rivers allocated to other, subject to certain qualifications contained in separate annexures in Treaty. Under the Treaty:

- All the waters of the Eastern Rivers shall be available for the unrestricted use of India (Article 2). Pakistan was permitted by way of exception to take water for domestic use, non-consumptive use and certain limited agricultural use.
- Pakistan shall receive "unrestricted use of all water of Western Rivers" which India is under obligation to flow,(Article 3(1)) and shall not permit any interference with these water except for the domestic, non-consumptive, agriculture, generation of hydroelectric power and storage works.(Akhtar,2010).

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

The Treaty lays down principles of cooperation in Article 6&7 which relate to exchange of data and future cooperation. This is intended to ensure optimum development of the rivers and cooperation and collaboration between the two countries. The data regarding the daily

flow in and utilization of the water of the rivers is to be exchanged regularly. This includes,

- Daily gauge and discharge data relating to flow of the rivers at all observation sites.
- Daily extraction for or releases from reservoirs.
- Daily withdrawals at the heads of all canals operated by government or any other agency, including link canals.
- Daily escapages from all canals, including link canals.
- Daily deliveries from link canals.
- This data is to be transmitted on monthly basis by each party to the other. (Akhtar, 2010)

ADVANTAGES OF TREATY

- The Indus Water Treaty was signed by India and Pakistan in 1960 had some advantages for example,
- With this treaty both countries became able to operate water supplies of rivers of their own shares.
- The treaty made the system more reliable under seasonal variations.
- This treaty provided opportunity to both countries for use of water.
- This treaty also reduced the tension between the two countries.
- Due to this treaty a permanent Indus Commission was set up to adjudicate any dispute in future.

DEMERITS OF THE TREATY

- Besides the advantages there were some drawbacks of the Indus Water Treaty, which are;
- From Pakistan's perspective, allocation of only 75% of water as against 90% of irrigated land violated the principle of "appreciable harm". From India point of view, allocation of 75% of water to Pakistan violated the principle of "equitable utilization".
- Pakistan had to forego the entire perpetual flow of fresh waters of eastern rivers(24 MAF), which its historically used to receive for irrigation.
- Due to loss of regular flow in eastern rivers, silting has occurred in the channels and subsequent floods cause greater destruction in Pakistan, in addition to other environmental effects.
- The traditional flood irrigation, the most ancient way of using rivers waters, on Sutlaj, Bias and to some extent on Ravi disappeared. As a result, no cultivation was possible in the flood plains of these rivers, thus rendering a large extent of area barren.
- Storages are not substitutes of perpetual flow water as the storages have limited life. Pakistan is already feeling the effect of silting up of its major reservoirs.(Ahmed, 2012).

VIOLATIONS OF INDUS WATER TREATY BY INDIA:

Controversial Hydro projects: For almost two decades (1960s-1970s), the Indus Water Treaty was followed by either side in its true form and spirit. Starting from the decade of 1980s, India started creating problems for Pakistan on the water sector on one or the other pretext.

Since signing the treaty, India has violated it many times. Pakistan had been accommodating these for quite some time. Pakistan protested and even asked for the arbitration from the World Bank, but no worthwhile results could be achieved.(Khan,2011). The major Indian projects that have become controversial from time to time and involved issues around the compliance of Indus Water treaty include Salal, Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation project, Baglihar, Kishanganga, Dul Hasti, Uri II and Nimoo Bazgo and many more.

1. Salal Hydroelectric Project

This hydroelectric project is situated on River Chenab in occupied Kashmir. Salal was the first Indian project that became controversial between Pakistan and India. The construction of the dam was decided in 1970. India provided information about the project in 1974, Pakistan objected to the design and storage capacity of dam. In 1976, both countries entered into a series of talks to resolve the issue. Pakistan contended that the dam would enable India either to interrupt the flow of the water or to flood to western Punjab. There were two rounds of intensive talks in 1976, India provided details of the project and showed flexibility by agreeing to alter the design of the dam to remove Pakistan's objection. On April14, 1978 India and Pakistan entered into a treaty on the Salal hydroelectric project and this was the first major dispute which was successfully resolved bilaterally under this treaty.(Siddiqui, 2010).

2. Wullar Barrage Project

The Wullar Barrage, which Indian refers to as Tulbul Navigation project, was the second Indian project that became controversial and still remains unresolved. The proposed barrage is located on the Jhelum in

occupied Kashmir. India wants to build the barrage on the mouth of Wullar lake which is the largest fresh water lake in occupied Kashmir. India did not provide information on the project in time and started construction on the project in 1984, Pakistan learnt about the project in 1985 and raised objection and requested India to stop work on it.(Akhtar,2010).

Under the provisions of Indus Water Treaty 1960, the water of three western rivers Indus, Jhelum and Chenab have been allocated to Pakistan for unrestricted use except for certain uses by India in the areas located in the Indian Held Kashmir and India is not allowed to build any storage on the Main Jhelum River. The matter was accordingly taken up by the Permanent Indus Commission for resolution under Article IX(1) of the treaty. However, in spite of several meetings, the Commission failed to resolve the issue and the construction work which India had already started continued upto September 1987, when finally it got suspended. On the request of the India, bilateral negotiation started at the Secretary level. Upto 2008 as many as thirteen rounds of talks had been held but no result has so far found. The current factual position is that although the work at the site remains suspended, India still intends to restart the work. The issue is part of the composite dialogue between Pakistan and India.(Siddiqui,2010).

3. Baglihar Hydroelectric Project

Baglihar was the third Indian project that became controversial and the first one that went to the Neutral Expert for determination on technical questions raised by Pakistan. This project in operation since October 2008. it is located on Chenab river in district Doda. The project

has two stages and both are of 450MW capacity. Pakistan raised six objections to the design of the dam and argued that the project was not in conformity with the Indus Water Treaty. Pakistani experts also feared that India could also weaken Pakistan's defense by stopping the Chenab flow through the project's spill- ways as two canals emanate from Head Marala, Sialkot, which irrigate central Punjab and are also constructed for defense point of view, could be dried as and when the New Delhi desires. Thus Pakistan has decided to construct Msngla-Head Marala Link Canal to ensure water in the two canals that originate from Head Marala.(Akhtar, 2010).

In March 2009, Pakistani Minister for water and power informed the Parliament that Pakistan has demanded of India either to compensate for the losses or provide water equal to 0.2 million acre feet. Pakistan took up this case with India and Indus Water Commissioner. Pakistan made an urgent visit to India in this connection, India accepted the Pakistani claim of drop in Chenab flow during August and September. The two meetings were held by Indus Water Commissioner, Pakistan with its counterpart in India, but the meetings remained inconclusive. India as usual stuck to its traditional obduracy and inflexibility which is causing loss to Pakistan. Pakistan however, determined that India must accept the violation by it and address it in future.(Siddiqui,2010).

4. *Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project*

After Baglihar, India and Pakistan have got locked in a dispute over the configuration of Kishanganga hydroelectric project and the matter is now going to Court of Arbitration for settlement. The 300-MW, Kishanganga hydroelectric project is located about 160km upstream of Muzaffarabad. Pakistan first received reports about Indian intentions to

develop the Kishanganga project in 1988 but India officially confirmed it in June 1994 when it provided information regarding the storage work. Initially Pakistan raised three objections to the project. In May 2004, amid reservations voiced by Pakistan on the construction of Kishanganga hydroelectric project, India promised to freeze all work at the site for six months and hold a meeting with Pakistan for removing its objections. India told the meeting that it was working on the foundation of the dam and the powerhouse. Pakistan protested and said that construction work should not have begun before removing its objections. The issue was discussed in five meetings of the Commission held from November 2004 to November 2005 but differences over the project remained, further India did not supply the data regarding the project. In May 2005, Pakistan raised six objections of which three related to design of the dam, two of the diversion of water and one to the power generation scheme. Pakistan also accepted an Indian proposal to set 15 July as deadline for resolving the Kishangana project issue.(Akhtar,2010). As; has been reported in the international press, Indian cabinet has approved to go ahead with 330MW Kishanganga project in Indian held Kashmir, in violation of Indus Water Treaty. It intends to complete the project by the year 2016, one year ahead of Pakistan project of diversion of Neelum river to Jhelum river. The Indian project would divert the River Neelum to Wullar Lake upstream of the Pakistan project and would leave very little water for Pakistan's project, so Pakistan has gone to the court of Arbitration for resolution of the issue.(Siddique, 2010).

5. Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Plant

The two-stage Dul Hasti hydropower project with an installed capacity of 390 MW is located on the main Chenab in district Doda.

Pakistan believed it was just not a hydroelectric station but a full-fledged dam aimed at storing water for irrigation needs as seen in the case of Baglihar dam.

This project was originated in 1983 by the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indra Gandhi at a cost of Rs 34 billion. This project envisages the construction of 180.5m long and 59.5 high concrete gravity dam upstream of Baglihar hydroelectric project on river Chenab. The construction of this dam was started in 1991. Compared to Salal and Baglihar Projects, the effect of this project on Pakistan is not grave since the stoppage of water can be of the order of 1-2 days only. However, it is imperative to discourage India from providing under-sluices type gated spillways in the body of the dam.(Ahmed, 2012).

6. Uri-Ii Hydel Power Project

This hydel power project is located on the Jhelum in Baramulla district of Indian occupied Kashmir. The project is planned immediacy downstream of Uri-I and will pick up its tail water to make use of the gross head of about 130m available in the course of the river between Uri-I tailrace outlet. In October 2002, Pakistan asked India to supply informtion about Uri-II project. In July2004, Pakistan again asked India to provide the said information, in March 2005, Pakistan repeated the request and India finally provided some information about the plant. In April 2006, Pakistan sent its observations to India. India did not inform Pakistan and started unilateral construction on the project, in June, 2007, India rejected Pakistan's demand for stopping work on the Uri-II project while Pakistan threatened to seek World Bank intervetion if India did not stop construction work.(Sharma,2007). India remained insistent and did not stop work. Some adjustments have been made on Uri-II and the

construction work has reached its final stage and is set for completion at the end of 2011.

7. Nimoo Bazgo Hydro Project

Nimoo Bazgo Hydel project 45 MW is a run of the river scheme. It is located on the main Indus in Ladakh district. The construction work of dam is in full swing. On March 29, 2010 in a meeting of the Indus Commissioner India handed over construction planes and maps of the project to Pakistan. Pakistan expressed reservations on this project showed its fear that the Indian projects might obstruct smooth supply of water to Pakistan. Pakistan has raised six objections to Nimoo Bazgo. At the July 2010 meeting of the Indus Commissioners, India expressed its inability to discuss construction of Nimo Bazgo hydropower project saying it was not part of the ongoing negotiations. Pakistan has also not been allowed yet to visit site of this project. (Akhtar,2010).

BURSAR DAM

This dam is considered as the biggest project build by India on two major rivers Jhelum and Chenab flowing through the state of Indian occupied Kashmir into Pakistan. This dam would be constructed near Hanzal village in Doda District on the Marusudar River, the main right bank tributary of the river Chenab. According to the sources, it will store 2.2 MAP and generate 1020 MW of electricity and will be completed within 6-7 years of Rs. 43.78 billion. The construction of this dam would be a serious violation of the Indus Water treaty as it store the 2.2 MAP is much beyond permissible limits. (Ahmed,2012). The height of this dam will be 829 ft, while in comparison, the Tarbela dam height is 485ft, Mangla dam height is 453 ft. Actually this dam will be a storage facility,

which will regulate the flow of water to all downstream projects like Dul Hasti project, Baglihar dam and Salal dam.

This proposed dam violates the Indus Water treaty as well as international environmental convention. It will cause water scarcity in Pakistan, and it would also contribute towards melting of Himalayan glaciers. More than 4900 acres of thick forest would be submerged and the whole population of Hanzal village would be displaced.

According to some experts, the project is located in Kishtwar High Altitude National Park (about 2 million acre feet) which is an environmentally protected area. Spreading over an area of 400km, the park contains 15 mammals' species including the musk dear and Himalayan black and brown bear and some rear birds for which an environmental impact assessment study is necessary. (Ahmed, 2012). Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus Waters has repeatedly asked his Indian counterpart to provide details of the proposed water storage and hydropower projects, including Bursar dam, but India has taken the stand that it was aware of its legal obligations and it would inform Pakistan about the project details and relevant data six months before construction activities as required under the Treaty. (Ahmed, 2012).

The Court Of Arbitration Decision About Kishanganga Hydro project, Victory Or Defeat

The Court of Arbitration had granted a stay order against the construction of the Kishanganga dam structure on 25 September, 2011, both Pakistan and India initially claimed victory after the announcement of the Court of Arbitration's interim order. The court has granted the stay order against construction of the dam structure but has allowed India

to continue work on allied facilities, like the tunnel required to construct the dam. That India may not construct any permanent structures on or above the river bed is explicitly stipulated the order, according to order;

"Except for the sub surface foundations of the dam, India shall not proceed with the construction of any permanent works on or above the Kishanganga / Neelum riverbed at the Gurez site that may inhibit the restoration of the full flow of that river to its natural channel." (Bhutta, 2011).

While Indian Government and Media highlighted that one clause and gave full coverage, extrapolating that saves the permanent structures and they allowed going ahead with the construction. On other side Pakistan claimed that the decision was in its favour because that order bars India from continuing work on the dam construction. The former Indus Water Commissioner of Pakistan Syed Jammat Ali Shah said that the real issue was to stop the India from the construction of the dam, which the court has ordered.

Kishanganga Dam, Threat to Pakistan

Kishanganga dam also a big threat to Pakistan because with the construction of the dam, India would divert water from the kishanganga river which is known as Neelum river when enters into Azad Kashmir. India constructing a 23-kilometer long tunnel which produce 330 MWs or power. The water will subsequently be discharged into the Wullar Lake and ultimately flow through Jhelum River to Muzaffarabad. If this project completed, the dam would result in a 21% drop in Neelum River's inflow, thereby reducing the prospective energy generation from Pakistan's Neelum-Jhelum hydroelectric project by 10%. According to

Pakistan's officials, India has completed 15% of the construction work on Kishanganga but according to some other resources, India has completed 43% of the work. (Bhutta, 2011).

India's Justification Using Water Of Western Rivers :

India has been betraying the international community for its foul play on western rivers, quoting two excuses. First; Pakistan is unable to preserve its water by constructing dams and water storages in its territory, resulting into a large quantity of water flowing down to Arabian Sea, therefore India is securing the water while the second reason is that these water dams and storages are for the utilization of the people of Kashmir, under Indian occupation; either to produce electricity and irrigation. But these both arguments of India are baseless and without logic. India is planning to permanently deprive Pakistan from its share of water, thus converting the agricultural Pakistan into desert and barren Pakistan, the current requirements of electricity in Kashmir is 5000 MWs and only a limited portion of the land could be irrigated by the water of rivers because mostly land of Kashmir is arid. So it is clear that shifting of the water of these rivers to Indian territory through a program. Actually, India is working on these projects to produce over 43,000 MWs of electricity, which is more than the need of the people of occupied Kashmir. Than this electricity would be used for the heavy industrialization of India. While on other side it is true that we have not been able to build sufficient water reservoirs to preserve the surplus water especially during the rainy season for many reasons, nevertheless, this does not give India with enough cause to encroach over the Pakistani share of water .(Khan, 2011).

The Perceived Threat to Pakistan

During the last few years, the issue of water between India and Pakistan has gained much importance. The violation of the Indus Water Treaty(1960) by construction of dams on western rivers, which are given to Pakistan by this treaty, Pakistan has to decribe India as their eternal enemy and accuse India of trying to suffocate the Pakistan economy. Pakistani leaders blaming India for acting under an internatonal cospiracy led by America, Israel and India against Pakistan. Over the years, India has planned construction of round about 100 large and small hydroelectric projects and reservoirs on the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.

In early 2008, an editorial in the urdu newspaper Roznama Ausaf accused India of planning a "WATER BOMB" strategy to strangle Pakistan economically and India wants to achieve through a water bomb, what it could not achieve through the three wars waged over the past six decades. India is planning 50 dams to raid the water of rivers flowing into Pakistan. The IBWC warned: "If this is not foiled, Pakistan will face the worst famine and economic disaster."(Ahmed,2009).

One month after the inauguration of first phase of the Baglihar project by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Jammat Ali Shah, Pakistan's Indus Water Commissioner and liaison between the countries within the frame work the treaty, warned that India plans to make Pakistan barren by 2014 by stopping its water. Within a week of the dam's inauguration, Major General Athar Abbas, a spokesman for the Pakistan Army expressed concern over the Baglihar, describing it as a "defense security concern". He stated that a number of canals, drains and artificial distributries used for irrigation purposes are crucial during times of war. The strategic importance of the Indian water projects in Kashmir

is so significant that officials from the Pakistan Army headqurters attended a government meeting on the issue in February 2009 to discuss the impact of the said dams on Pakistan's water and defence interests…the Armed Forces became alarmed when they learned the projects could wreak havoc… if the same dams were to collapse or malfunction.(Ahmed,2009). Gen.Zulfiqar Ali, former chairman of Pakistan's Water and Power Development Authority expressed that by building dams on rivers in Kashmi,India wants to make Pakistan a Somalia by stopping its water and India has achieved military, economic and political supermacy vis-à-vis Pakistan.(Ahmed,2009).

A number of Pakistani experts and commentators warned that the water issue may incite nuclear war between the two countries.the convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Syed Yousaf Naseem atated that Pakistan is facing a water crisis and that the Indian efforts to effect cuts in its water share from the rivers flowing into Pakistan could compel Pakistan to use unconventional weapons against India and the Kashmir issue is cardinal to Pakistan-India relations. Unless this issue is resolved, the Damocles' sword of a nuclear clash will remain hanging over the region. Kashmir is very important for Pakistn and a delay in the resolution of this issue will jeopardize the peace of the region.

The famous editor Majeed Nizami accused India of blocking water from River Chenab and further proclaimed that India wants to destroy Pakistan, saying: "Our crops are not getting water, if the situation continues, Pakistan will become Somalia and Sudan (Ahmed, 2009).

Pakistan also fears that the cumulative live storage of these projects would have adverse impact both in terms of causing floods and running the Chenab and the Jhelum dry in the time when Pakistan needs

the water more. The sheer number of the dames/schemes that India is building on three Western rivers is massive, generating fears in Pakistan about their adverse implications for flow of water to Pakistan. India is to build 135 big or small dams,24 on the Indus, 77 on the Jhelum and 34 on the Chenab. Pakistan is apprehensive that even with strict compliance with the provisions of the Treaty in each case, India might taking all the projects together aquire a measure of control over the water of the Western rivers and might potentially be able to inflict harm on Pakistan. (Ramaswamy,2010) .

CONCLUSION

The Indus Water Treaty is coming under stress due to both growing water scarcity in India and Pakistan ecological threat to the Indus basin rivers system. The treaty was signed as a permanent solution to the water sharing problem between the two countries when water was in abundance in the Indus system. The Indus Water Treaty provides opportunity for future cooperation on water issue but unfortunately, since the signing of the treaty, no project has been undertaken under the provisions of "future cooperation". Due to climatic changes and water insecurity in the basin has heightened resulting in politicization of the water issue between the two countries. The growing water stress has coincided with India's ambitious plan to construct a large number of large hydropower plants, especially on the Chenab and Jhelum rivers. The fact that India has not been forthcoming in sharing information and engineering details regarding these projects as required in the Treaty has Aroused Pakistan's apprehension. The projects of hydroelectric power made by India are not merely of run of the river structures as allowed

under the treaty but their number and structures allow India to acquire manipulative control that could be used to hamper water flows into Pakistan. The worst scenario for Pakistan is the Indian ability to stop water in lean period and release it in wet season. Further the Indian Projects have adverse trans- boundary impacts both environmental and in terms of power generation as is evident in the case of Neelum-Jhelum project.(Akhtar,2010). All these things created a vacuum of mistrust between India and Pakistan and water issue got much importance, now it got top position in bilateral meetings between the two countries. There is a larger political dimension to the whole problem of the rivers water distribution between Pakistan and India. To Pakistan the Kashmir issue is irrevocably linked to the Indus Water Treaty as the headwaters of all the rivers of Pakistan and meant for Pakistan flow through Kashmir and India happens to the upper riparian state. The fear exists that India could manipulate the water to starve Pakistan so Water issue now a core issue in Pak-India relations.

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