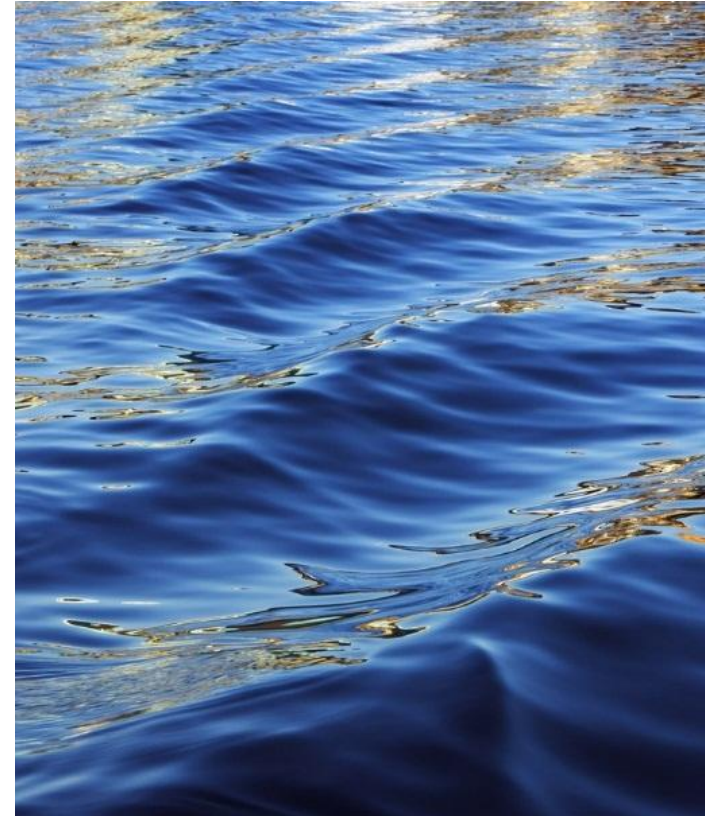


# Water Justice: Everyone is Downstream- Pakistan's Water Apportionment Accord

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## ***Water disputes in Pakistan rooted in colonial era (pre-1947):***

- Upstream Punjab vs. downstream Sindh over irrigation projects.

## ***Post-partition (1947-1960):***

- From two provinces to two countries...
- Indus Waters Treaty with India allocated Western Rivers to Pakistan but exacerbated internal tensions.

## ***1960-1991:***

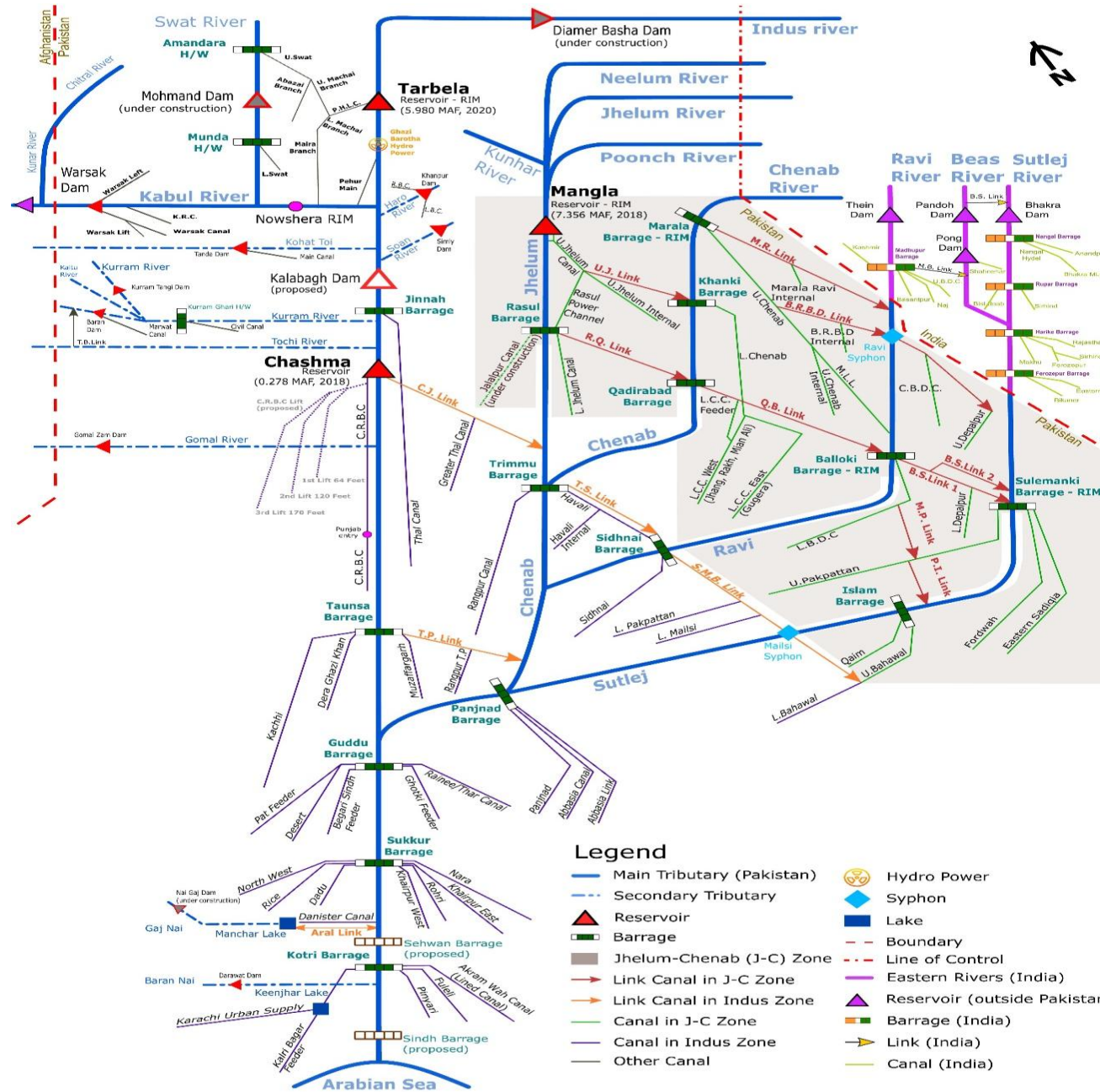
- Escalating scarcity, "trust deficit," failed commissions (e.g., Akhtar Hussain, Fazl-e-Akbar, Haleem).
- Need for Accord: Address ad-hoc allocations, growing demand-supply gap, and inter-provincial conflicts.

# Key Provisions in 1991 Accord

- Baseline: 114.35 Million Acre-Feet (MAF) total allocation.
- Uniform sharing of shortages/surpluses on an "all Pakistan basis" via pro-rata adjustments.
- Minimum escapage to sea below Kotri Barrage (deferred for studies; Sindh pushed for 10 MAF to prevent delta degradation).
- Emphasis on new storages on Indus and tributaries for future agriculture.
- Priority for urban/industrial supplies (e.g., Karachi).
- Provincial flexibility for modifications and small projects (<5,000 acres).
- Established Indus River System Authority (IRSA) in 1992 for regulation and monitoring.

# Provincial Allocations

PROVINCE	KHARIF (MAF)	RABI (MAF)	TOTAL (MAF)	NOTES
PUNJAB	37.07	18.87	55.94	Largest share for agricultural needs.
SINDH	33.94	14.82	48.76	Includes urban/industrial for Karachi.
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA (KP)	3.48	2.30	5.78	-
KP CIVIL CANALS	1.80	1.20	3.00	Ungauged canals; "top-slicing" provision.
BALUCHISTAN	2.85	1.02	3.87	Under-execution projects as existing uses.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77.34 + 1.80</b>	<b>37.01 + 1.20</b>	<b>114.35 + 3.00</b>	Allocable system water.



# Post-Accord Challenges

- Implementation gaps: IRSA controversies, bias accusations (esp. from Sindh), "Three-Tier Formula" for shortages opposed by Sindh.
- Disputes: "Historic use" (Punjab) vs. Accord percentages (Sindh); link canals (e.g., Chashma-Jhelum as flood vs. perennial).
- New projects: Opposition to Kalabagh Dam, Cholistan Canal, Greater Thal Canal Phase II due to fears of water diversion.

## Present Distribution Mechanism of IRSA

(THREE TIER FORMULA SINCE 2003)

### Scenario I

- Water Availability < Actual Average System Uses 77-82
- Distributed as per 14 (b) of the WAA 1991

### Scenario II

- Water Availability > Actual Average System Uses 77-82 but < Para 2 of WAA 1991
- Actual Average System Uses are protected
- Balance available as per Para 2 i.e. 10-daily approved by CCI

### Scenario III

- Water Availability > Para 2 of WAA 1991
- Para 2 i.e. 10-daily approved by CCI are protected
- Balance as per Para 4 of the WAA 1991

*Note: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa & Balochistan are exempted from sharing of shortages.*

# What next