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# India, Pak. delegations reach J&K to inspect power projects under Indus Water Treaty

**Press Trust of India**

JAMMU

Delegations from India and Pakistan on Monday flew to Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir with neutral experts and began inspection of two power projects under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), officials said.

Nearly 40 people reached Jammu on Sunday evening and flew to Kishtwar this morning for inspection of various under-construction power projects in the Chenab valley region, the officials said.

This is the first visit by a Pakistani delegation to Jammu and Kashmir in more than five years under the dispute settlement mechanism of the 1960 treaty.

India and Pakistan signed the IWT after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory of the pact which



The delegations of India, Pakistan arrive to inspect hydroelectric power projects under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). PTI

sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the use of waters of a number of cross-border rivers.

A three-member Pakistani delegation inspected the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydroelectric power projects under the provisions of the IWT for the last time in January 2019.

Immediately after landing at an Army camp, the

delegation visited the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) headquarters, the officials said, adding that they left for the 85-MW Ratle hydroelectric power project site at Drabshalla for dam inspection. They will also visit the 1,000-MW Pakal Dul hydroelectric project on the Marusudar, a tributary of the Chenab, and other power projects in Kishtwar, the officials said.

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# Water level at key dams slips below normal

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Amidst severely deficient rain over north-west India in the pre-monsoon period, the water level at key dams in the region that are crucial for power generation and irrigation has slipped below normal.

The combined storage at dams in Himachal Pradesh—at present—is two per cent below normal. It was a few notches above normal in the beginning of June. The level at Punjab's sole dam is 28 per cent below normal.

The reservoir at Bhakra Dam that lies on the Sutlej in Himachal Pradesh is filled up to 31 per cent of its total capacity, while that at Pong

## North-west rain-deficit in pre-monsoon period

on the Beas, also in Himachal, is filled up to 20 per cent of its capacity. The average storage at these two dams over the past 10 years was 29 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively.

At Thein Dam on the Ravi in Punjab, the current storage is 36 per cent of its total capacity compared to the past 10-year average of 50 per cent, according to the latest weekly report issued by the Central Water Commission (CWC).

Bhakra and Pong have a combined hydro-power generational capacity of about 1,800 megawatts (MW) and irrigation potential of 676

thousand hectares. A third dam in Himachal, Kol, which lies upstream of Bhakra has miniscule storage capacity but has a hydel potential of about 800 MW. Thein can generate about 600 MW and irrigate 348 thousand hectares.

The water inflow at Bhakra Dam is primarily dependent on snow melt in Kinnaur and Tibet, while that at Pong and Thein is largely dependent on rain received in their catchment areas.

The filling season for the dams is generally from mid-May till the end of September, when snow in the upper reaches of the Himalayas starts to melt and the region

also experiences rain. The inflows peak during the monsoon which this year is expected to arrive in Himachal and Punjab after June 25. It has already covered peninsular India and the North-East.

During the month of June so far, the agrarian states of Punjab and Haryana have faced a rain deficit of 74 per cent and 77 per cent, respectively. The hill state of Himachal is short by 57 per cent, according to data released by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Rainfall in these states was severely deficient in May this year also, with the shortfall being 86 per cent in Punjab, 79 per cent in Haryana and 72 per cent in Himachal.