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The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

Kishenganga off the menu in Indus talks

But India, Pak. hold 'frank discussions' on other schemes

MUBASHIR ZAIDI
ISLAMABAD

India and Pakistan began discussions on the Indus Water Commission on Monday after 22 months amid optimism that the meeting may lead to resumption of the composite dialogue between the neighbours.

After the first day of talks, officials on both sides said the meeting was held in a cordial manner, and they had frank discussions. P.P. Saxena, Indus Water Commissioner of India, is leading a 10-member delegation in talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Mirza Asif Baig.

Sanctity of treaty

Prior to the meeting, Pakistan's Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Asif expressed the hope that both countries would respect the sanctity of the Indus Water Treaty.

Because of the Pakistani position, Kishenganga and



India's milestone: A file photo of the headrace tunnel of the Kishenganga hydel project at Bandipora. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Ratle were not discussed in the latest round of talks. But the designs of the Pakal Dul, Lower Kalnai and Miyar hydroelectric plants were taken up.

The talks will conclude in Islamabad on Tuesday, though the earlier plan was to do so in Lahore.

The talks were suspended in May 2015 after the Pakistani Commissioner objected to the designs of the Kishenganga and the Ratle

hydropower projects of India.

Last year, the secretaries of power of both countries agreed to third-party resolution through the World Bank. But the World Bank announced late last year that Pakistan and India should hold bilateral talks.

Following the World Bank's reluctance to pass an order, both sides would meet in Washington in April on the Ratle project.

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Indus talks positive, but fresh tensions arise^T₂₁

SIMRAN SODHI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

Even as Indian officials sat down with their Pakistani counterparts to hold a meeting of the Indus Water Commission in Lahore today, two other parallel movements threatened to raise tension again.

Sources in the government said as far as the Indus talks were concerned, Pakistan, in private, expressed happiness at the fact that the talks were finally hap-

pening. It is also being seen as a positive development in the India-Pak narrative that has seen only tension in the last one year.

A 10-member delegation from India arrived in Lahore today to hold talks. The Indian delegation is led by India's Indus Water Commissioner PK Saxena and comprises Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officials and technical experts. The Pakistan delegation will be headed by Mirza Asif

CLERICS BACK HOME

- Two Sufi clerics who went missing in Pakistan last week returned to India on Monday
- They said a Pakistan newspaper ran a news that they were working for the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)
- Based on that report, they were detained by Pak agency for questioning. **PAGE 10**

Saeed. However, two parallel movements threatened to raise tension again. One: The

two Sufi clerics who went missing in Pakistan last week today accused a Pakistani daily for the drama as it ran the news that the two were working for the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM).

Syed Asif Nizami and Nazim Ali Nizami, the two clerics of the Nizamuddin Dargah, alleged they were detained by Pakistan's law enforcement agency for questioning based on the untrue report

run by a newspaper Ummat. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had to step in and take up the issue with Pakistan Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz.

Secondly: India's Deputy High Commissioner in Pakistan JP Singh was today summoned in Islamabad over alleged "unprovoked" firing by Indian troops in the Kotli area along the Line of Control (LoC) on March 17.

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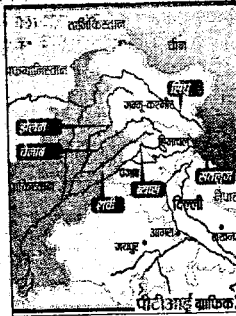
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सिंधु जल आयोग की बैठक में पुरानी परेशानियों पर चर्चा

इस्लामाबाद, (भाषा): भारत और पाकिस्तान के अधिकारियों ने स्थायी सिंधु जल आयोग (पीआईसी) की आज से यहां शुरू हो रही दो दिवसीय बैठक में सिंधु बेसिन से संबंधित परेशानियों के बारे में चर्चा की। पाकिस्तान के जल एवं ऊर्जा मंत्री ख्वाजा आसिफ ने कहा, "बातचीत आज आरंभ हुई जो दोनों देशों के संबंधों के लिए अच्छा है।"

सिंधु जल आयुक्त पीके सक्सेना की अगुवाई में 10 सदस्यीय भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल बैठक में हिस्सा लेने के लिए कल यहां पहुंचा। इस प्रतिनिधिमंडल में विदेश मंत्रालय के अधिकारी और तकनीकी विशेषज्ञ शामिल हैं। बंद कमरे में हुई बातचीत में पाकिस्तानी पक्ष का नेतृत्व मिर्जा सईद ने किया। बैठक के दौरान पाकिस्तान ने अपनी तरफ बहने



वाली नदियों पर बन रही तीन भारतीय पनबिजली परियोजनाओं के बारे में चिंताएं प्रकट की। पाकिस्तानी पक्ष का नेतृत्व सिंधु जल आयुक्त मिर्जा आसिफ सईद करेंगे और उनके साथ जल और ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के अधिकारी तथा अन्य विशेषज्ञ भी

मौजूद रहेंगे। पाकिस्तान ने जिन परियोजनाओं का मुद्दा उठाया है वे हैं चेनाब पर 1000 मेगावॉट की पाकुल डल परियोजना, मियार नाला पर 120 मेगावॉट की मियार परियोजना और लोअर कलनाई नाला पर 43 मेगावॉट की लोअर कलनाई जल विद्युत परियोजना। पाकिस्तान की दलील है कि ये परियोजनाएं 1960 में हुए सिंधु जल समझौते का उल्लंघन करती हैं। आज की बैठक स्थायी सिंधु जल आयोग का 113वां सत्र है।

आयोग की स्थापना 1960 में हुई थी। इससे पहले आयोग की बैठक 2015 में हुई थी। हालांकि एक अन्य बैठक सितंबर 2016 में होनी थी लेकिन उड़ी आतंकी हमले के बाद उपजे तनाव के चलते उसे रद्द कर दिया गया था।