Nihar and I negate Resolved: The United Nations should grant India permanent membership on the Security Council.

Contention 1 is Indo-China Water Wars

China has control over the Brahmaputra River, one of the most important rivers in India

This is dangerous as

[Chellaney 2017](https://gulfnews.com/opinion/op-eds/a-new-front-opens-in-asias-water-war-1.2106986) from Gulf News explains

**China has long regarded freshwater as a strategic weapon** — one that the country’s leaders have no compunction about wielding **to advance their foreign-policy goals**. After years of using its chokehold on almost every major transnational river system in Asia to manipulate water flows themselves, [and] China is now withholding [hydrological] data on upstream flows to put pressure on downstream countries, particularly India.

Fortunately, [Limaye 2016](https://nationalinterest.org/feature/china-indias-slow-moving-path-water-wars-18254) from the National Interest writes that despite tensions,

**Some space in** both **China and India may be emerging to pursue multilateral cooperation [regarding water]**more actively. A recent article in the journal of the India’s semiofficial Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses suggests creating a formal framework for a water-sharing mechanism with China. And a recent editorial in the Global Times—usually known for its more nationalistic bent—[pointed to multilateral cooperation](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1010346.shtml) in the Mekong basin as an example of cooperation that could be emulated in the Brahmaputra basin. The author concluded that “this will be the most effective solution to the water dispute between China and India.” **From China’s perspective, added benefits** of such an initiative **would include** bolstering Beijing’s credentials as a responsible rising power and **reducing tensions on its western periphery, at a time when it is facing increasing challenges on its [from its] eastern** periphery, such as over Taiwan and in the South China Sea.

Affirming changes this calculus by making India a perceptual threat against China.

[Rehman 2009](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14799850902885114) writes that

China may not be actively lobbying against India's bid, as it is doing vis-à-vis Japan's, but it is clear that it has no desire to see a change in the status quo. For the time being, **China is the only voice at the UNSC for Asia** and the “developing world,” **and it has no inclination** whatsoever **to see its influence “diluted”** in any way **by the integration of another Asian state**, and, what is more, by a state with which it has often had conflictual relations in the past. As one analyst has aptly put it, quoting an old Chinese saying, “One mountain cannot accommodate two tigers.

[Dabhade 2017](http://risingpowersproject.com/quarterly/indias-pursuit-united-nations-security-council-reforms/) writes that

Further, **the seat on** the high table, at **the UN’s premier,** powerful **body would provide [India]** it **the much needed leverage to expand its** geo-political and geo-economic c**clout globally.** It would**[and]serve as an equalizer to China,** its rival and an emerging hegemon in Asia and an ever increasing strategic and security concern in its immediate neighborhood and beyond. India has always seen itself as a democratic alternative to the authoritarian China in a leadership role in Asia.

As a result, [Lal 2017](https://www.asiasentinel.com/politics/india-china-water-war/)

**Beijing**, on its part **resents Delhi’s [actions that]** assertive Act East Policy which has **diminish**ed **its own sphere of influence in the [Asian] region.** **It is therefore possible,** analysts say, **that Beijing is using water**, either through the denial of hydrological data or by its dam construction activities upstream on rivers that flow into India, **as a weapon.**

There are two impact scenarios.

The first is cutting off data sharing.

[Chaudhury 2018](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/chinas-failure-to-share-river-data-may-spark-off-new-round-of-tensions/articleshow/61158161.cms)

The two nations **[India and China] have a bilateral arrangement under which China is required to share [river] data** on water level, discharge and rainfall recorded at its [water] monitoring stations along [the Brahmaputra] these rivers—which originate in China and flow into India-—between May 15 and October 15 every year.

Furthering that

**Data on upstream river flows is essential for flood forecasting** and warning **in order to save lives** and reduce material losses. China’s **data denial crimps flash flood modelling in India.**

She continues that

Yet, this year, **[In 2017] China [temporarily] decided to withhold such data from India, undermining the efficacy of India’s flood early-warning systems** — during Asia’s summer monsoon season, no less. As a result, despite below-normal monsoon rains this year in India’s northeast, through which the Brahmaputra River flows after leaving Tibet and before entering Bangladesh, the region **[As a result, India]** **faced unprecedented flooding**, with devastating consequences, especially in Assam state.

Flood Warning is key:

Kieran **Cooke 14** In Laupani, India, 3-26-2014, "India's Brahmaputra river: 'The flood waters are eating away at our land'," Guardian, https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/mar/26/india-brahmaputra-river-floods-land

**Flooding on the Brahmaputra has brought death, displacement and [disease-carrying mosquitoes] to what has become one of India's poorest regions**. The river is a lifeline to millions, delivering vital nutrients to the plains of Assam and other areas, but its fast flowing waters also cause widespread misery. **[one year] 2012,** more than **1.5 million people in Assam were displaced** by floods, with many lives lost and whole **villages washed away**. But rampant deforestation, particularly in areas further upstream, is another factor driving land loss. "Over time different rivers in the Brahmaputra basin have merged, braiding over a very wide area, and **thousands of square kilometres of paddy fields [farmland destroyed]** have been lost," says Professor Jogendra Nath Sarma, a local geologist who has been studying the Brahmaputra for years. Subhakar Subedi, the village chief, says farmers are experimenting with more flood resistant rice strains. Others are turning what land they have left into small tea gardens or vegetable plots. There are pools of stagnant water, left behind by last year's floods. They provide ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes; malaria, says Subedi, is on the rise.

The second is river access.

Alternatively, China could also choose to divert the Brahmaputra altogether.

[Eva 2017 from the Global Risk Insights writes that](https://globalriskinsights.com/2017/09/water-wars-chinas-new-weapon-india/)

**China** created ripples of anxiety in September last year when it **[has already] announced that it would** [**divert**](http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/china-blocks-brahmaputra-tributary-impact-on-water-flow-in-india-not-clear/story-QVAYbO2iOBFUSynwwpyneN.html)the Xiabuqu, **a domestic river feeding into the** trans-boundary **Brahmaputra** River. The Brahmaputra is a regional giant, its arteries extending through Tibet, across the hills of Northeast India and valleys of Bangladesh, before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. China’s diversion was to allow for the construction of two hydroelectric dams and, while only temporary, was a stark reminder of the advantage Beijing holds over its downstream neighbours in Delhi and Dhaka. This month, amid devastating flooding in India’s Assam state, China [refused](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/assam-appeals-china-for-sharing-brahmaputra-data/articleshow/60194204.cms) to release hydrological data on its upstream operations on the Brahmaputra. With India and China locked in a months-long [border dispute](http://globalriskinsights.com/2017/07/sikkim-and-the-silk-road-is-china-making-a-move-on-india/) on the Doklam plateau,China’s refusal to cooperate over shared water resources shows **[showing that] it is willing to use water as a geopolitical weapon** as regional tensions unfold.

Diverting the Brahmaputra would have devastating consequences,

[Williams 2013](https://www.e-ir.info/2013/02/15/chinas-water-policies-and-their-international-implications/)

The most probable outcome will be where China’s relationships with lower-riparian states deteriorate as China becomes increasingly possessive over trans-boundary rivers. While this is unlikely to result in direct conflict between China and its neighbours, it could create several flash points for conflict in the region; including potential Indian-Pakistan conflict; renewed Sino-Indian border disputes; and instability within countries. China’s relationship with India will deteriorate if China diverts water from the country and **[Diversion] could spark a humanitarian crisis in parts of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan due to droughts and famine.** Rising food prices will exacerbate this and lead to further instability. Worsening Sino-Indian relations over water resources may result in acute rivalry between the two countries, proving destabilising for the region and could result in the polarisation of Asia.

(2:05)

**Contention 2 is a War on the Indus River**

The Indus River is a crucial source of tension between India and Pakistan.

[Al Jazeera](https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/spotlight/kashmirtheforgottenconflict/2011/07/20117812154478992.html) writes in 2011 that

**The Indus is** a **river** system that sustains communities in both India and Pakistan**. In Pakistan**, it **is the only river system [in Pakistan] supporting the country, where more than 92 per cent of the land is arid** or semi-arid. In India, it is one of two main river systems supporting the country's northwest: Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan (generally considered to be water deficient areas).

However, it can be easily controlled by India.

[Wheeler 2011](https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/10/111012-india-pakistan-indus-river-water/) writes that

**Many in Pakistan are worried that,** being in control of upstream waters, **India can easily run Pakistan dry** either **by diverting the flow of water** by building storage dams or using up all the water through hydroelectric power schemes," said Pakistani security analyst Rifaat Hussain.

The peace surrounding the Indus River is maintained by a fragile peace accord which India has already threatened to break.

[Siddiqui 19](http://southasiajournal.net/water-security-in-south-asia-and-china/)

**With a population of nearly 1.6 billion between them, South Asian countries India and Pakistan often have frictions over water-sharing. Ever since the partition of the sub-continent in 1947, Indo-Pak rivalry has dominated South Asian politics. As the headwaters are in Indian territory, minor water feuds happened even in 1948. Finally, the Indus Waters Treaty (or IWT) was signed in 1960, this agreement miraculously survived and helped contain the water issues between them. [India is] Bound to provide lower riparian Pakistan unrestricted use of waters flowing down into its territory, [and] India cannot store water, especially with movable gates. [however dam] Projects such as the Kishanganga, Wullar, Baglihar etc on the Indian side increase the likelihood of water wars between the two nuclear powers.** Unfortunately, water and climate matters were not discussed effectively even at regional forums like the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Not only that, **no formal [water] dialogue has taken place between New Delhi and Islamabad since the last SAARC Summit got cancelled in 2017.**

Causing her to conclude that

**Any contravention of IWT clauses “can be taken as an act of war,” and chances of a water war are quite real since India has been building dams and there is a deficit of mutual trust.**

[Koshy 2019 from the Hindu writes that](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pulwama-attack-and-indus-waters-treaty-does-india-holds-all-the-cards/article26352399.ece)

Yes. While it has been **India**’s stated position to fully utilise its eastern rivers, Mr. Gadkari said on Friday that he had asked officials in the [Indian] Water Resources Ministry **[is already exploring]** to see if there were **“technical ways” to stop the flow of Indus water that** rightfully **belong[s] to Pakistan.**

(2:47)

Affirming causes India to violate the IWT for two reasons:

First, through Line of Control Recognition

~~Dabhade from the Observer Research Foundation writes in 2017 that~~

**~~In pursuance of its claims to the Council seat, India points out its rich history of consistent international~~**~~, multilateral posture of~~ **~~cooperation~~** ~~and fraternity, especially when it comes to the UN.~~

~~As a result, India is reluctant to break the IWT for fear of jeopardizing its UNSC bid.~~

[Sarwar 14](http://issi.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/1328593104_35074620.pdf)

**Also, being a permanent member, with the support of other Council members, India may be able to decide the Kashmir issue on its own terms. For example, it could ask Pakistan to turn the Line of Control (LoC) into a permanent and internationally recognised border. Such a resolution of the Kashmir issue would give most of the Kashmir region to India and a small part to Pakistan. This is unacceptable to Pakistan. As this is not in Pakistan‟s interests because the starting points of all major Pakistani rivers Any expansion in the permanent slot of seats in the Security Council would have serious implications for Pakistan because if there is any enlargement in the permanent category, India may get a permanent seat as it enjoys the support of more than 120 countries, including four out of the five current permanent members. Expansion of the United Nations Security Council 275 are in Kashmir and accepting the LoC as an international border would put them under Indian control. If that happens, Pakistan, which has an agriculture-based economy, will face serious consequences if Pakistani rivers come under Indian control. Pakistan could also face water scarcity or floods.**

#### **Also, [by] being a permanent member, with the support of other Council members, India may be able to decide the Kashmir issue on its own terms. For example, it could ask Pakistan to turn the Line of Control (LoC) into a permanent and internationally recognised border. Such a resolution of the Kashmir issue would giv[ing] most of the Kashmir region to India and a small part to Pakistan. This is unacceptable to Pakistan. As this is not in Pakistan‟s interests [and B]ecause the starting points of all major Pakistani rivers is in India. Any expansion in the permanent slot of seats in the Security Council would have [this has] serious implications for Pakistan because if there is any enlargement in the permanent category, India may get a permanent seat as it enjoys the support of more than 120 countries, including four out of the five current permanent members. Expansion of the United Nations Security Council 275 are in Kashmir and accepting the LoC as an international border would put them under Indian control. If that happens, Pakistan, which has an agriculture-based economy, will face serious consequences if Pakistani rivers [will] come under Indian control [causing]. Pakistan [to] could also face water scarcity or floods.**

Second, by preventing Pakistan from seeking intervention.

[Kugelman 2016 from Foreign Policy](https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/09/30/why-the-india-pakistan-war-over-water-is-so-dangerous-indus-waters-treaty/)

These developments have spooked Pakistan severely. Sartaj Aziz, the foreign affairs advisor to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, [said](http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2016/09/27/pulling-out-of-indus-waters-treaty-unilaterally-would-be-an-act/) **[If India] revok[es]**ing **the IWT** could be perceived as an “act of war,” and he hinted that **Pakistan might seek assistance from the United Nations** or International Court of Justice.

Empirically,

[The Stimson Center finds in 2018](http://crises.stimson.org/conflictresolution/)

**The 1948 and 1965 India-Pakistan Wars** were centered on Kashmir and **ended** in a ceasefire **through active UNSC intercession.**

However,[Khan 2015](https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a632266.pdf) from the Naval Postgraduate School writes that

**The permanent membership would afford India an enormous advantage to block resolutions brought before the UNSC by Pakistan.**

(3:45)

**Making India effectively unstoppable.**

The impact is humanitarian disaster.

[Qureshi 17 Penn State](https://elibrary.law.psu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1166&context=jlia)

Water is a basic human necessity and recognized as a fundamental human right. **India’s threats [to block the river]** and its construction of dams on the western rivers **are paving the way for the deprivation of the people of Pakistan of this basic [human] right [to water].** India has also committed violations of human rights in Kashmir and it would feel no harm in repeating the same for the people of Pakistan by depriving them of adequate water supply. The main issue concerning the India–Pakistan water conflict is related to the “human right to access water.” The construction of dams by India on Pakistani-allocated rivers could lower the quantity of water in the western rivers,18 which will affect the “access to water” of the people who regularly consume the water of these rivers in Pakistan, especially in the Punjab region. **Moreover, blocking the Indus and other rivers from India could cause a shortage of water in Pakistan, which would deprive a large number of people who are dependent on access to this river water for drinking, agricultural, and domestic needs. Agriculture is the only means of subsistence and earning for almost half of the Pakistani population.** Forty-five percent of the Country’s labor force is associated with agriculture;19 **therefore, any harm done to the agriculture of Pakistan will cause a direct negative effect** on the lives of these people. Pakistan’s citizens’ well being, standards of living, employment, access to health care, food, water, and sanitation will all be directly affected. Moreover, **around 70 percent of the region’s agricultural area is in the [vulnerable] Punjab [area];2**0 therefore, if India pursues its ambitions of constructing dams or barrages to deprive the Pakistani Punjab of the river water, then it would cause severe harm to the basic rights21 — the right to access water, food, sanitation, employment, health care, etc. — of the people who are dependent on the river water in Punjab. 22 Another issue is related to threatening the agricultural infrastructure of Pakistan. Almost the entire agricultural infrastructure of Pakistan follows the canals and barrage systems for irrigation,23 and all of the water in the canals and barrages comes from the western rivers,24 of which the Indus River shares the maximum quantity of water supply. **Any hindrance caused by India to the flow of the Indus river will reduce the flow of water reaching to Pakistan, and blocking the flow of this river would cause a shortage or total lack thereof water available for irrigation; this would directly threaten the very survival of the entire Pakistan population because the absence of irrigation could result in crop failure [and], as well as food and water shortages. [Agriculture is the only means of subsistence and earning for almost half of the Pakistani population.]**

Pakistan sees it as an act of war - leads to a desperate escalation

[Bana 2019](https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/pakistan-india-tension-war-planes-china-a8799111.html) from the Independent

India and Pakistan have gone to war four times – in 1947, 1965, 1971 and 1999. But **a**nother **war** today **would prove mutually disastrous**. A fifth ofIndia’s population and a third of Pakistan’s live in extreme poverty, defined as those living on less than $1.90 (£1.43) a day. **Not only would [it]**such an engagement **ravage their economies and lead to civilian destitution, it may draw other global powers into the conflict too,** deepening the discord.

Thus we negate.

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/can-india-revoke-indus-water-treaty-unilaterally-news18-explainer-2045325.html>

A possible water war would also be on the cards which could prove detrimental for India as it is seeking to build a seat for itself at the United Nations Security Council as the country would been seen as a one who has violated a bilateral treaty.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/09/30/why-the-india-pakistan-war-over-water-is-so-dangerous-indus-waters-treaty/>

FL: China would cut off water

FL: India doesn’t have storage

FL: flooding

FL: int’l backlash

FL: they don’t want war

FL: terrorist retaliation