

## Abstract

This article examines the likelihood of water insecurity causing war between China and India. Firstly, it lists out the possible reasons behind the water dispute between these two countries. As water scarcity in both China and India exacerbate, the competition over shared water resources in their trans boundary rivers, particularly the Brahmaputra River, is set to accentuate. Both China and India are key riparian countries in some of Asia's most important international river basins, and their approaches to water conflicts in these rivers have significant impacts not only on water security but also on regional stability. If China tries to block or divert water from the Brahmaputra River it will not only affect India but Bangladesh also. Though China has stated that it has no intentions to build such dams that will store water, but still the situation stands irresolute as China is not transparent about their future plans and policies. If this happens, India may also have to take noteworthy steps which may further lead to a Sino-India water - war in future.

## Issues

Brahmaputra is one of the major water resources in India and China. It originates in Tibet and then flow into Arunachal Pradesh before entering in Bangladesh. China blocked the Xiakugu river; one of the many tributaries of the Yarlung Zangbo(Brahmaputra) as to build a dam as part of its halho hydroelectric project at Xigase in Tibet Autonomous region. This project has started in 2014 and is expected to be completed in 2019.

Although, its impact on water flow downstream is not yet clear but it will certainly affect India and its projects . Though major portion of Brahmaputra is in India but origin of river is from Tibet means under control of China. Due to water scarcity in Northern region of China and lack of freshwater resources (60% present of ground water is polluted), so they have to rely on Brahmaputra River and trying to divert the water towards north.

Brahmaputra holds a significant value for India as well. It is major source of irrigation in Arunachal Pradesh, and Bangladesh. Besides, India is planning to develop 14 hydroelectric project over it. If china continues to block water, India will definitely suffer. Also adding to this issue, is that there exists no international treaty between the two countries which could ease the handling of this issue.

## Solution

- Both the countries should share more data about their future and ongoing water projects over the concerned resources. This would also lead to better relationship among the countries.
- A certain set of protocols should be formulated for the use & sharing of water resources with mutual consensus. This should also consider other countries like Tibet, Bangladesh because they are also affected by this issue.
- As most of the water in both the countries is wasted because of the poor water management system adopted by the countries. Time to time surveys should be conducted to detect the disparities. Then both should work over these to manage & use the resources efficiently.

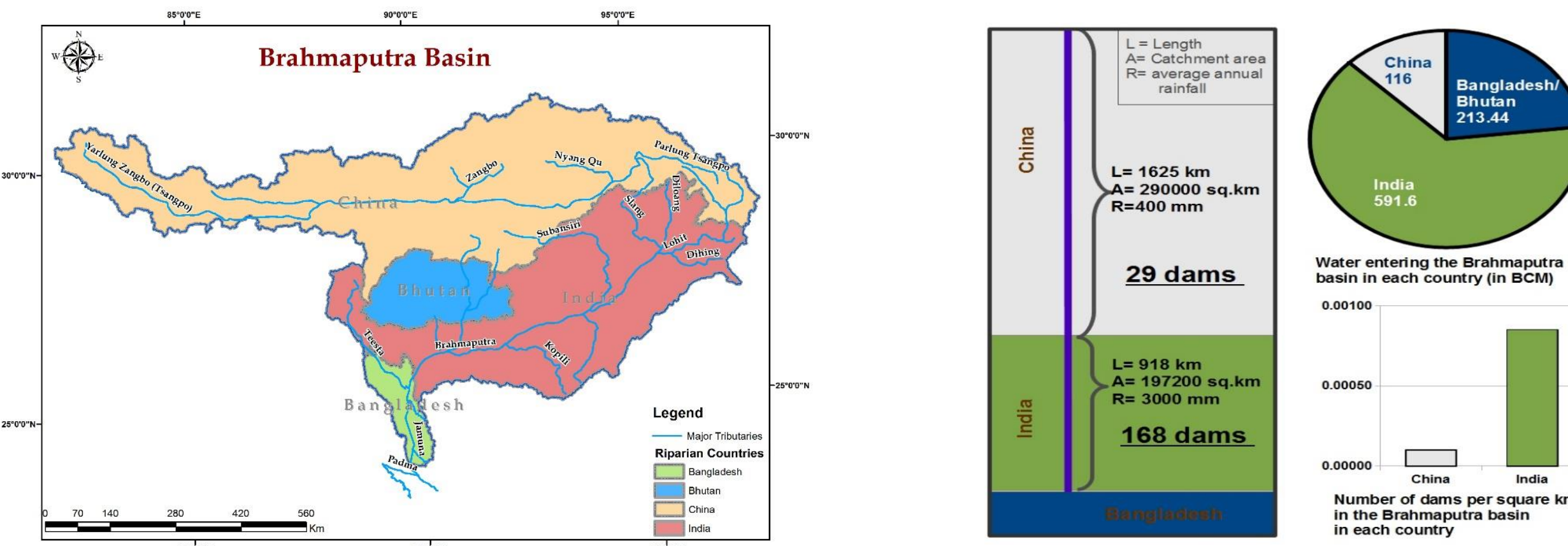


Figure 1. Brahmaputra basin map.

Figure 2. Course of the Brahmaputra.

## Introduction

Natural Resources are depleting at an exponential rate. As by 2050, the population is expected to be very high; the need for all resources will also increase by 50 percent. The major issue that will arise will be due to the limited availability of resources. This will create a problem across the globe to fulfil the basic needs of people. Such issues may lead to tension between countries as acquiring the resources had also been the primary reason for most of the war.

Digging further into this issue on the South East Asian front, India and China are also facing somewhat similar problems. Both the countries are emerging as major economic drivers in the world and to establish their identities strongly they need unlimited supply of resources for their future projects. Presently, these countries are facing various disputes, importantly border dispute and water dispute. Border Dispute is the main reason of conflict between Sino-India. The major disputed areas are Tibet in north of India while McMahon line in Arunachal Pradesh.

Various studies have been conducted over this issue and Brahmaputra River is major issue between Sino-India. The main reason of this water conflict and its possible effects and future implications are further addressed in this paper.

## Effects & Future Implications

### EFFECTS:

- Once India blocked the water of Brahmaputra due to which Bangladeshis suffered. A large number of people from Bangladesh. A large number of people from Bangladesh migrated to North-Eastern India as it adversely affected their agriculture and other livelihood earning resources.
- China has always kept secrecy over its plans. This one lead to huge floods in Arunachal Pradesh in 2000 and 40 Indian people died in this floods due to data hiding of river flow by China.

### FUTURE IMPLICATIONS:

- It will effect the agriculture of India also. Due to scarcity of water and also lack of rich nutrients and due to this quality of produced crops also. Also the hydroelectric projects that India has been planning to build over Brahmaputra may not actually go as per the plans if water scarcity in the river happens
- These will deteriorate the relationships among the both countries. Though water issue is not that strong to cause an armed war between India and China but it will certainly add to economy, social and political drift between two countries.

### Unbundling of the State

Engage each domestic stakeholder as a separate and independent entity. Allow for simultaneous meetings of low-level and high-level diplomatic and civil society engagements. Clearly understand the interests and needs of each party / stakeholder in relation to the broader concept of meshing together economic and social-cultural survival.

### Dialogue First, Negotiation Second

Engage each other on non-hostile diplomatic and informal levels to build mutual trust and systems of reciprocity. Articulate the needs and interests of each party's concerns before working towards a mutually acceptable compromise (in the form of bilateral negotiations) based on a code of conduct that is either pre-determined or modeled after the *Joint River Commission* (or other multilateral negotiation platforms)

### Alignment of Stakeholder Interests

Engage like-minded actors to work towards the achievement of a particular outcome that would be mutually acceptable and achieve the desired goal of equitable distribution and access to shared resources. For example compromises could be made to agree to run-of-river type of hydro-power dams, as opposed to storage reservoirs

### Open Access to Shared Information

Research gathered that pertains to the ecological, environmental and social impacts of the various dam construction projects should be made available, perhaps incentivized through the joint-funding of these research programmes and collaborative efforts amongst various scientific, communal and epistemic communities

Figure 3.  
Solutions stepwise

## Conclusion

Though this issue doesn't seem to have much effect as for now but in long run it may exacerbate conditions. Long-term programs of joint fact-finding, technical cooperation, and other initiatives that establish a climate of cooperation among countries can pave the way for resolving disputes when they do arise. We cannot even think of the humanity without water so every country try to capture water resources for their livelihood, agriculture from thousands of years. Even though our globe is technically very sound since last few decades but not created a water-secure world. So together we can prevent and resolve water disputes by inventing new technologies and making international treaties related to water distribution.

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