



India–Bangladesh Ganga Water Sharing Treaty (1996)

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- **The News:** Set to expire in **December 2026**, senior officials are visiting the **Farakka Barrage** to prepare for renewal negotiations.
- **Background Data:**
- **The 1996 Treaty:** Signed by PM H.D. Deve Gowda and Sheikh Hasina, it established a 30-year formula for sharing water at Farakka during the dry season (January–May).
- **Farakka Barrage:** Located in West Bengal, it was built to divert water into the Hooghly River to flush out silt and keep Kolkata Port navigable.
- **Key Issues:** Bangladesh (lower riparian) often complains of water scarcity during lean months, while West Bengal (India) faces issues like riverbank erosion and siltation.
- Transboundary water governance, the "Neighborhood First" policy, and the impact of climate change on Himalayan river flows.