India China Water Relations

BACKGROUND

- Issues in India - China water relations
  - Trans-boundary rivers flowing from China
  - Projects undertaken by China on India
  - Chinese dam-building activities

DANGERS

- Chinese construction of dams and water diversion projects threatens Indian side to predict or prepare for sudden and huge floods.
- China has undertaken various projects without sharing details.

IMPACTS

- Warming of Tibet Plateau
- Water relations
- Political tensions
- Environmental degradation
- Humanitarian implications

CHALLENGES

- Tibetan side lacks transparency
- There is no institutionalised mechanism on water sharing.
- Both countries have signed only – ELM (Expert Level Mechanism) and a Joint Institutional Agreement.

WAY FORWARD

- To envision desired strategic outcomes while respecting international environmental standards.
- To improve diplomatic communication and strengthen ties through greater cooperation.
- To encourage further cooperation in both countries.
- To raise the issue proactively in informal meets.

INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

- Needs to be mounted on Beijing.
- To respect international environmental standards.
- To prevent the Chinese side from causing any harm to the downstream countries including India.