



## Diamer-Bhasha Dam

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### Why in News

Recently, **Pakistan** signed a contract with a joint venture of a **China Power** (Chinese state-run firm) and the **Frontier Works Organisation** (FWO-a commercial arm of Pakistan's military) for the construction of the **Diamer-Bhasha dam**.

The contract covers construction of a diversion system, main dam, access bridge and the 21MW Tangir hydropower project.



## Key Points

- The Diamer-Bhasha Dam is located on the **Indus River** in **northern Pakistan** between **Kohistan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** and **Diamer district in Gilgit Baltistan**.
- The dam will have a **gross storage capacity of 8.1 Million Acre Feet (MAF)** and **power generation capacity of 4500 MW**.
- With the **height of 272 meters**, it will be the **tallest Roller Compact Concrete (RCC)** dam in the world.
- The dam project with a total financial outlay of about 1,406.5 billion Pakistani rupees would be **completed in 2028**.

- **Purpose:**
  - Fulfil the increasing water and electricity requirements of the country.
  - Serve as the main storage dam of the country, besides Mangla and Tarbela dams.
  - Help alleviate acute irrigation shortage in the Indus basin irrigation system.
  - Reduce intensity, quantum and duration of floods and reduce magnitude and frequency of floods in the River Indus downstream.
  - Accelerate development and create job opportunities, besides improving availability of water and clean energy.
- The project was approved in 2010, but it suffered delays because international lending agencies backtracked due to the **opposition from India** as a major part of the dam is located in Gilgit-Baltistan (one of the disputed territories of India) and it will cause unrest in the region.
- **India's Stand:**
  - India has **opposed the move** on the grounds that **Gilgit-Baltistan region is part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir** that was **illegally occupied by Pakistan**.
  - India has **consistently conveyed her protest and shared concerns with both China and Pakistan** on all such projects in the Indian territories under Pakistan's illegal occupation.
  - In the past too, India has opposed projects jointly taken up by Pakistan and China in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) as part of the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor**.

**Source: TH**