



Kohala Hydropower Project

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Why in News

China will be setting up a **Kohala hydropower project** in **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)** under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (**CPEC**).

India has already objected to the construction of the hydropower project.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a part of the **One Belt One Road (OBOR)**, intended to improve infrastructure within Pakistan for better trade with China and to further integrate the countries of the region.
 - OBOR has two main components, **One Belt - the land-based belt, and One Road refers to the ocean going 'Maritime Silk Road'**, which aims to connect the East Asian economic region with the European economic circle and runs **across the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa.**
- **India has boycotted** the Belt and Road Forum organised by China. China's insistence on establishing the CPEC project through PoK is seen by India as a deliberate disregard of its territorial claims.

Key Points

- **Description:**
 - The Kohala hydropower project will be built on the **Jhelum river.**
 - It is a **1,124-megawatt** power project intended to provide **more than five billion units** of clean and low-cost electricity **annually** for consumers in Pakistan.

- **India's Stand:**

- India has **opposed** the move on the grounds that the entire territory of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are **integral and inalienable parts of India**.
 - Earlier India had also **objected to the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha dam** in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of the PoK.
 - In the past too, India has opposed projects jointly taken up by Pakistan and China in PoK as part of the CPEC.
- 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.

Source:ET