



Ratle Hydro Electric Project

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Why in News

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for **850 MegaWatt (MW) Ratle hydropower project** on **Chenab river** in Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Points

- **About the Ratle Hydroelectric Project:**

- **Location:** It is a **run-of-the-river hydroelectric** power station **on the Chenab River, Kishtwar district** of the Indian Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Features:** It includes a **133 m tall gravity dam** and **two power stations** adjacent to one another.
 - The installed capacity of both power stations will be **850 MW**.
- **Background:** In June 2013, the then Indian Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the dam.
 - Pakistan has frequently alleged** that it violates the **Indus Water Treaty, 1960**.
- **The Latest Approval:** It envisages an investment of about **Rs. 5282 crore** and the project shall be **commissioned within a span of 60 months**.

- **Pakistan's Objections and Indus Water Treaty:**
 - The Pakistan government in 2013 had objected to the construction of the dam, claiming that it was not in conformity with the **Indus Water Treaty**.
 - In **August 2017**, the **World Bank** allowed India to construct the dam.
 - Pakistan has approached the World Bank **with fresh protests**, but the Centre has now **decided to go ahead with the construction**.
 - The **Indus Waters Treaty** was signed in 1960 after **nine years of negotiations** between India and Pakistan **with the help of the World Bank, which is also a signatory**.
 - The Treaty **provides India an absolute control of all the waters of Eastern Rivers** while **Pakistan shall receive for unrestricted use all those waters of the Western Rivers** which **India** is under obligation to let flow beyond the **permitted uses**.
 - The **Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej** are together called as **Eastern Rivers** while the **Chenab, the Jhelum and the Indus main** are called as **Western Rivers**.
- **Benefits:**
 - **Strategic:**
 - This comes in the backdrop of India's **plan to expedite strategically important hydropower projects** in the union territory post its reorganization, as the government **plans to fully utilize its share of water under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960**.
 - The task is seen as strategically vital in the context of China developing the controversial **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, part of its **One Belt One Road (OBOR)** infrastructure initiative.
 - **Socio-Economic Development:** The construction activities of the Project will result in **direct and indirect employment** to around 4000 persons. Increase in **disposable income** will in turn lead to **socio-economic development** of the region.
 - **Power at Cheaper Rates:** Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be benefitted by getting **free power** worth Rs. 5289 crore.
 - **Surplus Power:** The Power generated from the Project will help in providing **balancing of Grid** and will improve the **power supply position**.
Grid balancing involves increasing existing power generating infrastructure to smooth out the supply of power.
 - **Government Revenue:** Through levy of **Water Usage Charges** from Ratle Hydro Electric Project, during project life cycle of **40 years**.

- **Other Projects on Chenab Basin:**

- **Kiru Hydro Electric (HE) Project:**

The Kiru HE Project of 624 MW installed capacity is proposed on river Chenab (Kishtwar district).

- **Pakal Dul (Drangdhuran) Hydroelectric Project:**

It is a reservoir based scheme proposed on river **Marusudar**, the main **right bank tributary of river Chenab** in Kishtwar Tehsil of Doda District in Jammu & Kashmir.

- **Dulhasti Power Station:**

It is run-of-the-river with an installed capacity of 390 MW to harness the hydropower potential of **river Chenab** (Kishtwar district).

- **Salal Power Station:**

It is a run-of-the-river scheme with an installed capacity of 690 MW to harness the Hydropower potential of **river Chenab**. It is located in **Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir**.

Chenab River

- **Source:** It rises in the upper Himalayas in the **Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh state**.

The river is formed by the confluence of two rivers, **Chandra and Bhaga, at Tandi, 8 km southwest of Keylong, in the Lahaul and Spiti district**.

- The **Bhaga river** originates from **Surya taal lake**, which is situated a few kilometers west of the **Bara-lacha la pass** in Himachal Pradesh.
- The **Chandra river** originates from **glaciers east of the same pass** (near Chandra Taal).
- **Flows Through:** It flows through the **Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir into the plains of Punjab, Pakistan, before flowing into the Indus River**.



Source:PIB