



## UPPER SIANG HYDROPOWER PROJECT- GEOGRAPHY / INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Why in news?

Locals are protesting against the Upper Siang hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh.

### Upper Siang Hydropower Project

#### Location and Scope

- The **Upper Siang Hydropower Project** is a proposed 11,000-megawatt hydropower project located on the Siang River in the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Siang River is part of the Brahmaputra River system in Arunachal Pradesh, India.
- The area is primarily inhabited by the Adi tribe, a prominent indigenous community in Arunachal Pradesh.

#### Project Management

- The **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)** and **North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO)** have been jointly tasked with the construction and implementation of this ambitious project.

#### Pre-feasibility Report

- On 30 December 2022, NHPC submitted a pre-feasibility report detailing the project's key parameters:
- **Installed Capacity:** 11,000 MW
- **Reservoir Capacity:** 9 billion cubic meters (BCM)
- **Estimated Cost:** Approximately Rs. 1,13,000 crores



Map Courtesy/Radio Free Asia



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## Strategic Importance

- The project is viewed as a strategic initiative to counterbalance China's extensive hydropower developments on the Yarlung Zangbo River (Brahmaputra River) in Tibet.
- Of particular concern is China's plan for a massive 60,000 MW 'super dam' in Tibet's Medog county, which could have significant downstream implications.

