



CHINA'S HYDROPOWER PROJECT: GEOGRAPHY

NEWS: *China to build world's largest hydropower dam in Tibet*

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS??

China's proposed hydropower project on the Yarlung Zangbo River, the world's largest, raises concerns over ecological impacts and water availability in downstream regions like India and Bangladesh. It also poses geopolitical challenges due to its unilateral nature in a transboundary river system.

Overview of the Hydropower Project

- China is building the world's largest hydropower dam on the Yarlung Zangbo River in Tibet.
- The dam will produce 300 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, surpassing the Three Gorges Dam.
- The project supports China's carbon neutrality goals, engineering industries, and job creation in Tibet.

Economic and Engineering Challenges

- Project costs will exceed the \$34.83 billion spent on the Three Gorges Dam.
- Unique challenges include the river's steep 2,000-meter descent over 50 kilometers.
- Information on displacement and ecological impact is not disclosed.

Ecological and Regional Concerns

- The dam threatens one of the richest ecosystems on the Tibetan plateau.
- Downstream countries (India and Bangladesh) worry about changes in river flow, affecting water, agriculture, and biodiversity in the Brahmaputra basin.

Geopolitical Implications

- The Yarlung Zangbo becomes the Brahmaputra in India and Bangladesh.
- Changes to the river could disrupt water-sharing agreements and escalate tensions between China, India, and Bangladesh.
- Concerns arise over China's unilateral decisions in sensitive transboundary projects.



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