

Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project, Arunachal Pradesh

1. Latest News

- On **20th August 2025**, the **Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (APSPCB)** conducted an **Environmental Public Hearing** for the **1200 MW Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project** in **Anjaw district**.
- The project is being developed by **THDC India Limited (Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd.)**.
- Over **350 project-affected people from 33 villages** participated, raising concerns about **land compensation, employment opportunities, and local development**.
- Majority supported the project, with **Minister Dasanglu Pul** urging acceptance, citing **Tehri Dam** as a successful model.
- Deputy Commissioner **Millo Kojin** assured that all concerns would be recorded and announced that **village representatives will visit Tehri Dam** to witness benefits.

2. About Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project

- **Location:** Lohit River (tributary of Brahmaputra), Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh.
 - **Developer/Owner:** THDC India Limited.
 - **Type:** Run-of-the-river with pondage project.
 - **Installed Capacity:** **1200 MW** (6 turbines × 190 MW each).
 - **Dam Type:** Concrete gravity dam with upstream & downstream coffer dams.
 - **Components:** Diversion tunnel, intake tunnel, pressure shafts, underground powerhouse, surge chamber, tailrace tunnel.
 - **Reservoir Capacity:** 318.8 million cubic meters.
 - **Gross Head:** 125 m.
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3. Importance of the Project

- **Energy Security:** Boosts India's renewable energy mix.
 - **Regional Development:** Employment, infrastructure, roads, schools, health centers.
 - **Strategic Importance:** Hydropower potential in North-East is crucial for India's energy transition.
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4. Concerns Raised

- Fair **land compensation**.
 - **Employment assurance** for locals.
 - **Environmental impact** on river ecology and biodiversity.
 - **Resettlement and rehabilitation** of affected families.
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5. Government & Developer's Assurances

- Concerns to be **duly addressed** under legal provisions.
 - Exposure visit to **Tehri Dam** for local representatives.
 - Commitment to **mitigation strategies** mentioned in CEIA report.
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UPSC Relevance

Prelims

- Location: Lohit River, Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Type: Run-of-the-river with pondage.
- Capacity: 1200 MW (6 × 190 MW).
- Reservoir Capacity: 318.8 MCM.

Mains (GS-II & GS-III)

- **GS-II:** Role of **public hearings** in environmental governance and community participation.

- **GS-III:** Issues of **sustainable development, displacement, ecological impacts**, and balancing energy needs with environmental conservation.
- **Essay Paper:** “Hydropower projects: Development versus Displacement.”

FAQs on Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project

Q1. On which river is the Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project planned?

Ans: On the **Lohit River**, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Q2. What is the total installed capacity of Kalai-II?

Ans: **1200 MW** (6 turbines × 190 MW).

Q3. What type of project is Kalai-II?

Ans: A **run-of-the-river with pondage** hydroelectric project.

Q4. What is the gross head and reservoir capacity of the project?

Ans: **Gross head** – 125 m; **Reservoir capacity** – 318.8 million cubic meters.

Q5. Which PSU is developing the project?

Ans: **THDC India Limited (Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd.)**.

Summary for Aspirants:

The Kalai-II Project is a **significant hydropower initiative** in Arunachal Pradesh with potential benefits in energy and regional development. However, issues like **land compensation, employment, and ecological impact** need careful handling. For UPSC, focus on **location, features, environmental governance process, and development challenges**.

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