

Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project

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Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project Latest News

India and Bhutan recently deliberated on the commercial optimization of power output from the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (1020 MW) and the early commissioning of the Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project (1200 MW).

About Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project

- It is a **1020 MW run-of-the-river** hydroelectric power project.
- **Location:** It is located in the Wangdue Phodrang district of **Bhutan** on the **right bank of the Punatsangchhu River**.
- The project is being **developed by the Punatsangchhu II Hydroelectric Project Authority**, under an **Inter-Government Agreement (IGA)** between the Royal Government of **Bhutan** and the Government of **India**.
- It is **funded by the Government of India (GoI): 30% grant and 70% loan at 10% annual interest, repayable in 30 equated semi-annual installments** commencing one year after the mean date of

operation.

- With the completion of the Punatsangchhu-II project, **Bhutan's installed power generation capacity has increased by about 40 percent** to over 3500 MW.
- The project involves the construction of a 91 m-high and 223.8 m-long **concrete gravity dam**, along with a diversion tunnel with a discharge capacity of 1118 cubic metres per second.
- The project also involves a 168.75 m-long and 22 m-high upper cofferdam and a 102.02 m-long and 13.5 m-tall downstream cofferdam.
- It will comprise an **underground powerhouse** equipped with six Francis turbines of 170 MW capacity each.

Key Facts about Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project

- It is a **1.2GW run-of-the-river** hydroelectric power project.
- **Location:** It is located in Wangdue Phodrang district of **Bhutan** on the **left bank of Punatsangchhu River**.
- The project is being **developed by Punatsangchhu I Hydroelectric Project Authority**, an entity **formed under a bilateral agreement** signed by the **Bhutanese government** and the **Government of India (GoI)** in July 2007.
- It is **funded by the Government of India (GoI): 40% Grant and 60% Loan at 10% annual interest, repayable in 30 equated semi-annual installments** commencing one year after the mean date of operation.
- It is the **largest hydro power project** to be **undertaken in Bhutan in partnership with** the Government of **India**.
- The project comprises a 130m-high and 239m-long **concrete gravity dam**.
- It involves the construction of two diversion tunnels.
- The facility includes an **underground powerhouse** that will generate power via six 200 MW turbines.

Source: **TH**

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