

Myanmar Dam near Manipur

What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- Myanmar is building a new dam, close to the border near Manipur.
- \n
- This has raised some concerns among the border villages in Manipur.
- \n

\n\n

What is the project?

\n\n

\n

- The dam, called Tuidimjang, is being built on the Twigem river.
- \n
- Twigem river flows into Myanmar from Manipur..
- \n
- The dam is barely 100 metres from the zero line separating the two countries.
- \n
- International rules warrant border countries to check activities in No Man's Land.
- \n
- This applies to a 150-metre strip on either side of the boundary line.
- \n

\n\n



\n\n

What are the concerns?

\n\n

\n

- Border villagers in Kengjoi subdivision of Manipur's Chandel district are concerned of the project.

\n

- The residents of Khangtung village recently reported to the district officials.

\n

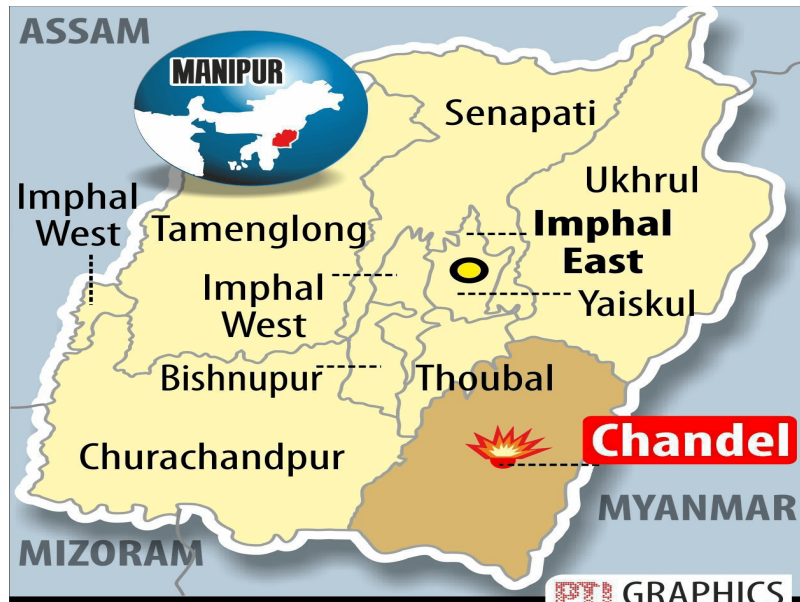
\n\n

\n

- Khangtung is inhabited by the Thadou tribe and is 137 km south of Manipur capital Imphal.

\n

\n\n



\n\n

- \n
- The villagers, dependent on the river, are already facing water scarcity.
- \n
- Given the topography of the area, the new project could make it even more vulnerable.
- \n
- If the dam comes up, Khangtung and other Indian villages will be submerged.
- \n
- Villagers will have to be relocated and rehabilitated.
- \n
- This may have huge negative social, cultural and economic impact on the residents.
- \n

\n\n

How are the internal dams in Manipur?

\n\n

- \n
- **Mapithel** - Mapithel dam, initially known as Thoubal Multipurpose Project, aimed to produce 7.5MW of power.
- \n
- Irrigation and providing drinking water were also the objectives.
- \n
- Despite inking an understanding with the State government, the villagers were not facilitated with a proper relocation site.
- \n
- In June 2015, a tribal village named Chadong in Ukhrul district was

submerged.

\n

- **Khuga dam** - Taken up in 1980, the project lies south of Manipur's Churachandpur town.

\n

- Lying dormant until 2002, it led to a cost escalation from the initial Rs. 15 crore to more than Rs. 350 crore in 2009.

\n

- The project sanction by the Planning Commission was said to have inherent flaws.

\n

- Resultantly, the power component of 1.5MW incorporated in the initial design was scrapped despite near-completion of a powerhouse.

\n

- **Tipaimukh** - It is a mega hydroelectric project proposed on river Barak in Manipur 35 years ago.

\n

- Bangladesh is against this project, as Barak flows into it from Manipur through southern Assam.

\n

- It feeds the Surma and Kushiara rivers in Bangladesh.

\n

\n\n

What do they imply?

\n\n

\n

- Many of the internal dams in Manipur are already facing varied controversies and limitations.

\n

- A number of ecological, political and procedural aspects of the projects are causes of concern for the region.

\n

- The dam by Myanmar, close to the border, is a new threat to the ecological and water sustainability of the region.

\n

- The Chandel district officials are expected to survey the dam construction site to assess the condition.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n

