Dulhasti hydel power project

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Geography & Environment*

Why in News?

A panel under the Ministry of Environment has approved the 260-megawatt Dulhasti Stage-II hydropower project in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

- **Dulhasti-I –** It is a ***run-of-the-river scheme*** commissioned in 2007 by NHPC Ltd.
- **Dulhasti Stage-II –** It is an extension of the existing 390 MW Dulhasti Stage-I Hydro Electric Project (Dulhasti Power Station).
- It will utilise the existing dam, reservoir, and power intake of the stage-I project, and draw water from the ***Marusudar River*** through the Pakal Dul project.

Marusudar River *- A major tributary of the Chenab, crucial for downstream ecology and communities.*

- **Located on –** The ***Chenab River*** in the Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Developed by –** NHPC Limited on a Build, Own, Operate, and Transfer (BOOT) basis.
- **Capacity –** It is designed to generate 803.33 million units annually with an installed capacity of 260 MW (2 × 130 MW).
- **Beneficiaries –** Power is supplied to the Northern Grid, benefiting states including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi.
- **Other hydroelectric projects in the Indus basin** – Such as Sawalkote, Ratle, Bursar, Pakal Dul, Kwar, Kiru, and Kirthai I and II.
- **Geopolitical Context –** The Chenab basin is shared between India and Pakistan under the ***Indus Waters Treaty (1960).***
- India suspended the treaty on April 23, 2025, following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Quick Fact

Chenab River

• **Origin –** In the Himalayas in the state of Himachal Pradesh (confluence of Chandra and Bhaga streams at Tandi, Lahaul).
• **Course –** It flows through Jammu & Kashmir (Kishtwar, Ramban, Reasi) and enters Pakistan, ***joins with the Sutlej*** and forms the Panjnad, a tributary of the Indus.
• **Length –** Approx 960 km (approx. 600 km in India, 360 km in Pakistan).
• **Tributaries –** Marusudar, Tawi, Jhelum (indirectly via system).
• **Existing projects** in the Chenab River basin — The 390-MW Dulhasti-I project at Kishtwar, the 890-MW Baglihar at Ramban, and the 690-MW Salal project at Reasi.
• **Under construction Projects** – The Ratle (850MW), Kiru (624 MW), and Kwar (540 MW) projects.

References

1. The Hindu | Centre's nod to Dulhasti hydel power project
2. Indian Express | Centre's nod to Dulhasti hydel power project
3. Britannica | River Chenab

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