



Rebuilding a Hydropower Project in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has started the process of granting environmental clearance to **rebuild a hydropower project** in the upper reaches of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand that was almost completely **washed away during the 2013 flash floods** that killed over 6,000 people.

Key Points

- The ministry's expert appraisal committee for river valley and hydroelectric projects approved the grant of terms of reference (ToR) to the [Phata Byung Hydroelectric Project](#) (76 MW).
- The Phata Byung project aggravated the damage caused by the **2013** cloudburst and flash floods by constricting the flow of **the Mandakini river**.

The Mandakini River

- It is a tributary of the **Alaknanda River** in Uttarakhand.
- The river runs for approximately 81 kilometers between the **Rudraprayag and Sonprayag** areas and emerges from the **Chorabari Glacier**.
- The Mandakini merges with river Songanga at Sonprayag and **flows past the Madhyamaheshwar temple at Ukhimath**.
- At the end of its course it drains into the Alaknanda, which flows into the **Ganges**.

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