

## Chungthang dam

By IASToppers | 2023-10-09 16:20:00



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A major disaster recently took place in **Sikkim** when the **Chungthang Hydro-Dam** was washed away by flooding of the **Teesta River**.

- The disaster took place because of a sudden surge of water at **South Lhonak Lake** in Northern Sikkim.



[ref-India times]

### **About the Chungthang dam:**

- The Chungthang dam is an integral part of the **1200 MW mega Teesta Stage III Hydro Electric Project**, a major source of electricity for **Sikkim** and **West Bengal**.
- It is a **run-of-the-river hydroelectric project** commissioned in **2017**.
- The project is run by **Sikkim Urja** (formerly **Teesta Urja**).

### **About Teesta River:**

- It is a **trans-Himalayan river** that **originates** in the **Himalayas** and flows through the Indian states of **Sikkim** and **West Bengal** and, **Bangladesh**, where it joins the **Brahmaputra**.
- It is a **tributary** of **Brahmaputra River**.
- **Main Tributary** of the Teesta River is **Rangit River**.

### **Other key facts:**

- **Lachen River** flows out of the **glacial lake** on the **Himalayas southwards**, and meets the **Lachung River** at **Chungthang** to form the **Teesta River**.
- **South Lhonak Lake** is constantly **expanding** due to the **melting** of the glaciers, caused by **global warming**.
- 3 main causes of disaster in Sikkim- a **cloud burst**, a **GLOF** (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood), and the **earthquakes** in nearby regions.
  - **GLOF** is a type of **outburst flood** caused by the **failure** of a dam containing a **glacial lake**.

