

Adani Godda thermal power project India

Sectors: Coal Electric Power Generation

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[Project website](#)

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Sectors Coal Electric Power Generation

Location



Status

Planning Design Agreement **Construction** Operation Closure Decommission

Website <https://www.adanipower.com/upcoming-power-plants>

The [Godda Thermal Power Project](#) is a 1,600-megawatt coal power project under construction in Godda, Jharkhand, India. It is run by Adani Power (Jharkhand) Limited, a special purpose vehicle (SPV). The coal required will be [imported](#) from Australia, Indonesia and South Africa and will require some 7 to 9 million tonnes of coal per annum.

Coal for the port will arrive at Adani's [Dhamra port](#) in Odisha, India. From here, the coal would be railed [approximately 700 km](#) to Adani's coal-fired power station. One of the mines that will supply the plant coal is the troubled [Carmichael coal mine](#) (see the [Dodgy Deal profile](#) for more information).

In February 2022, [Adani predicted](#) that the power plant could start exporting in November 2022. However, according to [some sources](#) late 2023-early-2024 may be a more realistic estimate.

Impact on human rights and communities

Indigenous rights and land acquisition: Godda is a district in the Santhal Pargana division of Jharkhand state, which is the hinterland of the Adivasi. [Adivasis](#) are Indigenous forest dependent communities who also practice agriculture for their survival. Santhals, an

Adivasi community, form [almost 34%](#) of the tribal population in Jharkhand. The [Indian Constitution](#) (Article 244(I)) provides safeguards to these communities as they face marginalisation and exploitation. In many areas, Adivasi do not have secured land tenures, making them even more vulnerable.

The [2013 Right to Fair Compensation](#) and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act [was bypassed](#), with the state accepting Adani Group's request for over 2,000 acres of land and declaring it to be "for public purpose". Around 1100 acres of land has already been acquired [without relevant consent procedures](#) and neglecting laws like the [Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act](#), which [mandates](#) a vast majority of the Indigenous land to be non-transferable by any means. Without the state intervention, Adani would have needed permission from the Indigenous farmers.

Dispossessed Indigenous farmers [told Adani Watch](#) their land was forcibly seized by the Jharkhand government on Adani's behalf. The [tactics](#) used to acquire land between 2016 and 2018 were nothing short of [bullying](#). At a public hearing about the land acquisition, opponents of the project were prevented from entering and protesters were assaulted by the police. The acquisition of this land threatens the Adivasi community, their livelihood and their ties to the land – spiritually, emotionally and economically. The Adivasi farmers are [challenging Adani's land grab](#) in the Jharkhand High Court.

In total, Adani would need [1,255 acres of both privately and publicly owned land](#) in and around 10 villages. In all, 841 families, comprising 5,339 individuals, will be affected.

Impacts on livelihoods: Adani shows a [poor track record](#) in terms of impacts of other coal power plants. Already in [2013](#), an independent fact-finding committee ([SAPACC](#)) demonstrated that the areas affected by the Tata Mundra power plant showed damage to mangroves and creeks, increases in noise levels, increased radioactivity near the ash ponds and a drastic reduction in fish catch. [According to Ahmed Ali Illiyasa](#) - fisherman and head of a local advocacy group of fisherfolk - fishing season ended early due to pollution and disturbance.

Health impacts: According to [AdaniWatch](#), local doctors said that within three years of the Adani Mundra power stations commencing operations there was a 20 to 22% rise in upper respiratory-tract diseases in children. Similar impacts were observed amongst the elderly. The same effects are very likely to occur when the Adani Godda power plant is in operation.

Impact on climate

The power plant is [estimated](#) to emit between 193.6 and 277.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in its lifetime with an average emission of 9.35 Mmt annually. This will significantly add to the already tremendous total amount of emission of India, being the [third largest emitter](#) in the world.

Impact on nature and environment

Flaws in the Environmental Impact Assessment: Adani, in its [Sustainability Report](#) of 2016-2017, only loosely assessed the environmental impact of the project. The company failed to provide the water flow and catchment details to the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), although the construction of such a plant will impact on the downstream flow and ecology due to water withdrawal. Adani also changed the source of water from the river Chir to the [sacred river Ganges](#), and included the building of a 93 km pipeline to bring water to the plant. These changes alter the scope of work tremendously but this did not undergo any impact assessment.

Pollution and waste: The plant's [impacts](#) include air pollution and water pollution due to wastewater. The Ganges river is already degraded by dams, diversions, industrial pollution, raw sewage and plastic waste, such that for almost all of its length, the river's waters are [unfit](#) even for bathing.

Water sources: Godda is a drier region with poor ground water availability, where people are already witnessing water stress. Despite this, the project has used pumps for water withdrawal from the lands surrounding its facility for construction. The [deterioration of water supply](#) has been reported locally. The [Environment Clearance](#) clearly mentions that "no water bodies including natural drainage system in the area shall be disturbed due to activities associated with the setting up/operation of the power plant".

Biodiversity: The meandering stretch of river has been identified as an important habitat for the [Gangetic dolphin](#). According to the [IUCN's 'red list'](#), its populations have become 'severely fragmented' with a total number somewhere between 2000 and 4000. The remaining dolphins are threatened by pollution, hunting, increasing boat traffic, water diversion, and fishing nets. The animal is effectively blind. It navigates and forages using echolocation. The dolphins therefore find noise from river vessels and pumping stations disorienting. Adani's water-pumping infrastructure at Sahibganj could therefore [impact the Gangetic dolphin](#) through reducing the river's flow and through the noise.

Climate change: It is [estimated](#) that the Godda power plant will emit between 193.6 and 277.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in its lifetime with an average emission of 9.35 Mmt annually. This will significantly add to the already tremendous total amount of emission of India, the [third largest emitter](#) in the world.

Other impacts

Financial risks: A [report by IEEFA](#) assessed that the Adani Godda coal power plant is financially unviable, given the enormous amounts of coal that need to be imported, mainly from Australia. The risk exposure is high because the plant is already burdened with large [non-performing loans](#) to coal power projects and the unalignment with the Indian energy strategy.

The power produced will not benefit the inhabitants of Jharkhand as it will be supplied to Bangladesh instead. Supporters of the project claim this will help 'lift Bangladesh out of poverty'. However, Bangladesh is already experiencing [over-capacity](#) and will fall into a [heavy burden](#) from external loans if the power deal proceeds.

Corporate malpractice: Adani Power Limited has also been involved in a malpractice termed [over-invoicing](#), whereby companies use intermediaries to artificially inflate the costs of imported raw material (coal import via sea route) and based on those inflated costs Adani charged higher power tariffs than were justified by their actual cost of production, thereby shifting the burden of the price on the customers.

Bank policies Norms & standards Other regulations

The following bank investment policies apply to this project:

Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

CSR & SD Policy

Oct 29 2013 | Power Finance Corporation

Bank policy

CSR Policy

Apr 7 2015 | PFC

Bank policy

Brief history

On 11 August, 2015, A MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between Bangladesh Power Development Board ([BPDB](#)) and [Adani Power Ltd.](#) The project was discussed for the first time in the Expert Appraisal Committee ([EAC](#)) meeting on 29 February, 2016. Terms of Reference were Issued on 26 July, 2016, by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change ([MoEF&CC](#)) and subsequently [Environment Clearance](#) (EC) was accorded on 31 August, 2017. This Environmental Clearance was issued on the basis of water withdrawal from the river Chir.

In July 2018, Adani presented a [source sustainability study](#) for withdrawal of water from the river Ganges instead. As the [Compliance report of Environmental Clearance](#) states, Adani planned to construct the water intake and pipeline structure on the river Ganges to meet its water requirements of 36 million cubic metres annually.

The Environmental Clearance was challenged in the [National Green Tribunal](#) - an environmental court. The appeal was directed against an amended Environmental Clearance dated 3rd September, 2019, granted to Adani Power (Jharkhand) Limited by the MoEF&CC and permitting withdrawal of water from the river Ganges instead of the Chir. In July 2022, the [challenge](#) was dismissed by the National Green Tribunal after years of litigation on technical grounds of delay in filing the petition thereby avoiding the merits of the issues raised.

In 2019, the Godda thermal power plant area was declared a [special economic zone](#) (SEZ) which allows Adani to take advantage of tax rebates, faster clearances and [other benefits](#).

In September 2019. It was reported that work on the project had [begun](#), carried out by Chinese company SEPCO3.

Financiers

The project is expected to cost around INR [148.2 billion](#) (US\$1.9 billion) and [reached financial close](#) in September 2019. Two state-

controlled financial institutions, [REC Limited](#) and [Power Finance Corporation](#) (PFC), are together providing a US\$1.4 billion loan and the [promoter](#) Adani Power is providing US\$203 million in equity.

Institution type **Finance type** **Year** [Expand all details](#)

Power Finance Corporation

India

[Profile](#)

[Website](#)

[Details](#)

Type

Amount

Description

Date

Date end

Source

Debt – project finance

USD 700 million

Provided USD 700 million in project finance

September 2019

Not available

source: Adani Power

[link](#)

Rural Electrification Corporation

[Website](#)

[Details](#)

Type

Amount

Description

Date

Date end

Source

Approached, interested

USD 700 million

Provided USD 700 million in project finance

September 2019

Not available

source: Adani Power

[link](#)

Related companies

The project sponsor is Adani Power (Jharkhand) Limited, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) of the Adani Group.

The engineering, procurement and [construction](#) contract for the project was awarded to SEPCO, an electric power construction corporation based in China, in April 2018.

The [boiler technology](#) will be provided by Babcock & Wilcox Beijing, while the [turbo-generators](#) will be designed by General Electric (GE).

Project sponsor

Adani Group India [show profile](#)

[Coal Mining](#) | [Coal Electric Power Generation](#) | [Oil and Gas Extraction](#)

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A PHP Error was encountered

Severity: Notice

Message: Undefined property: stdClass::\$sponsor_comp

Filename: project/companies.php

Line Number: 10

Backtrace:

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/views/sections/project/companies.php

Line: 10

Function: _error_handler

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/helpers/easy_helper.php

Line: 366

Function: view

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/views/sections/project/pdf.php

Line: 106

Function: lv

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/libraries/sections/Dodgydeal.php

Line: 161

Function: view

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/controllers/Main.php

Line: 318

Function: content

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/index.php

Line: 321

Function: require_once

A PHP Error was encountered

Severity: Notice

Message: Undefined property: stdClass::\$companies

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Backtrace:

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Line: 318

Function: content

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/index.php

Line: 321

Function: require_once

A PHP Error was encountered

Severity: Warning

Message: Invalid argument supplied for foreach()

Filename: project/companies.php

Line Number: 11

Backtrace:

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/views/sections/project/companies.php

Line: 11

Function: _error_handler

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/helpers/easy_helper.php

Line: 366

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Line: 321

Function: require_once

Expand all details

A PHP Error was encountered

Severity: Notice

Message: Undefined property: stdClass::\$sponsor_comp

Filename: project/companies.php

Line Number: 30

Backtrace:

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/views/sections/project/companies.php

Line: 30

Function: _error_handler

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/helpers/easy_helper.php

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Function: view

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Function: content

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Line: 321

Function: require_once

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Severity: Warning

Message: count(): Parameter must be an array or an object that implements Countable

Filename: project/companies.php

Line Number: 30

Backtrace:

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