

OFFICE OF THE

SIANG INDIGENIOUS FARMER'S FORUM

(SIFF)

SHRI LAMOK PADUN

President

Ph. 8119974007

ESTD.:2013

HEAD OFFICE YINGKIONG

UPPER SIANG DISTRICT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

SHRI DUNGGO LIBANG

Secretary General

Ph. 7628936063/9436257433

Ref. No.

Date: 2nd Aug 2025

Press Release

Press Club of India, New Delhi

Siang Indigenous Farmer's Forum (SIFF) members on 2nd August 2025 gave a Press Conference at Press Club of India, New Delhi on the subject matter of **Siang Upper Multipurpose Project**.

This proposed mega dam over the Siang River, with an estimated **capacity of more than 11,000 MW** and a **height exceeding 500 meters above sea level**, has triggered strong opposition and public protests from indigenous tribal communities in the state and downstream areas in Assam. **Potential displacement of over 1.5 lakh people**, mostly from the Adi and other indigenous tribes, as well as the **submergence of 27 villages**, leading to the loss of ancestral homes and land rights, loss of agricultural land and livelihood and cultural heritage sites including **Kekar Moying, a historic Adi landmark where the historic Anglo Abor (British-Adi) fight took place**.

Massive and irreversible ecological damage was also highlighted on the press release about the project which would cause destruction of biodiversity-hotspots, leading to loss of indigenous medicinal plants and endemic flora and fauna, cutting of old growth forests and disruption of riverine ecosystems whilst the **project is proposed in seismic zone V** with eminent threat of dam- triggered earthquakes/seismic activity such as erosion, flooding, etc. GLOF (Glacier Lake Outburst Flooding) was also highlighted as an eminent threat due to climate changed induced rapid glacier melting of Rivers in Arunachal, including those in Siang and Dibang rivers of India.

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Shri Tater Takuk
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Chairman Expert Committee
Shri Tabiram Tatin
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Shri Bodak Jongkey
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The situation has taken a harrowing turn with the **deployment of Central Armed Police Forces in Siang District**, as announced by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh in December 2024. **Intensive protests have been ongoing to this day by local PAFs (project affected families)** in Siang region opposing the proposed dam PFR leading to public anguish and desperate measures like road blockades and verbal confrontations with district authorities.

SIFF Legal advisor Ms. Bhanu Tatak and Advocate Ebo Mili highlighted that Implementation of the proposed 11300 MW SUMP, including Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) surveys and Pre Construction Activities cum CSR or outreach activities are ongoing by force without the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the affected Indigenous communities. This approach appears to contravene not only international human rights standards, to which India is a signatory, but also the spirit and letter of constitutional safeguards designed to protect Indigenous populations.

Key issues highlighted were:

- 1) Suspension of Gao Bura (Village Head) for opposing SUMP.**
- 2) Arbitrary detention and arrests of protestors and members of SIFF**
- 3) False cases/ charges and criminalisation of leaders including leaders of SIFF and AdISU (Adi Student Union)**
- 4) Alleged accounts of Corruption and bribery to sign MoU for PFR**
- 5) Forgery of signatures for PFR MoU at Riga, Pangkang and Riew villages which have been nullified by the village authorities of respective villages**
- 6) Non consented CSR cum outreach activities cum Pre-construction activities of over 325 crores over the financial period from 2023-2029**
- 7) Arbitrary orders by District Administration to curb public protest and movements**
- 8) Violation of Guwahati High Court order PIL No 10/14**

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The conference highlighted similar observations and patterns of Human Rights and Environmental clearance violations across other districts in Arunachal wherein hydropower dam projects are under progress. 2880 MW Dibang Dam, for instance, was built over **suppression of public protests and resistance by imposing AFSPA** (Arms force special power act) in Lower Dibang Valley. It has also come to light due to Suo Moto cognisance by NGT over the project's noncompliance to Forest Clearance. Another key point is mitigating safety for downstream of Dibang dam in Dambuk Consituecy of Lower Dibang Valley and immediate Assam-Sadiya. **No comprehensive Cumulative Impact Assessment of all dams in Dibang has been done for the 45 kms downstream stretch from the dam site** leading to panic and anxiety for the downstream population. Reported human rights violation of shooting at Monks leading to loss of life while protesting dams in Tawang was also highlighted.

SIFF strongly condemns the clear act of militarization—an attempt to silence voices of opposition through force rather than engage them through dialogue. Such measures risk creating an environment of fear and intimidation, undermining the trust necessary for any legitimate development process.

Ms. Bhanu Tatak addressed the Government of India on dam building in Brahmaputra / Siang as counter measure to Chinese dam building upstream. She highlighted that as per data available, only 30% of Yarlung Tsangpo contributes to Siang and the claim that china is building a "Water Bomb" as quoted by CM Khandu is mis founded. Several research and data highlights that China is building integrated energy projects likely to be of multiple reservoirs. Ms. Tatak appealed to the Government of India on full dimensions of the Yarlung Tsangpo dam at Medog county, whose construction China started in July, be immediately made public including the impact assessments. She appealed on behalf of the affected people that Government of India publicly ask the information from Chinese government immediately and make all information available to Public.

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