

BUDHI GANGA HYDROPOWER PROJECT (20 MW)

Comprehensive Monthly Progress & Project Status Report

Reporting Period: September 2026

Project Name: BudhiGanga Hydropower Project (20 MW)	Contract Package: Lot 1: EPC Civil & Hydromechanical Works
Employer: DoED, MOEWRI, Government of Nepal	Owner's Engineer: PINI-BIDR-SIDEF Joint Venture
EPC Contractor: Superpower-Baniya Joint Venture	Source: Owner's Engineer Monthly Report #11

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary & Key Contract Data

The Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project (20 MW) is being executed under an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract framework for Lot 1 Civil and Hydromechanical Works. As of September 30, 2026 (Monthly Progress Report #11), **12.5 months (29.76% of elapsed time)** of the total 42-month construction timeline have elapsed since the commencement date of September 14, 2025. The overall physical progress stands at approximately **6.50%**, reflecting active mobilization, extensive pre-construction site setup, camp construction, plant installation, and geological investigation completions.

Financial progress stands at **14.24% (NRs. 87.30 Crore)**, encompassing the full First Advance Payment installment of NRs. 61.30 Crore (10.00%) and a partial Second Advance Payment installment of NRs. 26.00 Crore (4.24%). No Interim Payment Certificates (IPCs) for permanent civil works have been issued to date, as major excavation and tunneling await final explosive licensing and formal site possession.

SEPTEMBER 2026 EXECUTIVE PROGRESS METRICS

Elapsed Time: 12.5 Months (29.76%) out of 42 Months total scheduled duration.

Physical Progress: ~6.50% (Focus on mobilization, camp erection, plant assembly, and design approvals).

Financial Progress: 14.24% (NRs. 87.30 Crore total advance disbursements; NRs. 61.30 Cr First Advance + NRs. 26.00 Cr Second Advance).

Target Completion Date: March 17, 2029 (Defects Liability Period: 1,095 days post-completion).

Table 1.1: Lot 1 EPC Contract Data Summary

Project Title	Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project (20 MW)
Contract No. / Type	BHP/ICB/EPC/Lot 1-2022/23 EPC Lump-Sum Contract
Location	Sanfebagar Municipality & Mellekh RM (Achham); Budhiganga Municipality (Bajura)
Employer (Client)	Budhiganga Hydropower Project, DoED, MOEWRI, Government of Nepal
Owner's Engineer (Consultant)	PINI-BIDR-SIDEF JV (PINI Group SA, BIDR Co. Ltd., SIDEF Consultant)
EPC Contractor	Superpower-Baniya JV (Sichuan Superpower & Baniya Nirman Sewa)
Contract Signing & Commencement	September 14, 2025
Scheduled Completion Date	March 17, 2029 (42 Months Construction Period)
Grand Total Contract Price	NRs. 6,935,254,603.62 (incl. 13% VAT & Provisional Sums)
Project Financiers	Government of Nepal, Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), Kuwait Fund (KFAED)

2. Project Profile & Key Technical Parameters

The Budhi Ganga Hydropower Project is a 20 MW Peaking Run-of-River (PRoR) development situated on the Budhi Ganga River in the Far-Western Development Region of Nepal. The project harnesses a gross head of **94.83 meters** to generate an estimated annual energy output of **109.61 GWh** (comprising 33.54 GWh of dry season energy and 76.07 GWh of wet season energy). The electricity will be fed into the national grid via local substations.

Table 2.1: Key Salient Features of the 20 MW Development

Parameter / Feature	Technical Specification
Headworks & Dam Structure	Concrete Gravity Dam at Budhabagar; Height: 28.0m; Crest Length: 85.0m
Water Conveyance System	Headrace Tunnel (HRT): ~5.8 km length, circular modified horseshoe shape
Desilting & Settling Basin	2-bay underground/surface desilting basin for 90% particle removal (>0.15mm)
Surge Shaft & Penstock	Vertical Surge Shaft: 12.0m diameter; Penstock Pipe: ~180m length steel pipe

Powerhouse & Turbines	Surface Powerhouse at Thapagaon; 2 units of Francis Turbines (10 MW each)
Substation & Interconnection	Outdoor switchyard at Thapagaon connecting via 132 kV transmission line

3. Survey, Engineering Design & Geotechnical Status

During September 2026, significant milestones were achieved across engineering design reviews and field investigation finalizations:

- **Topographical & Bathymetric Survey:** The final Topographical Survey and Mapping Report, previously submitted by KSM Engineering Services Pvt. Ltd., was formally reviewed and confirmed as fully acceptable.
- **Geological & Geophysical (ERT) Testing:** Subsurface core drilling across 8 boreholes at the headworks, powerhouse, surge shaft, and adit sites has been completed. The 1,800-meter Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) geophysical survey report was integrated into the final Geological & Geotechnical Report, with final comment incorporation completed.
- **Bailey Bridge & Access Road Approval:** Following contractor resubmissions to widen the Bailey bridge to 4.25m (complying with Employer's Requirements Section 14), the Owner's Engineer issued a formal **No Objection Letter for the Construction of the Bailey Bridge and Access Road to the Adit Tunnel (Ref. 0126) on September 29, 2026.**
- **Hydraulic Design & Project Layout:** A draft hydraulic design for the headworks and Headrace Tunnel (HRT) was received via email on September 15, 2026, and is currently under detailed technical review. The revised Project Layout received a provisional No-Objection on August 4, 2026.

4. Preparatory Site Infrastructure Progress

Preparatory infrastructure construction progressed rapidly across multiple site fronts during September 2026:

- **Owner's Engineer Executive Camp (Aaude Bagar):** Foundation excavation, footing, stone soling, and PCC in wall foundation are complete. Vertical steel post erection, CGI sheet roofing, and interior room PCC have been finished. Prefabricated board wall installation progressed heavily through late September (including backfilling, septic tank excavation, and screeding).
- **Contractor Camps (Budhabagar, Headworks & Powerhouse):** The Contractor's Meeting Hall at Budhabagar saw foundation, truss installation, and CGI roofing completion. The Labor Camp at Budhabagar reached 100% completion (masonry, plinth, and CGI roof). The Engineer Camp at Budhabagar and Labor Camp at Powerhouse completed roof truss and CGI sheet installation.
- **Quality Control Testing Laboratory:** At the Headworks site, SY panel wall installation and floor screeding for the site material testing laboratory progressed rapidly (PCC work on Sept 28, 2026). In the

interim, cement and aggregate samples were submitted to the DoR Government Laboratory at Sanfebagar for quality verification.

- **Construction Power Supply Lines:** A total of 38 11-meter electric poles were delivered and stockpiled at Budhabagar and Tashi Bazar. During September, **38 poles were erected at the Headworks site, with an additional 12 poles erected in the Powerhouse area** (total 50 poles utilized for site power distribution).

5. Contractor Plant, Equipment & Mobilization

The EPC Contractor (Superpower-Baniya JV) continued site preparation and plant assembly during September 2026:

- **Crusher Plant (Budhabagar):** Land preparation and rental agreements secured. Fencing posts and gabion protection walls surrounding the crusher site are 100% complete. Foundation stone soling and control room building construction progressed. Installation of the Siemens 280S Jaw Crusher (80–100 TPH), Pozzolana 315S Cone Crusher (100–180 TPH), and Pozzolana VSI 600 Crusher is ongoing.
- **Concrete Batching Plants (Headworks & Powerhouse):** Site preparation and land leveling on the right bank of the Budhi Ganga River near the headworks was completed. Putzmeister batching plant equipment has been transported to the site, with mechanical assembly, crane lifting, and PCC foundation pouring underway on September 28, 2026.

Table 5.1: Key Mobilized Machinery

Equipment / Personnel	Specification / Candidate Name	Status / Quantity
JCB NXT 221 LC Excavators	EcoMAX Diesel Engine, 1.0–1.2 m ³ bucket	2 Units (Working)
Shantui Motor Grader SG21-B6	118 kW (160 HP), 3,000–8,000 m ² /day	1 Unit (Working)
TATA Signa 3525.K Tipper / Dumper	250 HP, Payload ~15–20 Ton	3 Units (1 Work, 2 Idle)
ACE Hydraulic Mobile Crane	Heavy equipment erection & batching assembly	1 Unit (Active)

6. Environmental, Social & Land Acquisition Aspects

Significant progress was achieved in environmental approvals and social facilitation during September 2026:

- **Environmental Management Plan (CESMP R04):** Following iterative reviews of draft submissions (R02 and R03), the Contractor submitted a finalized General CESMP and site-specific EMP for preliminary/temporary works (R04) on September 18, 2026. A formal **Provisional No Objection for Year One CESMP (Ref. 0124)** was issued on September 22, 2026.

- **Land Acquisition Progress:** Formal acquisition for the Adit access road is ongoing. Initial cadastral surveys (May 2026) and verification surveys (June 15, 2026) were completed with the Land Survey Office. Compensation Determination Committee (CDC) proceedings are scheduled upon final data verification.
- **Forest Clearance & Tree Enumeration Summary:** Tree enumeration field surveys conducted in coordination with the Achham and Bajura Division Forest Offices resulted in the tagging of **2,309 total trees** across project-affected areas.

Table 6.1: Summary Tree Enumeration in Affected Forest Areas

Forest Name / Type	Marking Trees	Counting Trees	Total Trees
National Forest	244	78	322
Rakshe Community Forest	247	66	313
Sukethana Community Forest	887	3	890
Jukena Community Forest	748	36	784
TOTAL TREES ENUMERATED	2,126	183	2,309

Stakeholder Consultations & Community Meetings: Joint client-consultant meetings were held on September 9 and 16, 2026, with the Sukethana Community Forest Users Group (CFUG) and Ward 8 of Mellekh Rural Municipality. On September 22, 2026, a Ward Gaun Vela was convened to discuss tree cutting consent, with follow-up discussions ongoing. The contractor currently employs 24 local workers.

7. Concerns, Critical Path Delays & Action Plan

A rigorous evaluation of the approved baseline construction schedule indicates that major civil construction activities are experiencing cumulative delays due to pre-construction bottlenecks:

Table 7.1: Work Status and Schedule Delay Analysis of Major Civil Components

Civil Component	Planned Start	Planned Finish	Delay (Days)	Work Status
River Protection Works	15-Jan-2026	29-May-2026	259 Days	Not Started
Headrace Tunnel (0+000-1+600)	29-Mar-2026	04-Dec-2027	185 Days	Not Started
Surge Shaft & Bypass Tunnel	28-Mar-2026	06-Jul-2027	186 Days	Not Started
Main Dam and Spillway	07-Apr-2026	18-Apr-2028	176 Days	Not Started
Adit Tunnel	16-May-2026	03-Apr-2027	137 Days	Not Started
Cofferdam Construction	30-May-2026	17-Aug-2026	123 Days	Not Started
Diversion Tunnel	19-Jun-2026	18-May-2028	103 Days	Not Started

Penstock Pipe Line	29-Jun-2026	23-Jun-2027	93 Days	Not Started
Powerhouse Protection	06-Jul-2026	20-Feb-2027	86 Days	Not Started

ACTION PLAN & REMEDIAL MEASURES

1. Explosive Licensing Bottleneck: Acquisition of the explosive import and storage license remains the single most critical constraint delaying Diversion Tunnel excavation.
2. Catch-up Schedule Requirement: On September 10, 2026 (Ref. 0123), the Owner's Engineer formally communicated work progress delays and requested a revised Catch-Up Plan.
3. Forest Rights & CFUG Approvals: Accelerated local level negotiations are underway to finalize tree cutting consents with Sukethana CFUG in Mellekh RM-8.