

The forgotten people

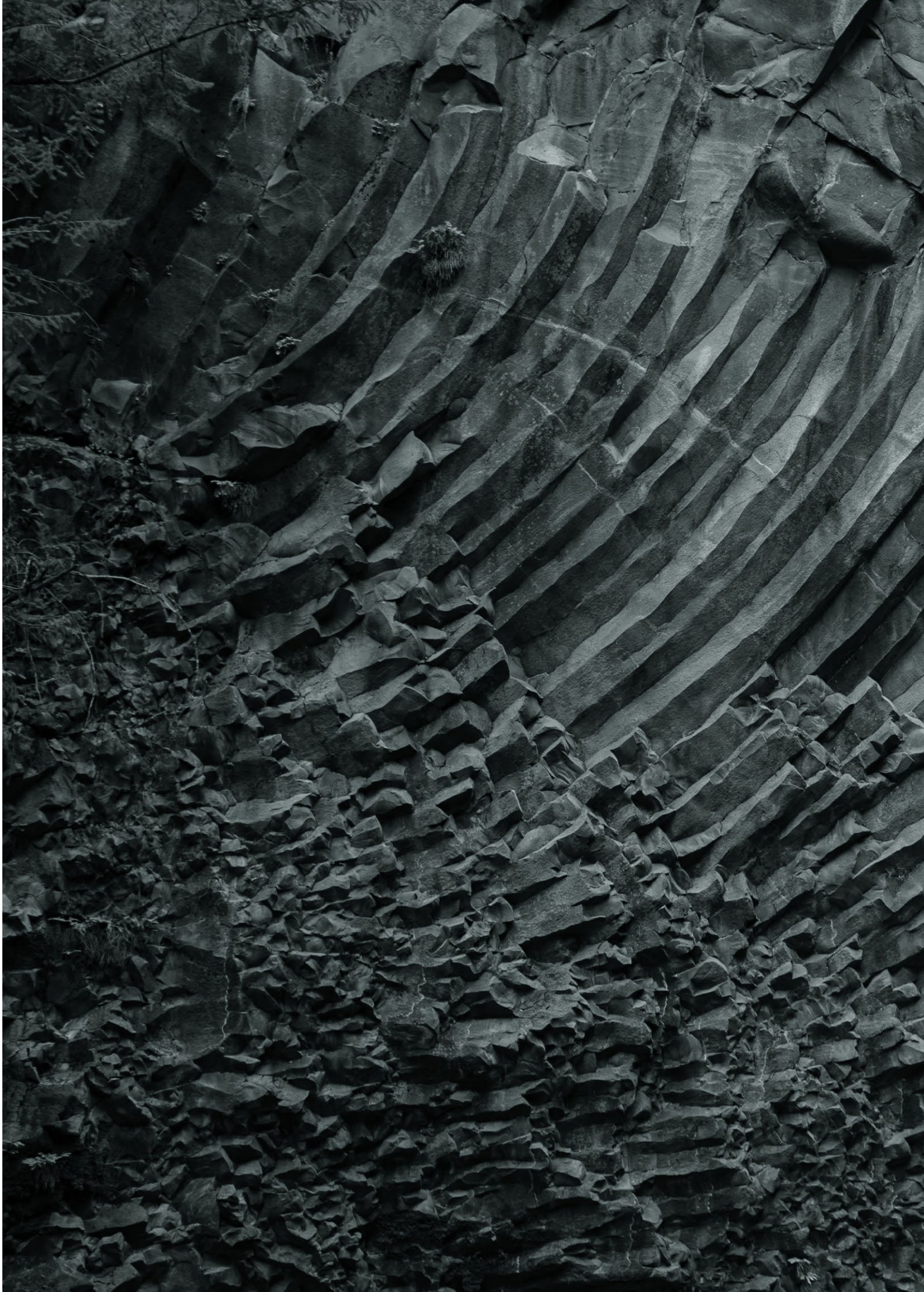
Image: Vijay Ramamurthy

Conflicts in India caused by the
Adani Group's exploitation of coal

ADANI  WATCH | BOB BROWN FOUNDATION

**Bob Brown Foundation is
a leading environmental
organisation, taking
action to defend Earth's
threatened lifeforms.**

The Adani Group's colossal agenda for exploiting coal has created community conflicts across the length and breadth of India. Indigenous people, traditional land-users and fishing communities have bravely tackled Adani's plans in order to defend their livelihoods and way of life. They have protested on land and at sea; in villages and in cities; on the streets and in the forests. This compilation is by no means exhaustive but gives details of 15 epicentres of conflict that have arisen from Adani's exploitation of coal on a massive scale in India.





ADANI  WATCH

SECTION 1: COAL MINES

The Parsa Kente coal projects in the Hasdeo forests (Chhattisgarh)

For each of the Parsa Kente projects, Adani is the 'mine developer and operator' (MDO) on behalf of a Rajasthan power company that owns the mining leases. The projects threaten the biodiverse Hasdeo forests, home to elephants that become vulnerable and dangerous when their habitat is fragmented.

Protests to defend their lands, livelihoods and culture by Adivasi (indigenous tribal people) have been occurring for many years and include a 300km march from the forests to the state capital in October 2021.

The conflict has led to splits within the state government and between the state and national government. The PEKB coal mine has overcome all obstacles despite community opposition.

In 2022, the community mounted peaceful direct-action protests against works to expand the PEKB mine. In June 2022, the state government said that works are 'on hold', but subsequently tree-felling resumed for the PEKB extension.



Adivasi (indigenous tribal) women block tree-cutting operations for the proposed expansion of the Adani-operated PEKB coal mine, Chhattisgarh, India.



Adivasi (indigenous tribal) people rally before marching over 300km to the state capital in October 2021 to protest at proposed coal mines in the Hasdeo forests, Chhattisgarh, India.

KEY FACTS

Status	1 operating mine 2 under development
Adani companies	Adani Enterprises Ltd. Parsa Kente Collieries Ltd.
Community organisations	Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (HABSS) – the Save Hasdeo Forest Committee Spokesperson Jainandan Singh Porte, Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Spokesperson Alok Shukla

MEDIA STORIES

[The New Yorker \(November 2022\)](#)

[The New York Times \(October 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(March 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(November 2021\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(November 2021\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(October 2021\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(June 2020\)](#)

[Guardian Australia \(March 2020\)](#)

Gare Pelma II coal mine (Chhattisgarh)

For the three Gare Pelma coal projects, Adani is the 'mine developer and operator' (MDO). In June 2019, over 100 villagers protested at a meeting initiated by Adani, saying that 13 villages could be destroyed. Further protests occurred in October 2019.

Reports have found that people inhabiting this region of densely packed coal mines and coal-power stations suffer serious illnesses.

MEDIA STORIES

[AdaniWatch May 2021](#)

[ET Energyworld June 2019](#)

KEY FACTS

Status	1 operating mine 2 under development
Adani companies	Adani Enterprises Ltd.
Community organisations	Mehnatkash Majdoor Kisan Ekta Samiti Spokesperson Rajesh Tripathi

Talabira II and III coal blocks (Odisha)

For the Talabira II and III coal projects, Adani is the 'mine developer and operator' (MDO). Facing displacement are 1,894 families from six villages. Some say their consent to mining was forged. Forests that have provided sustenance were destroyed in 2019, leading to civil disobedience. On 8 March 2022, 13 men were arrested for resisting dumping of overburden.

Talabira I is disused but its waste degrades adjacent farms, leading to a community petition to the National Green Tribunal and a fine against the Adani company concerned.



Adivasi (tribal) inhabitants of the Talabira area in the threatened forests on which they depend.

KEY FACTS

Status	Talabira I mine now disused Talabira II and III coal blocks under development
Adani companies	Adani Enterprises Ltd. Adani subsidiaries Raipur Energen Limited and Talabira (Odisha) Mining Private Limited
Community organisations	Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air – Director Nandikesh Sivalingam Dilip Sahu, social activist Hemanta Rout, local freelance journalist

MEDIA STORIES

[Al Jazeera \(June 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(July 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(May 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(April 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(January 2022\)](#)

Gondulpara / Gondalpara coal block (Jharkhand)

The misnamed Gondulpara coal block was 'acquired' by Adani Enterprises in November 2020.

People from at least five affected villages in the Gondalpara area have resisted Adani's attempts to commence preparatory works and acquire their land, angrily confronting officials.

India's peak body has called for the Gondalpara / Gondulpara coal project to be scrapped.

Villagers have so far out-manoeuvred Adani and the state in their attempts to hold the meetings necessary for the approvals process.



Residents of one of the villages threatened by Adani's Gondalpara (sic) mine protest in defence of their lands and livelihoods.

KEY FACTS

Status	Under development
Adani companies	Adani Enterprises Ltd.
Community organisations	National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM)

MEDIA STORIES

[AdaniWatch \(22 May 2023\)](#)

[AdaniWatch video \(17 May 2023\)](#)

[The Times of India \(October 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(November 2022\)](#)

[CounterCurrents \(March 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(January 2022\)](#)

[Le Monde \(November 2021\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(October 2021\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(September 2021\)](#)



Armed security forces have attended protests by villagers defending their land at Gondalpara.

Singrauli coal-mining projects

In the Singrauli District of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, conflicts are brewing over two large coal-mining projects taken on by the Adani Group – the Suliari and Dhirauli coal blocks.

Approval of the Suliari coal mine, for which an Adani company would be the developer and operator (MDO), was rushed following repeated interventions by the Modi Government.

The Suliari coal project had previously received a conditional one-year approval, pending studies on social impacts and a river-protection plan. However, after the ministry queried these conditions, full approval was granted in 2021.

Over 1500 families are to be uprooted by the mine; their future is uncertain. And it is unclear how impacts of the huge excavation on major streams within the lease area will be mitigated.

In another part of the Singrauli District, the mining lease of the Dhirauli coal block, the largest in Madhya Pradesh, sprawls across 27 square kilometres. Nearly two thirds of the lease is rich forest land that has sustained local communities for generations. The non-forest land within the proposed mining lease comprises 12 square kilometres and includes dwellings and farms.

Unwilling to part with their homes, farms and water, indigenous farmers have defiantly continued their traditional way of life even as the government tries to take over their land for this massive Adani coal project. Over 600 families face imminent displacement. The proposed coal mine had yet to receive environmental approval from the government as of January 2023.

KEY FACTS

Status	Both mines under development
Adani companies	Adani Enterprises Ltd.
Community organisations	Greenpeace (before its Indian operations were effectively terminated by the Modi government)



The community of Dhirauli rallies against the proposed coal mine in the district of Singrauli.

MEDIA STORIES

[AdaniWatch \(May 2023\)](#)

[Ground Report \(January 2023\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(January 2023\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(December 2022\)](#)

[Article 14 \(December 2021\)](#)



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SECTION 2: COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS

Udupi (Karnataka)

Establishment of the Udupi coal-power plant (by another company) was opposed by local people in the 1990s because of the area's great fertility, but it proceeded. Adani acquired the plant in 2015.

In May 2022, India's primary environmental court fined the Adani company over US \$6 million for environmental violations. Adani has since appealed this verdict.

Local people have attributed a reduction in crop yields and an increased incidence in respiratory-tract diseases to pollution from the plant; a survey indicates that over 90% of those surveyed oppose a planned expansion of the Udupi power plant.



Smoke from Adani's Udupi power station, Karnataka, India.



A farmer stands next to a dying orchard of mango trees, affected by pollution from the Udupi power plant.

KEY FACTS

Status	Operational 2 x 600 MW (a proposal to expand has yet to be approved)
Adani companies	Adani Power Ltd and subsidiary Udupi Power Corporation Limited
Community organisations	Janajagriti Samithi

MEDIA STORIES

[AdaniWatch \(October 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(July 2022\)](#)

[The Hindu \(June 2022\)](#)

[NewsClick \(March 2019\)](#)

Godda (Jharkhand)

Adani and government authorities have been accused of dirty tricks and coercion in the process of acquiring Adivasi people’s farmlands for the Godda coal-power project. A community leader was jailed at the height of the protests in 2016; some protest leaders have subsequently died, apparently due to the stress of their situation.

A case against the project in the state’s High Court has yet to be resolved. The project has its own ‘special economic zone’ and is believed to be the ultimate destination for coal from Adani’s notorious Carmichael mine in Australia. The power plants also involves a pipeline to exploit the waters of the Ganges River. Bangladesh is the intended market for power from Godda, a move criticised by energy analysts.

At a convention in June 2022, opponents of the project discussed means of strengthening the campaign against it.

MEDIA STORIES

- [AdaniWatch \(February 2023\)](#)
- [The Washington Post \(December 2022\)](#)
- [The Times of India \(September 2022\)](#)
- [BankTrack \(August 2022\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(22 July 2022\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(12 July 2022\)](#)
- [ABC News \(July 2020\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(July 2020\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(April 2020\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(March 2020\)](#)
- [The New York Times \(2019\)](#)

KEY FACTS

Status	2 x 800 MW under development and partially complete, with trial generation of power having occurred
Adani companies	Adani Power Ltd and subsidiary Adani Power (Jharkhand) Ltd
Community organisations	National Alliance for People’s Movements Indian Social Action Forum



Adivasi (indigenous tribal) farmers survey construction of the Godda coal-power plant, February 2020. Image Geoff Law.



An Adivasi (indigenous tribal) farmer at the graves of family members - over the fence, Adani’s giant Godda coal-power plant takes shape, February 2020. Image Geoff Law.

Pench / Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh)

The Pench coal-power project near Chhindwara has been the subject of bitter conflict since 2010, when Adani acquired it. Leaders of the protests against the project have been brutally bashed, allegedly by people employed by the Adani company involved, one of whom has been prosecuted in a case that has dragged on. Farmers deprived of land for the project say they are starving and will battle the project in the courts.

The business case for the project has been questioned. In 2021, desperate farmers reoccupied and cultivated land on the Pench project site. The legality of land acquisition for the Pench power project has been questioned.



People in the Chhindwara area of Madhya Pradesh march against Adani's proposed Pench coal-power plant, 2011.

KEY FACTS

Status	2 x 660 MW 'under development' (though very little on-the-ground work has occurred)
Adani companies	Adani Power Ltd and subsidiary Adani Pench Power Limited
Community organisations	Kisan Sangharsh Samiti (KSS, or Farmers' Struggle Committee) Madhya Pradesh unit of Jan Sangarsh Morcha (Organisation for People's Struggle)



Community leaders injured by pro-Adani goons march against Adani's proposed Pench coal-power station.

MEDIA STORIES

[AdaniWatch \(May 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(8 July 2021\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(5 July 2021\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(August 2020\)](#)

Mundra power station (Gujarat)

Adani's Mundra coal-power plants constitute one of India's biggest cluster of power plants.

A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, tabled in the state's legislative assembly in September 2022, says that the Mundra plants illegally disposed of fly ash, causing local pollution.

Representatives of farming and fishing communities have blamed local health problems and reduction in the productivity of their industries on the coal-power plants (including those of nearby Tata).

A 2012-13 fact-finding mission reported that the area's industrialisation had contributed to local alcoholism, domestic violence, respiratory-tract illnesses, diseases and miscarriages amongst livestock and losses of income. Industries adversely affected included agriculture, salt production and fishing.

Adani was directed by government to restore creeks and mangroves and to provide restitution to communities, a decision controversially overturned by the newly-elected BJP government in 2015.

KEY FACTS

Status	Operational 4620 MW
Adani companies	Adani Power Ltd
Community organisations	National Fishworkers' Forum

MEDIA STORIES

[AdaniWatch \(November 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(September 2020\)](#)

[Scroll.In \(March 2018\)](#)

[The Sydney Morning Herald \(November 2017\)](#)

[The Economic Times \(July 2014\)](#)

[Business Standard \(October 2013\)](#)

[The Mint \(April 2013\)](#)

[Down to Earth \(2013\)](#)



Traditional indigenous inhabitants of fishing communities traversing a coastline damaged and polluted by Adani's coal-power plants at Mundra, Gujarat, India.



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**SECTION 3:
PORT DEVELOPMENTS
INVOLVING COAL**

Hazira port (Gujarat)

According to [Adani](#), the Hazira port (whose capacity for all cargoes is projected at 75 mtpa) can handle ‘huge volumes of coal cargo’.

In 2016, Adani’s environmental approval at Hazira port was revoked following a petition to the National Green Tribunal by the Hazira Fishermen Committee, which argued that ecological impacts had damaged their industry and that members of fishing communities had been displaced. This was later overturned by the Supreme Court.

MEDIA STORIES

[The Hindu \(January 2016\)](#)

KEY FACTS

Status	Operational
Adani companies	Adani Ports and SEZ
Community organisations	Hazira Fishermen Committee

Mormugao (Goa)

According to [Adani](#), Mormugao is a ‘fully mechanised coal-handling facility’. Adani has been [targeted](#) by protest groups [opposing](#) expansion of infrastructure in Goa for more coal but has [denied](#) having a role in such developments.

KEY FACTS

Status	Operational
Adani companies	Adani Ports and SEZ
Community organisations	Goyant Kollso Naka

MEDIA STORIES

[Al Jazeera \(April 2021\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(November 2020\)](#)

[BBC News \(October 2020\)](#)



A cartoonist’s take on the conflict concerning new coal infrastructure in and around the port of Goa.

Kattupalli port expansion (Tamil Nadu)

Adani proposes to expand its Kattupalli port from around 25 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to 320 million mtpa. According to the Global Energy Monitor, this will include 71 mtpa for coal.

Community groups in and around Chennai say that the project will have significant adverse impacts on coastal wetlands, dunes and Pulicat Lake, a vital fishery and buffer against the open ocean. They say dredging and breakwaters will degrade marine ecology and fish resources and jeopardise the very existence of the lake, with impacts on a densely populated region and its water supplies.

Significant community resistance to Adani’s project has been expressed at many levels of Tamil Nadu society, including MPs and retired senior civil servants, and through large-scale protests.

Chief Minister Stalin has been under pressure from village leaders to implement his election promise to scrap Adani’s port project.

KEY FACTS

Status	On hold due to state-government policy
Adani companies	Adani Ports and SEZ; subsidiary Marine Infrastructure Development and Private Limited
Community organisations	Save Pulicat Campaign <u>Save Ennore Creek</u> Coastal Resource Centre, a frequent spokesperson for the campaign is Nityanand Jayaraman



Protesters oppose Adani’s proposal to massively expand the Kattupalli port near Chennai.

MEDIA STORIES

- [The Story of Ennore \(March 2021\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(October 2019\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(September 2021\)](#)
- [The NewsMinute \(September 2021\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(August 2021\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(January 2021\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(September 2020\)](#)
- [Hakai magazine \(June 2020\)](#)
- [The New India Express \(October 2019\)](#)

Mundra port (Gujarat)

The Mundra port is described by Adani and Global Energy Monitor as the ‘largest coal import terminal’ with ‘separate sidings’ for cargo such as coal.

A 2012-13 fact-finding mission documented environmental impacts, including measurements of water temperatures, pH, dissolved oxygen (all critically important for marine life), damage to mangroves and creeks, increases in particulates, noise levels in adjacent villages, and a drastic reduction in fish catch.

Some reports have said that Adani’s developments have pushed the high-tide level over 10 km seaward, with a corresponding loss of the inter-tidal ecosystem. Representatives of local fishing communities have complained of reduced catch, obstruction of village activities, and the necessity to travel longer distances to catch fish.

In 2015, a leader of the elected village government of Navinal, Mr Gajendrasinh Bhimaji Jadeja, and a leader of local protests, was detained on flimsy charges and later freed by order of the Gujarat High Court. It was alleged that he was detained at the behest of the Adani Group.

KEY FACTS

Status	Operational Proposal to expand
Adani companies	Adani Ports and SEZ
Community organisations	South Asian People’s Action on Climate Crisis (spokesperson Soumya Dutta)



Members of a fishing community in the Mundra area voice their concerns about the port’s impacts on marine ecology and fish stocks.

MEDIA STORIES

- [AdaniWatch \(November 2022\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(August 2021\)](#)
- [AdaniWatch \(September 2020\)](#)
- [Scroll.In \(March 2018\)](#)
- [The Sydney Morning Herald \(November 2017\)](#)
- [The Economic Times \(July 2014\)](#)
- [Business Standard \(October 2013\)](#)
- [The Mint \(April 2013\)](#)



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**SECTION 4:
OTHER
INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR COAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Sundergarh railway expansion

On 28 March 2022, over 200 protesters from a tribal group were arrested near Sundergarh protesting against a railway expansion that will displace many of them. Several leaders faced fabricated charges that enabled police to prolong their incarceration without bail.

The rail expansion will facilitate transport of coal from Adani's Dhamra port to its Godda coal-power station.

Photos show rough treatment of protesters. A protest leader said he was informed by an insider that there was 'tremendous pressure' from the highest levels of the state government to 'complete the railway expansion and snuff out any protest' because the railway was required for Adani's coal.

KEY FACTS

Status	Expansion carried out by <u>South Eastern Railway</u>
Adani companies	Adani Power
Community organisations	Bondamunda Anchalik Surakshya Samiti (Committee to protect the region of Bondamunda), spokesperson Deme Oram



A protesting Adivasi woman receives rough treatment at the hands of police in a protest against a railway expansion to facilitate transport of Adani's coal from the port of Dhamra to the power station at Godda.

MEDIA STORIES

[AdaniWatch \(July 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(June 2022\)](#)

[AdaniWatch \(April 2022\)](#)

[NewsClick \(September 2020\)](#)

High-voltage transmission line, Dadantola (West Bengal)

The high-voltage transmission line will take power from Godda power station (Jharkhand) to Bangladesh.

In July 2022, police in the state of West Bengal assaulted orchardists protesting against the destruction of their mango and lychee trees near Dadantola village for the transmission line. Injuries were sustained by at least eight orchardists.

Community leaders have alleged murder plots against them, as well as fabricated charges by the police.



Police with shields and batons move in on protesting orchardists defending their fruit trees from an Adani transmission line, July 2022.

KEY FACTS

Status	Completed
Adani companies	Adani Power and Adani Power (Jharkhand) Ltd
Community organisations	Bagicha, Jibika o Bosti Rokkha (Committee to Protect Orchards, Livelihoods and Settlements); Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (United Farmers Front)



A confrontation occurs between police and orchardists amongst fruit trees threatened by an Adani transmission line in West Bengal, July 2022.

MEDIA STORIES

AdaniWatch (July 2022)

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