



Madhya Pradesh Approves Ken-Betwa Link Project

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh cabinet approved the establishment of a **Chitrakoot Development for the holy town's development** and gave nod to the Rs 24,293 crore [Ken-Betwa link project](#).

Key Points

- After the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Chitrakoot also witnessed a huge influx of devotees. **Lord Ram had spent 11 years in exile in Chitrakoot.**
 - The state cabinet has approved Rs 20 crore for the Chitrakoot Development authority.
- The **Ken-Betwa project** will benefit the three states- **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.**
 - The project will bring an additional 6,57,364 hectares of drought affected areas in Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Panna, Damoh, Sagar, Datia and Vidisha, Shivpuri, Raisen under irrigation.
 - Drinking water facility can be extended to a population of 44 lakh people.
- The cabinet also approved extension of the **Chief Minister Solar Pump Scheme**, which will now be implemented as **"Pradhan Mantri Krishak Mitra Surya Yojana"**.
- The scheme will be implemented by the Madhya Pradesh Power Development Corporation as per the guidelines issued under the [Kusum 'B' scheme](#) of the Union government.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Surakshaevam Utthaan Mahabhiyan Yojana (PM-KUSUM)

- It was launched in March 2019 by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, to subsidize farmers to install solar irrigation pumps for cultivation.
 - Each farmer will **receive a 60% subsidy** to set up tube wells and pump sets.
 - They will also get **30% of the total cost as a loan from the Government.**
- The **primary objective** of the PM-KUSUM Scheme is to make cutting-edge technology available to our farmers and provide sources for de-dieselized irrigation to the agricultural sector.
- The **main objectives** of this scheme are:
 - The solar pumps assist our farmers in much more effective and eco-friendly irrigation as these are capable of generating safer energy.
 - In addition, the pump sets comprise an energy power grid that generates more energy than diesel-driven pumps.
 - Farmers will be able to sell the extra power to our Government directly to enhance their income.
- **KUSUM** comprises 3 components that have **different features**:
 - **Component A:** Install a total of 10GV grid-connected stilt-mounted decentralized solar plants and other renewable energy-based power plants. Each plant is sized up to 500 KW to 2MV.
 - **Component B:** Install stand-alone solar pumps of up to 7.5HP individual capacity and worth 17.50 lakh.
 - **Component C:** Provide financial support to Solaris 10 lakh grid-connected agricultural pumps of 7.5HP of capacity each.

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