

Ken-Betwa River Link Project

Source: IE

Why in News?

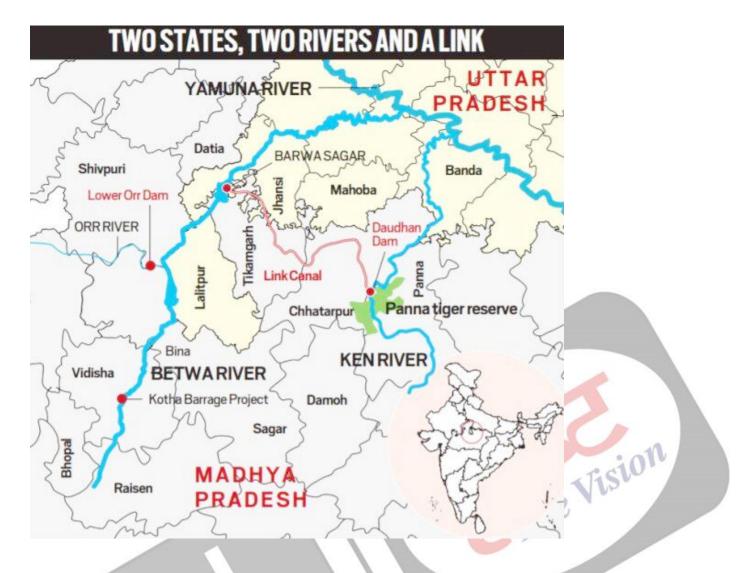
The <u>Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)</u> recently secured final **forest clearance** after a significant government push. While the forest clearance is secured, the **project's wildlife clearance remains under scrutiny** at the <u>Supreme Court of India</u>.

The project requires two key forest clearance conditions to be met: realigning its canal and shifting proposed powerhouses away from forest land, both with potential environmental implications.

What is the Ken-Betwa River Link Project?

- About:
 - The KBLP is the first project under the <u>National Perspective Plan</u> for the interlinking of rivers, which aims to transfer surplus water from one river basin to another to address water scarcity and enhance irrigation.
 - The KBLP involves transferring water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa River in Uttar Pradesh, both of which are tributaries of the <u>Yamuna</u> River.

<u>//</u>



Phases of the Project:

- The project has two phases, with mainly four components.
 - **Phase I** will involve one of the components the **Daudhan Dam complex** and its subsidiary units such as the Low-Level Tunnel, High-Level Tunnel, Ken-Betwa Link Canal and powerhouses.
 - **Phase II** will involve three components: the Lower Orr Dam across the **Orr River**, a tributary of the Betwa, the Bina Complex Project, and the Kotha Barrage.

Significance:

- It will not only accelerate water conservation by the construction of a multipurpose dam but will also produce 103 MW of hydropower and will supply drinking water to 62 lakh people.
- The linking canal will flow through Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and Jhansi districts, with the project expected to irrigate 6.3 lakh hectares of land every year.

Concerns:

Wildlife conservation concerns like passing of the project through the critical tiger
habitat of <u>Panna Tiger Reserve</u>, the project is stuck in for the approval from <u>National</u>
Green Tribunal (NGT).

What are Ken and Betwa Rivers?

- Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of **Yamuna**.
- Ken meets with Yamuna near Banda district of Uttar Pradesh and Betwa joins Yamuna in Hamirpur district of UP.
- Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.
- Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods, and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. **(2020)**

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/ken-betwa-river-link-project-1