



PM Laid Foundation Stone of Ken-Betwa Project

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the [Ken-Betwa river linking project](#) at **Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh**.

- It is the **first such initiative** under the [National river interlinking policy](#).

Key Points

- **The Ken-Betwa Link Project:**
 - The project aims to provide drinking water to 44 lakh people of Madhya Pradesh and 21 lakh people in Uttar Pradesh.
 - 7.18 lakh farmer families in 2,000 villages will benefit from **improved irrigation**.
 - The project will generate **103 MW of hydropower** and **27 MW of solar energy**.
 - The project embodies cooperation between the central government, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, realising the late PM [Atal Bihari Vajpayee](#)'s river-linking vision.
- **Economic and Environmental Impact:**
 - Ensures ample water for irrigation, drinking, and industrial uses.
 - Promotes economic growth, [tourism](#), and employment opportunities in [Bundelkhand](#).
 - Addresses groundwater scarcity in the [drought](#)-hit Bundelkhand region.
- **Conservation Efforts:**
 - Focus on restoring Chandela-era heritage ponds in Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, and Niwari districts.
 - Continuous water supply to wild animals in the [Panna Tiger Reserve](#).
 - Flood relief for Banda district in Uttar Pradesh.

National Interlinking of Rivers Authority

- The **national interlinking of rivers (ILR)** is the idea that rivers should be inter-connected, so that water from the surplus rivers and regions could be transferred to deficient regions and rivers to address the issue of [water scarcity](#).
- This led to the setup of the [National Water Development Agency \(NWDA\)](#) in 1982.