



Ken-Betwa Link Project

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Why in News

Chief Ministers of **Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh** signed a memorandum of agreement to implement the **Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP)**, the first project of the **National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers**.

The two states **signed a tripartite agreement with the Centre** on **World Water Day** (22nd March) to finally implement this ambitious project.

Key Points

- **Ken Betwa Link Project (KBLP):**
 - The **Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)** is the River interlinking project that **aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken river in MP to Betwa in UP to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region**.

The region spread across the districts of two states mainly Jhansi, Banda, Lalitpur and Mahoba districts of UP and Tikamgarh, Panna and Chhatarpur districts of MP.
 - The project involves building a 77-metre tall and a 2-km wide **Dhaudhan dam and a 230-km canal**.
 - Ken-Betwa is **one of the 30 river interlinking projects** conceived across the country.
 - The project has been **delayed due to political and environmental issues**.

- **Advantage of Interlining of Rivers:**

- **Reducing Drought:** River linking will be a solution to recurring droughts in Bundelkhand region.
- **Farmers' Benefit:** It will curb the rate of farmers suicide and will ensure them stable livelihood by providing sustainable means of irrigation and reducing excessive dependence on groundwater.
- **Electricity Production:** It will not only **accelerate the water conservation** by construction of a multipurpose dam but will also **produce 103 MW of hydropower** and will **supply drinking water to 62 lakh people**.
- **Rejuvenate Biodiversity:** Few are of the view that the introduction of dams inside the water scarce regions of **panna tiger reserve (MP)**, will rejuvenate the forests of the reserve that in turn will pave the way for Rich Biodiversity in the region.

- **Issues:**

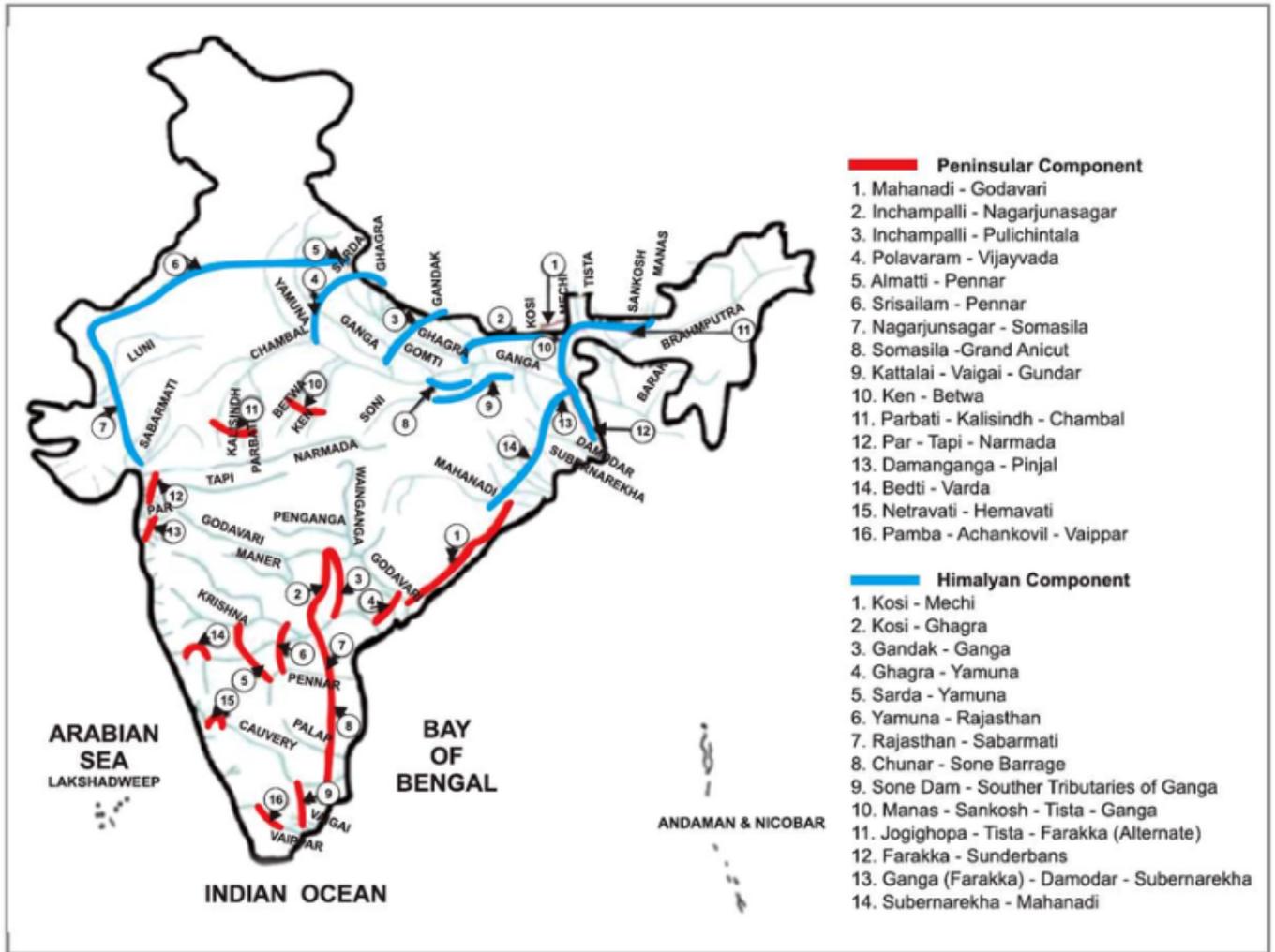
- **Environmental:** Because of certain environmental and wildlife conservation concerns like **passing of the project though critical tiger habitat of panna tiger reserve**, the project is stuck in for the approval from **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, and other higher authorities.
- **Economic:** There is a huge economic cost attached with the project implementation and maintenance, which has been rising due to delays in project implementation.
- **Social:** Reconstruction and rehabilitation caused due to displacement resulting from the implementation of the project will involve social cost as well.

Ken and Betwa Rivers

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

National Perspective Plan for interlinking of rivers:

- The **National River Linking Project (NRLP)** formally known as the **National Perspective Plan**, envisages the transfer of **water from water 'surplus' basins** where there is flooding, to **water 'deficit' basins** where there is drought/scarcity, through inter-basin water transfer projects.
- Under the **National Perspective Plan (NPP)**, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), has identified 30 links (16 under the Peninsular Component and 14 under the Himalayan Component) for the preparation of feasibility reports (FRs).
- The NPP for transferring water from water-surplus basins to water-deficit basins was prepared in August 1980.



Source: IE