



Ken-Betwa River Link Project

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

The [Ken-Betwa Link Project \(KBLP\)](#) 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 [Supreme Court of India](#).

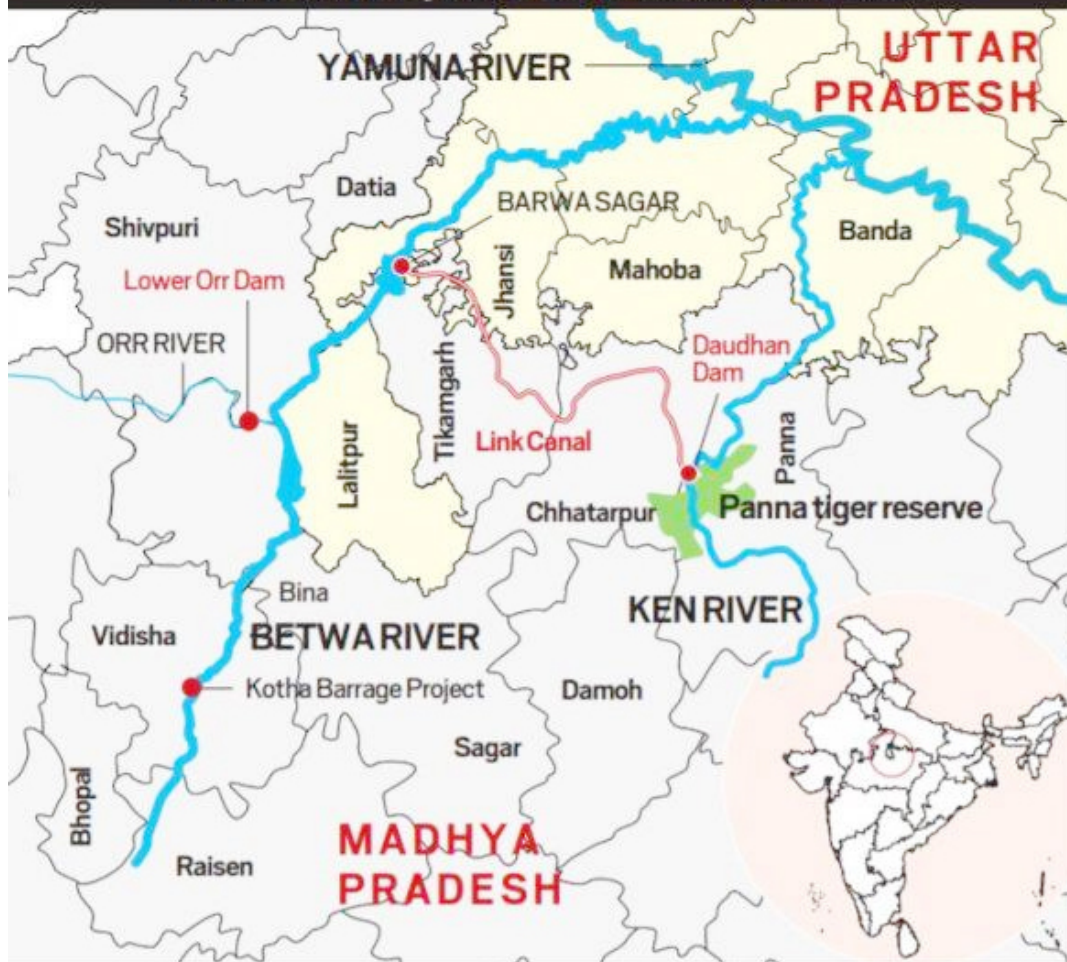
- The project requires two key forest clearance conditions to be met: **realigning its canal** and shifting proposed **powerhouses away from forest land**, both with potential environmental implications.

What is the Ken-Betwa River Link Project?

▪ About:

- The KBLP is the first project under the [National Perspective Plan](#) 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 [Yamuna River](#).

TWO STATES, TWO RIVERS AND A LINK



▪ 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 Panna Tiger Reserve**, the project is stuck in for the approval from **National 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)**

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