



# Kosi Mechi Interstate Link Project

## Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved the inclusion of [Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project](#) of Bihar under the [Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana](#)-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP) .

## Key Points

- **About the Project:**
  - Under this project, excess water of [Kosi river](#) will be diverted to the [Mahananda river basin in Bihar](#).
  - Under this project, **the Eastern Kosi Main Canal (EKMC)** will be reconstructed, and extended up to **the Mechi River** .
  - The Eastern Koshi Main Canal **is a part of the joint Koshi Project (1954) of India and Nepal** , which was built to solve the problem of frequent change of course of the Koshi River.
- **Objective:**
  - The main objective of this project is to increase the irrigation capacity in Bihar.
  - The scheme will provide additional irrigation facilities to 2,10,516 hectares of area during **Kharif season in Araria, Purnia, Kishanganj and Katihar districts of Bihar**.
- **Sanction of Central Assistance :**
  - The estimated cost of the project has been fixed at Rs 6,282.32 crore, out of which central assistance of Rs 3,652.56 crore has been sanctioned to Bihar.
  - This amount will aid in the development of the project and implementation of its various components.
- **Deadline :**
  - This project is targeted to be completed by March 2029.
  - On completion of this project, irrigation facilities will expand in Bihar and it will also help in [flood control](#).

## Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme (PMKSY)

- **AIBP was launched in 1996** with the objective of expediting the implementation of irrigation projects beyond the resource capabilities of the states.
- This is a **centrally sponsored scheme (core scheme)** launched in the **year 2015**. The centre-state share will be in the ratio of 75:25. In the case of the north-eastern region and hilly states, this ratio will be 90:10.
- This will **benefit around 22 lakh farmers**, including 2.5 lakh Scheduled Caste and 2 lakh Scheduled Tribe farmers.
- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** launched a mobile application for geo-tagging of components of projects **under PMKSY in the year 2020** .
  - It has three main components- **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) and Watershed Development**.
- **Objective:**
  - Convergence of investments in irrigation at the regional level,

- expanding the cultivable area under assured irrigation (har khet ko pani),
- Improving on-farm water use efficiency to reduce water wastage,
- To introduce sustainable water conservation practices by enhancing recharge of aquifers and exploring the feasibility of reuse of treated municipal water for peri-urban agriculture and to attract greater private investment in a precision irrigation system .

## Koshi River

- It is called **the 'Sorrow of Bihar'** . It originates in the Himalayas at 7,000 metres above sea level from the catchment area of **Mount Everest and Kanchenjunga** .
- Flowing through China, Nepal and India, this river enters India near Hanuman Nagar and merges with the Ganga River near **Kursela in Katihar district of Bihar**.
- The Koshi River is formed by the confluence of three main streams: **Sun Koshi, Arun Koshi and Tamur Koshi** .
- The Koshi river is known for its tendency to change its course and flow westwards , which has moved up to 112 kilometres in the last 200 years, destroying agricultural areas in **Darbhanga, Saharsa and Purnia districts**.
- **Tributaries:** The river has several important tributaries, including the Trijanga, Bhutahi Balan, Kamala Balan, and Bagmati , all of which flow through the plains and join the Koshi River.



## Mechi River

- It is a **trans-boundary river flowing through Nepal and India** . It is a tributary of the

Mahananda River.

- The Mechi River is a **perennial river that originates in the Himalayan inter-valley** in the Mahabharat Range in Nepal and then flows through Bihar to join the Mahananda in **Kishanganj district**.

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