

**09 – 12 – 2021**

**News:** Nod for Ken-Betwa link project

- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the funding and implementation of the Ken–Betwa river interlinking project at a cost of ₹44,605 crore at the 2020-21 price level.
- The Centre would fund ₹39,317 crore for the project, with ₹36,290 crore as a grant and ₹3,027 crore as a loan.

## **Ken Betwa River Interlinking Project**

- 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 spread across the districts of two states mainly Jhansi, Banda, Lalitpur and Mahoba districts of UP and Tikamgarh, Panna and Chhatarpur districts of MP.
- National Water Development Agency implements Ken-Betwa River Linking.
- 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. Construction of Daudhan dam will result into submergence of 10% of critical tiger habitat of MP's Panna Tiger Reserve that will adversely affect the tiger conservation efforts.
- Height of the dam (77 meters) will affect the nesting sites of vulture. Construction of one of the barrages inside the Ken Gharial Sanctuary will adversely affect the sustainability of the sanctuary.
- Submergence by Daudhan and Makodia reservoirs will result into displacement of 20,000 people of the Bundelkhand region and will give rise to rehabilitation issues.
- Recently, Ken Betwa interlinking has been declared as a National Project.

