

## Ken-Betwa River Linking Project (KBLP) - Simplified Overview

### What is KBLP?

- A project to **transfer water** from the Ken River to the Betwa River, both tributaries of the Yamuna.
  - Includes a **221 km-long canal** with a 2-km tunnel.
  - **Benefits:**
    - Irrigation for **10.62 lakh hectares** (8.11 lakh ha in MP and 2.51 lakh ha in UP).
    - Drinking water for **62 lakh people**.
    - Power generation: **103 MW hydro** and **27 MW solar**.
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### Key Details

1. **Launched by PM Modi:** Foundation stone laid on December 25, 2024.
  2. **Cost:** ₹44,605 crore (2020-21 prices).
  3. **Timeline:** Expected completion in **8 years**.
  4. **Phases:**
    - **Phase-I:** Daudhan Dam, tunnels, and canals.
    - **Phase-II:** Includes Lower Orr Dam, Bina Complex Project, and Kotha Barrage.
  5. **Regions Benefitted:**
    - **Bundelkhand** districts in Madhya Pradesh (e.g., Panna, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur) and Uttar Pradesh (e.g., Jhansi, Lalitpur).
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### Environmental and Social Concerns

1. **Impact on Panna Tiger Reserve:**
    - Submerges **98 sq km** of the park, affecting tiger and wildlife habitats.
    - Deforestation of **2-3 million trees**.
  2. **Displacement:**
    - Affects **5,228 families** in Chhatarpur district and **1,400 families** in Panna district.
    - Protests due to inadequate compensation.
  3. **Wildlife Risks:**
    - Threatens **gharial population** in the Ken Gharial sanctuary.
    - Impacts vulture nesting sites.
  4. **Rainfall Deficit:**
    - Studies suggest a **12% reduction in rainfall** in September due to water transfer.
  5. **Economic Viability:** Questions raised on alternative irrigation methods in the Ken basin.
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## Background

- **Agreement Signed:** March 22, 2021, between the Centre and governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
  - **Conceptualization:**
    - Proposed in **2005**, declared a National Project in **2008**.
    - A detailed project report (DPR) was completed in phases by **2018**.
  - **First Project** under the **National Perspective Plan (1980)** for river interlinking.
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## Significance

- Aims to address **water scarcity** in Bundelkhand and **boost development** in drought-prone areas.
- Sets a precedent for **future river-linking projects** in India.

## UPSC Mains Question

**Q. The Ken-Betwa River Linking Project is a landmark initiative aimed at addressing water scarcity and boosting development in drought-prone areas. However, it has sparked significant environmental and social concerns. Critically examine the potential benefits and challenges of the project. (250 words)**

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## MCQ

**Q. Which of the following statements about the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project (KBLP) is/are correct?**

1. The project aims to transfer water from the Ken River to the Betwa River, both of which are tributaries of the Ganga.
2. The Daudhan Dam under KBLP will submerge parts of the Panna Tiger Reserve.
3. The project will generate both hydropower and solar power.

### Options:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

**Answer: B. 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Both Ken and Betwa are tributaries of the Yamuna, not the Ganga.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Daudhan Dam will submerge parts of the Panna Tiger Reserve.
- Statement 3 is correct: The project will generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar power.