

Interlinking of rivers

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Why in news?

Union Government has approved Rs 4,900 crore Kosi-Mechi Interlinking project for interlinking of Kosi and Mechi rivers of Bihar.

- **About the project:**
- This is the second major river interlinking project in the country to be approved by Central Government after the Ken-Betwa project in Madhya Pradesh.
- **The river Kosi is an international river originating from Tibet** and flowing through Nepal in Himalayan Mountains and the **lower portion through plains of North Bihar.**
- To overcome the **acute problem of shifting of course to the Kosi River, heavy sediment loads, flooding.** The then Government of Nepal and the Government of India signed an agreement on 25th April 1954 for implementation of Kosi project.
- The present proposal is an extension of **Eastern Kosi Main Canal (EKMC) system up to river Mechi, a tributary of river Mahananda.**
- The aim of extension of EKMC upto Mechi River is **mainly to provide irrigation benefits to the water scarce 2.14 lakh hectares of Mahananda basin command** in the districts of Araria, Kishanganj, Purnia and Katihar during kharif season depending upon the pondage available in Hanuman Nagar barrage.
- This intrastate link scheme will thus **transfer part of surplus water of Kosi basin to Mahananda basin.**