Meeting on Inter-Linking of Rivers

**Syllabus subtopic:** Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.

**Prelims and Mains focus:** about the meeting; various river linking projects discussed

**Context:** The Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Social Justice & Empowerment, chaired the 17th **Meeting of the Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR)** in New Delhi.

**Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR) Project**

- The ambitious project **comprises 16 rivers of Himalayan origin** and **14 in peninsular region**.

- The Detailed Project Report (DPR) in respect of **Ken-Betwa Inter-State Link Project** involving **Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh** has been **completed** and work on the project will begin soon. Besides, the DPRs for four projects is in progress.

- The meeting reviewed the status of the various ILR projects, namely
  - Ken-Betwa Link Project,
  - Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link (IBWT),
  - Bedti-Varda link (IBWT),
  - Damanganga (Ekdare)-Godavari link (Intra-State),
  - Damanganga-Vaitarna-Godavari link (Intra-State),
  - Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Projects,
- Alternative proposal of Diversion of Godavari waters upto Cauvery basin, *Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga (MSTG) link* and *Integration of Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project with Parbati- Kalisindh-Chambal link*.

- Status of the 47 Intra-State link proposals from nine States, besides restructuring of the National Water Development Agency, Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers and the *National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA)* were also discussed.

- The meeting also confirmed the minutes of the 16th Meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) chaired by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, held in New Delhi on August 21, 2019.