



+91-9989966744 / 9000066690

Email:targetiasweb@gmail.com

H.No. 1-10-196 (New No.177)

Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyderabad

Telangana 500020.

---

## DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**20.04.2021**

## FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
  - To have a bank of mains questions.
  - And interesting to read.
  - Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH  
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE  
BUSINESS LINE - BL  
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET  
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI

..

## INDEX

### Editorial

1. Ken-Betwa project.....04

### GS 3

#### ❖ Science & Technology

1. Perseverance and Ingenuity.....05

### Snippets:

1. Anonymity of electoral bonds.....06

2. Sudarshan Sen Committee.....07

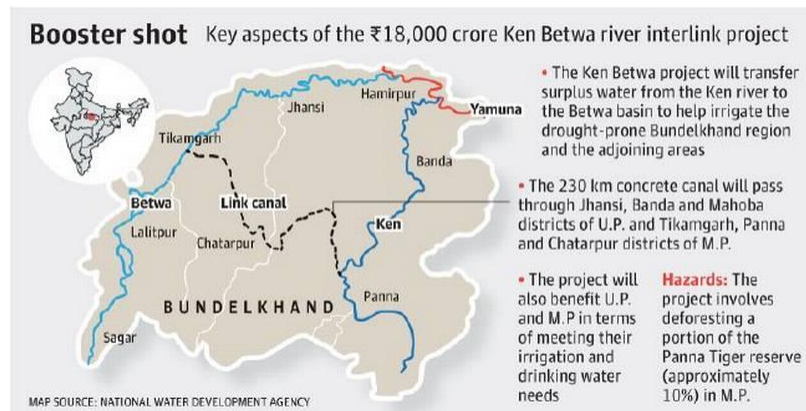


## ESSAY PAPER

### EDITORIAL

**Q- Explain how the Ken-Betwa project will take a tremendous toll on the ecosystem?**

**INTRODUCTION** = Last month, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and the Centre signed a tripartite agreement to transfer “surplus” water from the Ken basin in M.P. to the “deficit” Betwa basin in U.P. First mooted in the 1980s, the Ken-Betwa project was taken up seriously only during former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s regime. Since then, former Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti has been the torch-bearer of the project.



#### Pros -

- The Ken-Betwa project is part of the national river linking project which proposes to **connect 14 Himalayan and 16 peninsular rivers with 30 canals and 3,000 reservoirs in order to irrigate 87 million hectares of land.**
- The project will **enhance the irrigation potential of the water-starved Bundelkhand region in U.P. and M.P., facilitate groundwater recharge and reduce the occurrence of floods**
- It has the status of a **national project**, as the Centre will contribute 90% of the cost.
- It is **India’s first river linking project** and will take eight years to complete.

#### Cons -

- However, the excitement of planners and politicians about this project, which costs ₹37,611 crore (2018 figure), is reportedly missing on the ground, they were **divided on political lines.**
- The project was on the drawing board for years mainly due to **environmental concerns.**
- a. Of the 12,500 hectares of land to get submerged by the project, **more than 9,000 ha are categorised as forest land.**
- b. The submergence area includes a critically important section of the **Panna Tiger Reserve.** The Reserve is considered as a shining example of conservation after it successfully improved the tiger and vulture populations. Echoing the concerns of environmentalists, and around 40% of the area of the tiger reserve will be irretrievably damaged” if the project is implemented.
- c. Also, the project may **destroy about 7.2 lakh trees** and that this will affect rainfall in the already parched region.
  - The **claims of Ken having surplus water may be unrealistic as the river is not perennial** — in the past sometimes, it has slowed to a trickle.
  - Another difficulty will be that the **Ken flows 60-70 feet lower than the Betwa** and at least 30% of the 103 MW power generated will be used for **pumping the water up.**

..

- The Union Ministry and the National Water Development Agency, which is entrusted with the project, have some issues to sort out. These include getting clearance from the **Central Empowered Committee** of the Supreme Court, which had **raised concerns about the project**.
- The cost-benefits calculations of the project also don't take into consideration the **environmental and social impacts**.

Thus, the benefits do not seem certain and are far outweighed by the costs on the environment.

**Way Forward -**

It is surprising that **alternatives such as water-conservation and water-harvesting methods** without building a dam haven't been seriously considered in the region. Large-scale solutions such as the dam are not always viable and the best.

**GS 3**

❖ **Science & Technology**

**Q-Explain how scientific goals of Perseverance r and Ingenuity different from one and other.**

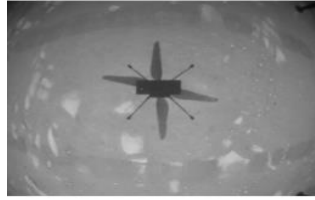
**BACKGROUND** = NASA successfully flew its tiny helicopter Ingenuity on Mars, the first powered flight on another planet and a feat a top engineer called "our Wright brothers' moment." The first powered flight on Earth was achieved by the Wright brothers in 1903 in North Carolina. A piece of fabric from that plane has been tucked inside Ingenuity in honour of that feat.

- Ingenuity travelled to Mars attached to the underside of Perseverance, which touched down on the planet on February 18 on a mission to search for signs of extraterrestrial life.
- Ingenuity's goal, by contrast, is to demonstrate its technology works, and it won't contribute to Perseverance's science goals.



At 3:34 a.m. Eastern Time (0734 GMT), the 1.8 kg rotorcraft lifted off, hovered 10 feet above the Martian surface, then came back to rest after 39.1 seconds.

Data and images from the autonomous flight were transmitted 278 million km back to Earth where they were received by NASA's array of ground antennas and processed more than three hours later.



Rare feat: NASA  
helicopter  
Ingenuity, left,  
flying over the  
surface of Mars  
and, right, its  
shadow on the  
surface. AFP

Ingenuity quickly sent back a black-and-white image from its downward pointing navigation camera, showing its bug-like shadow cast on the surface.

Then came a choppy colour video from the Perseverance rover showing Ingenuity on the ground, in flight.

### Snippets

#### GS 2

#### ❖ Polity

##### **Q- Discuss the recent case study arising the debate on anonymity of electoral bonds?**

- The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is the first party that has declared the name of the entity which made donations to it through electoral bonds, the donation was made by aluminium and copper manufacturing company Hindalco.
- It is to be noted that the JMM party has declared the name of the donor who donated ₹1 crore through electoral bonds in its contribution report for FY [financial year] 2019-20. However, this income through electoral bonds has not been declared by the party in its audit report for FY 2019-20
- Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding.

..

- The ADR, in a new report, said the most common source of income for national and regional political parties in 2019-20 were donations through electoral bonds. “Given the anonymity provided to donors by the scheme, electoral bonds have emerged as the most popular channel of donations to parties in the last two years

### Electoral Bonds Scheme Notified


*To help cleanse the political funding system in the country*

**Nature**

- Bearer instrument in the nature of a Promissory Note
- Interest free banking instrument

**Eligibility**

- A citizen of India or a body incorporated in India
- On fulfillment of all the extant KYC norms
- By making payment from a bank account



**Lifespan**

- Shelf life of only 15 days
- Can be used for making donation only to the political parties registered u/s 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951

**Period of Purchase**

- Available for purchase for a period of 10 days each in the months of January, April, July and October, as may be specified by the Government

**Value**

- Issued/ Purchased in multiples of Rs.1,000, Rs.10,000, Rs.1,00,000, Rs.10,00,000 and Rs.1,00,00,000
- Available from the Specified Branches of the State Bank of India (SBI)

<b>Bond matters</b> Some charges against electoral bonds and the SC's response	
<b>Anonymity of buyers</b>	The scheme provides anonymity, but ensures that everything happens only through banking channels
<b>Corporate houses can finance political parties</b>	Anyone buying bonds will have to fulfil KYC norms. The money spent will reflect in the expense sheets of a company
<b>Foreign corporate houses can buy bonds and influence electoral politics</b>	Bonds can be purchased only by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India
<b>Bonds bought with white money can be re-purchased with black money</b>	Bonds are not tradeable



This raises the question as to whether political parties are aware of the identity of the donors who have made contributions through electoral bonds

**GS 3**

❖ **Economic Development**

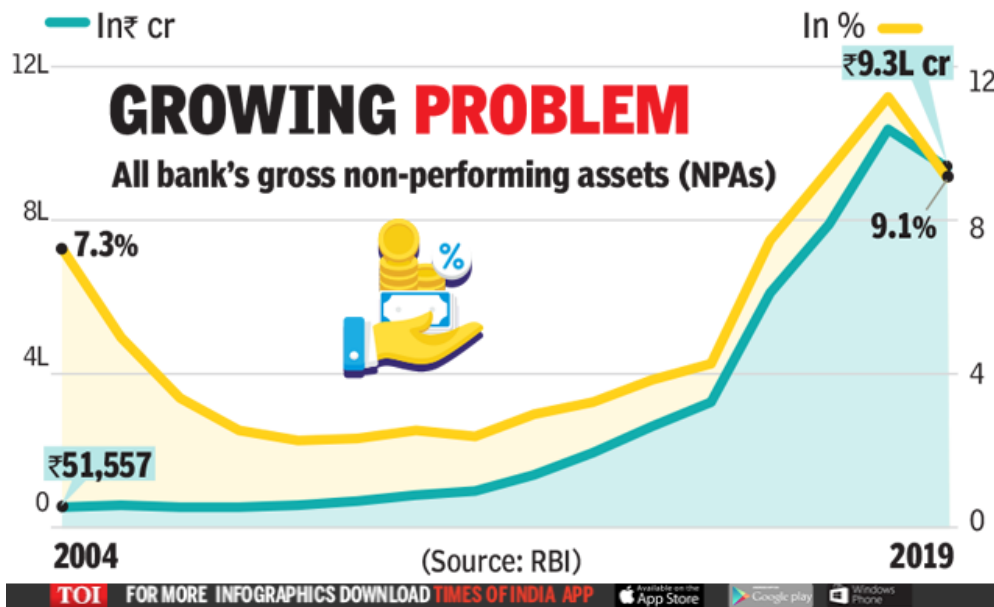
**Q- What are the aims and objectives of the RBI constituted Sudarshan Sen Committee?**

- The RBI set up a committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem and recommend suitable measures for enabling them to meet the growing requirements.

..

1.	Shri Sudarshan Sen, former Executive Director, RBI	Chairman
2.	Ms. Vishakha Mulye, Executive Director, ICICI Bank	Member
3.	Shri P N Prasad, former Dy. Managing Director, SBI	Member
4.	Shri Rohit Prasad, Professor of Economics, MDI, Gurgaon	Member
5.	Shri Abizer Diwanji, Partner, Ernst & Young	Member
6.	Shri R Anand, Chartered Accountant	Member

- As per the terms of reference of the committee, the panel will review the existing legal and regulatory framework applicable to ARCs and recommend measures to improve efficacy of ARCs.
- It will also review the role of ARCs in the resolution of stressed assets, including under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and give suggestions for improving liquidity in and trading of security receipts.



- Besides, it has also been asked to review the business models of ARCs. The committee will submit its report within three months from the date of its first meeting.

..





The Makran Coast which is the flash point for disruption of the illegal narcotics smuggling routes towards Indian, Maldivian and Sri Lankan destinations is located near ?

- a. The Bay of the Bengal
- b. The Arabian Sea
- c. The Mediterranean Sea
- d. None of the above



Which of the following subjects are included in the 11th Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

- A. Agriculture
- B. Vocational Education
- C. Social Forestry
- D. Fire Services
- E. Drinking Water
- F. Regulation Of slaughter houses

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. A and B only
- b. A,B,C and E only
- c. A,B,E and F only
- d. A,B,C,D,E and F

**Answer: B**

**NOTE** - The 11th Schedule of Indian Constitution was added in 1992 by the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act. This schedule contains 29 subjects. This schedule covers important topics such as Panchayat's powers, rural development, poverty alleviation, market, roads and drinking water etc.

**UPSC - CSE****COMPREHENSIVE & FOUNDATION COURSE****OFFLINE From: 22.03.2021****ONLINE From: 29.03.2021****COURSE INCLUDES:**

- NCERT
- Prelims & Mains
- GS Foundation
- CSAT
- Daily Tests & Writing Practice
- Optionals (ANTHROPOLOGY / SOCIOLOGY/TELUGU LIT.)
- Nine Months Course
- Mentoring with Individual Focus
- SAVVY Sessions
- IAO Certification of Quality

**OPTIONALS****NEW OFFLINE COURSES****ANTHROPOLOGY by Mrs. SOSIN REVELLA****From: 23/06/2021****OPTIONALS****NEW ONLINE COURSES****ANTHROPOLOGY by Mrs. SOSIN REVELLA****From: 24/03/2021****OPTIONALS****NEW OFFLINE COURSES****SOCIOLOGY by DR. HARSHAVARDHAN****From: 22/02/2021****OPTIONALS****NEW OFFLINE COURSES****TELUGU LITERATURE by DR. GARIKIPATI SUBRAMANYAM****From: 27/01/2021**