

Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Govt. of Bihar

Background:

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 of Kosi River, heavy sediment load, flooding etc. and to alleviate the severe suffering of the people of Bihar, the then His Majesty's Government of Nepal and The Government of India signed an agreement on 25th April, 1954 for implementation of Kosi Project. The Kosi Project includes a barrage namely Hanuman Nagar barrage across river Kosi located near Hanuman Nagar town close to Indo-Nepal Border, canal headwork's, Western Kosi Main Canal (WKMC) system in Nepal and Eastern Kosi Main Canal (EKMC) system in India.

Previously, the Kosi-Mechi Interlinking River Project under Himalayan Component of NPP was taken up for studies by NWDA and its Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) was completed in year 1997 but as the link project entirely lies in Nepal so due to international issues, preparation of its Feasibility Report was dropped. As requested by State of Bihar, the study of Kosi-Mechi Intra-State link which starts from existing Hanuman Nagar Barrage and benefits Bihar was undertaken by NWDA, as for this, an agreement with Nepal was not needed.

Present Status:

The present proposal is an extension of EKMC upto river Mechi, a tributary of river Mahananda. The aim of extension of 76.20 km of EKMC upto Mechi river and remodelling of existing EKMC 41.30 km is mainly to provide irrigation benefits to the water scarce Mahananda basin command in the districts of Araria, Kishanganj, Purnea and Katihar during Kharif season depending upon the pondage available in Hanuman Nagar barrage. The total length of the link canal including the length of existing EKMC is 117.50 km.

- ❖ The PFR of Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project was prepared by NWDA in June, 2009. Subsequently, on request of Govt. of Bihar, its DPR was prepared and sent to State Govt. in March, 2014 and further revised in year, 2017.
- ❖ All statutory clearances have been obtained from various Ministries/Departments.
- ❖ Govt. of Bihar during March, 2022 has requested NWDA to prepare the Working DPR of the link project. MoU has been signed on 24.12.2022 between NWDA & WRD, Govt. of Bihar for preparation of Working DPR of link project in two Phases (Phase-I & II).
- ❖ As per para 12 of MoU, the time for completion for Phase-I was 12 months and that for Phase-II was 18 months, however the whole work shall be completed within two years to be reckoned from the date of signing of MoU (i.e. latest by December, 2024) by taking works of both the phases parallelly to the extent possible.

The works of both phases could not be taken up parallel, as per the decision of WRD, Bihar:

(i) the funds to take up the Phase-I work was released on 13.02.2023.

(ii) the funds to take up the Phase-II work was released on 26.03.2025.

The data of Phase-II works are essential for designs of structures under Phase-I works.

It was also desired to take up the works under Phase-I on priority leaving the work of Phase-II. Accordingly, work for Phase-I has been started w.e.f. July, 2023.

- ❖ NWDA has updated the revised cost of this Link Project at 2022-23 PL in December, 2022. The cost of the link project as Rs. 6282.32 crore has been approved by the Technical Advisory Committee of DoWR, RD&GR in its 155th meeting held on 08.03.2024.
- ❖ Investment Clearance has been accorded by DoWR, RD&GR, MoJS on 22.05.2024.
- ❖ PIB Note of Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project has been submitted and as per minutes of PIB meeting held on 21.11.2024, the proposal has been recommended for inclusion under PMKSY-AIBP.
- ❖ In accordance with the decisions taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs held on 28.03.2025 for inclusion of projects under PMKSY-AIBP, approval for inclusion of Kosi-Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar under the PMKSY-AIBP Programme of DoWR, RD&GR has been accorded.
- ❖ The work of preparation of DPR of Phase-I has been completed by NWDA and the same was submitted to Govt. of Bihar during June, 2025.