



Yojna IAS

C-32 NOIDA SECTOR-02
UTTAR PRADESH (201301)
CONTACT NO. +8595907569

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Date – 25 June 2022

Bedti-Varda Project



Bedti-Varda Project – Today Current Affairs

- Two environmental groups in Karnataka have criticized the Bedati and Varada river-linking project, calling it unscientific and a waste of public money.

Today Current Affairs

Bedati-Varda Project:

- The Bedti-Varda project was envisaged in the year 1992 for the supply of drinking water.
- The objective of the scheme is to connect the Bedati, a west-flowing river towards the Arabian Sea, with the Varada, a tributary of the Tungabhadra River, which joins the Krishna River and drains into the Bay of Bengal.

- A huge dam will be built at Hierwadatti in Gadag district.
- A second dam will be built on the Pattanahalla River at Menasagoda in Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district.
- Both the dams will carry water through tunnels to Varda.
- The water will reach to Kengre and then to Hakkalumane for 6.88 km. Ki will flow down the tunnel, where it will join the Varda. **The Hindu Analysis**
- Thus the project envisages carrying water from Sirsi-Yelapura region of Uttara Kannada district to arid regions of Raichur, Gadag and Koppal districts.
- A total of 302 million cubic meters of water will be drawn from the Pattanahalla and Shalmalahalla tributaries of the Bedati and Varada rivers, while 222 million cubic meters will be diverted from the Suremane barrage opposite the Bedati River.
- The project will require 61 MW of electricity to draw water up to Gadag. Even after this, it is not known whether the water will reach Gadag or not.

Project related issues:

Difficulty in rescheduling the route : The Hindu Analysis

- Redirecting a west flowing river to east flowing is a difficult task.

Rivers dependent on rain water : The Hindu Analysis

- At the beginning of summer, the rivers Bedti and Varda start drying up.
- It is a sad irony that government-appointed scientists are planning to interlink these rivers on the pretext of providing drinking water, knowing that they do not flow throughout the year.

Lack of proper project report : The Hindu Analysis

- The Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by the Irrigation Department is not accurate as it does not assess the availability of water and the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) on the interconnection of rivers Bedati-Aghanashini and Varda) was prepared without quoting the observation of the report.

Environmental effect : The Hindu Analysis

- More than 500 acres of forest will be lost. Ultimately the result will be that there will also be a significant shortage of water.
- This project will also harm the flora and fauna.
- The Bedati Valley has been designated as an Active Biodiversity Area by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. **The Hindu Analysis**
- The region is home to 1,741 types of flowering plants as well as 420 species of birds and animals.
- The nutrients that accompany the river are responsible for maintaining the fish stock especially at the mouth of the Bedti in the Dedi.
- The river valley acts as a corridor for about 35 different animal species. Bedati in the estuary is known as Gangavali.

Affected lives of thousands of people : The Hindu Analysis

- In addition to fishing communities along the banks of the Bedati and Varada rivers, the Malenadu region at the foothills of the Western Ghats is the source of livelihood for thousands of farmers.

Swadeep Kumar

Snake Island: Black Sea



Snake Island: Black Sea – Today Current Affairs

- Ukraine has inflicted serious damage on Russian forces in airstrikes on a land island in the Black Sea, also known as ‘Snake Island’.

- The attack on the island is believed to be the second major military success by the West using missiles delivered to Ukraine.

Today Current Affairs

Snake Island:

- Snake Island, also known as Snake or Serpent Island, is a small piece of rock less than 700 meters in size, described as X-shaped.
- It is 35 km from the coast in the Black Sea. It is located far east of the mouth of the Danube and approximately south-west of the port city of Odessa.
- The Danube is the second longest river in Europe after the Volga. It rises from the Black Forest Mountains of western Germany and covers a distance of about 2,850 km. It flows till its mouth on the Black Sea.
- The island is marked on the map by 'Village of Byle', it belongs to Ukraine.

Black Sea:

Nearby Areas : The Hindu Analysis

- The Black Sea is bounded by Ukraine to the north and northwest, Russia and Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.

Straits : The Hindu Analysis

- The Black Sea is joined by the Bosphorus to the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea by the Dardanelles, which has traditionally been Russia's 'warm waters' gateway to Europe.
- The Black Sea is also connected to the Azov Sea by the Kerch Strait.

Significance for Russia:

Tactical Intermediate Zone/Buffer : The Hindu Analysis

- The Black Sea is a landmark for the Mediterranean Sea as well as a strategic buffer between NATO countries and Russia.

Geostatistical Significance : The Hindu Analysis

- The dominance of the Black Sea region is a geo-strategic imperative for Moscow, (both to the influence of Russian power in the Mediterranean

and to secure an economic gateway to the major markets of Southern Europe).

- Russia has been trying to gain full control of the Black Sea since the Crimean crisis in 2014.
- Control over the Black Sea as well as the land bridge linking Russia and Crimea has been Russia's main goal in the current conflict.
- Reducing Ukraine's access to the Black Sea would turn it into a landlocked country and deal a serious blow to its logistics trade.

Swadeep Kumar

