

# ₹45,000-cr. Ken-Betwa link project launched

Modi lays the foundation stone for the river-linking project aimed at solving the water woes of the Bundelkhand region, spread across parts of the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

**Mehul Malpani**  
BHOPAL

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the Ken-Betwa river-linking project in Madhya Pradesh's Khajuraho, aimed at solving the water woes of the Bundelkhand region, spread across parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The project is estimated to cost around ₹45,000 crore.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Modi credited Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision for India's major river valley projects, and accused the Congress of not giving due recognition to the architect of the Constitution.

"The major river valley projects of India were based on the vision of Ba-



Narendra Modi examines a project map during the event to lay the foundation stone for the river-linking project in Khajuraho. ANI

basahab Ambedkar. The Central Water Commission exists today because of the efforts of Dr. Ambedkar but the Congress never gave him credit for his water-conservation efforts. No one was even allowed to know about it," he said, amid the ongoing controversy over Union Home Mi-

nister Amit Shah's remarks on Dr. Ambedkar. The Congress had staged protests seeking Mr. Shah's resignation over the issue.

"Who thought of a visionary water-conservation plan? The truth was suppressed. The true servant was forgotten so that credit could go to one per-

son. I tell you that after the country got Independence, the credit for the farsightedness behind India's water management and construction of dams goes to Babasaheb Ambedkar," he said.

Mr. Modi said that the Congress governments of the past were "experts in making announcements" but did not have the "intention to implement the schemes".

He said the Ken-Betwa project would bring prosperity to the drought-prone Bundelkhand region. "The people of Bundelkhand struggled for every drop of water but the previous governments did not find any permanent solution to the water crisis."

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