



Bihar Floods Recognised as National Priority

Why in News?

Recently, The [Union Budget 2024](#) allocated Rs 11,500 crore for **harnessing and utilizing the waters of Kosi** - a river that is known to be highly unpredictable and prone to shifting its course.

- The **Kosi river is referred to as the "sorrow of Bihar"** due to the widespread destruction it causes across a large area in the northern part of the state after **flowing in from Nepal**.

Key Points

- According to the sources, **it was the first time the problem of floods in Bihar was recognized as a national priority**.
- The state received significant benefits despite not obtaining [special category status](#), including four expressways, a two-lane bridge over [the Ganga](#), a power plant, airports, and medical colleges.
- Additionally, the Budget announced an **industrial node in Gaya, sports infrastructure, and assistance for accessing funds** from multilateral institutions.
 - **Development plans for the Vishnupad and [Mahabodhi temple](#)** corridors in Gaya, as well as Rajgir and [Nalanda](#), were also highlighted.

Kosi River System



- The **Kosi is a trans-boundary river** which flows through **Tibet, Nepal and India.**
- It has its **source in Tibet** that includes the **world's highest upland**, it then **drains a large part of Nepal before emerging onto the Gangetic plains.**
- Its **three major tributaries, the Sun Kosi, Arun and Tamur** meet at one point just upstream of a 10 km gorge cut through the **Himalayan foothills.**
- The river crosses into **northern Bihar** where it branches into distributaries before joining the **Ganges near Kursela in Katihar district.**
- The Kosi carries **the maximum amount of silt and sand after the Brahmaputra in India.**
- It is also known as the **“Sorrow of Bihar”** as the annual floods affect about 21,000 sq. km. of fertile agricultural lands thereby disturbing the rural economy.

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