



Bihar Floods Recognised as National Priority | Bihar | 25 Jul 2024

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

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- 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.

Bihar Passes Bill to Prevent Paper Leaks | Bihar | 25 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The Bihar Assembly passed [Bihar Public Examinations \(PE\) \(Prevention of Unfair Means\) Bill, 2024](#) aimed to **curb the questions paper leaks and other malpractices in government recruitment examinations** in the State.

Key Points

- All crimes under this law will be **cognisable** and **non-bailable**.
- It defines various offences related to unfair means, such as paper leaks, the use of **fake websites**, and collusion with service providers.
- The Bill includes **provisions for imprisonment terms of three to five years** and a **fine of Rs. 10 lakh**.
- If a service provider, whether a government entity or a private agency, engages in malpractices, it will face a **fine of Rs. 1 crore and a four-year termination** of its services.

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

- This bill was passed by the **central government** which aimed at addressing the issue of malpractices in government recruitment **examinations. It came into effect on 21st June 2024**.
- **Key Features:**
 - It defines various offences related to unfair means, such as paper leaks, the use of **fake websites, and collusion with service providers**.
 - It prescribes strict penalties, including a **minimum jail term of 3-5 years and a fine up to Rs. 1 crore**.
 - It holds **service providers** engaged for exam conduct liable with fines up to Rs 1 crore and a 4-year ban on their involvement in public exams.
 - It empowers **police officers** not below the rank of **Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police** to investigate offences under the Act.
 - It will cover a wide range of central government recruitment exams, including those conducted by UPSC, SSC, RRBs, IBPS, and NTA.