



Bihar's Annual Flood Crisis | Bihar | 04 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Bihar faces devastating [floods](#) every year due to its unique geography and decades-old [flood](#) control methods.

Key Points

- **Flood-Prone Nature of Bihar**
 - Bihar is India's most flood-prone state, with **76% of North Bihar's** population affected.
 - The region is crisscrossed by both [snow-fed and rain-fed rivers](#), increasing flood risk.
 - Bihar is located below **Nepal**, with [Himalayan rivers](#) ([Kosi](#), [Gandak](#), [Bagmati](#)) flowing into the state.
 - These rivers carry high sediment loads due to loose Himalayan soil, leading to overflow during heavy rains.
- **Impact of Embankments:**
 - Embankments along rivers like **Kosi were built in the 1950s** to control flooding.
 - Embankments narrowed river channels, leading to sediment buildup and higher riverbeds, making the rivers more prone to overflow.
 - [Kosi](#), known as the "**sorrow of Bihar**," floods annually despite embankments.
- **Recent Flooding (2024):**
 - Heavy rainfall and Nepal's release of water from the **Kosi barrage** led to severe floods in **North Bihar**.
 - Embankments have breached in several districts, **affecting 11.84 lakh people**.
 - The **Birpur barrage** released **6.6 lakh cusecs of water**, the highest in six decades.
- **Economic and Social Impact:**
 - Flooding results in crop loss, livestock destruction, damage to infrastructure, and forced migration.
 - Bihar government spends **Rs 1,000 crore annually on flood relief and management**.
- **Proposed Solutions:**
 - **Structural:** Proposals for dams and additional barrages on Kosi and other rivers.
 - **Non-structural:** Enhancing flood warnings, improving reaction times, public awareness, and training to mitigate flood effects.



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