



Lost Nile Branch Key to Pyramid Construction

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, a study discovered an ancient Nile river branch that helped transport workers and materials to Egypt's pyramids, now buried under modern landscapes.

- Researchers employed technologies including **satellite imagery, high-resolution digital elevation data, and historical maps to trace** the path of the now-vanished **Ahramat Branch of Nile River**.

What are the Key Highlights of the Study?

- The revelation of the **Ahramat Branch**, a previously unknown **Nile channel** from **Lisht (village) to Giza (city)**, illuminates its crucial role in transporting workers and materials for pyramid construction, offering insight into their geographic and **logistical considerations**.
- The study shows that natural events such as [climate change](#), [tectonic shifts](#), and human activities, along with environmental factors like [desertification](#) and [changes in rainfall](#), have altered the Nile's landscape, and branches over time, impacting the region's ecology and water systems.

What are Key Facts About Egyptian Pyramids?

- The **pyramids of Egypt** are massive, ancient stone structures built as **tombs for pharaohs (ancient Egyptian rulers)** and important figures during the Old Kingdom (roughly 2700–2200 BCE) and Middle Kingdom periods (2050–1650 BCE).
- There are over 118 identified pyramids in Egypt, but the most famous are the three **pyramids at Giza**:
 - **Great Pyramid of Giza**: The oldest of the **Seven Wonders of the Ancient World** and the largest pyramid ever built. It was constructed for **Pharaoh Khufu (Cheops)**.
 - **Pyramid of Khafre (Chephren)**: This pyramid appears larger than the Great Pyramid due to its steeper angle and the **presence of the Sphinx**, a massive statue with a human head and a lion's body, located nearby.
 - **Pyramid of Menkaure (Mycerinus)**: The smallest of the three main pyramids at Giza, built for **Pharaoh Menkaure**.

Nile River

- The **Nile River originates** south of the equator in **Burundi, Africa**.
- Flowing northward through northeastern Africa, the Nile traverses Egypt and 10 other African countries, including **Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, and South Sudan**, before reaching its endpoint at the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Nile is formed by **three principal streams**, the **Blue Nile, Atbara** which flow from the highlands of Ethiopia, and the **White Nile** the headstreams of which flow into Lakes Victoria and Albert.

- Nile River, the **longest river in the world**, called the father of African rivers.



UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2020)

	River	Flows into
1.	Mekong	Andaman Sea
2.	Thames	Irish Sea
3.	Volga	Caspian Sea
4.	Zambezi	Indian Ocean

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Ans: (c)

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