Village in Bihar Refuses to Vote

Why in News?

For the past two elections, residents of **Khokhanaha village in Supaul's Kosi region** have boycotted the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and the 2020 Bihar Assembly polls in anger against all political parties over **lack of government initiative to mitigate their sorrows from** Kosi river.

- Due to this Khokhanaha village is also **refusing to vote in the 2024 elections.**

Key Points

- The Kosi River **caused significant damage to the village** a few years ago, and a year ago it isolated the village and four others from Supaul.
- These villages are now **located on an island between two streams of the Kosi.** Despite being only five kilometers away on the map, it takes an **entire day to travel to Supaul for basic necessities.**
- Residents of Khokhanaha and neighboring villages in the Kosi belt **feel neglected** by the government.
- They endure **recurring** floods, which **devastate their lives and livelihoods** without proper compensation or measures to control the river. Essential services like **electricity and healthcare are also lacking in these areas.**

The Kosi River

- 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, India** 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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