



26 JUNE 2025

Context: The Uttarakhand High Court has mandated an immediate cessation of illegal sand mining activities in the Kosi River located in Bazpur tehsil, following a public interest petition that brought to light significant ecological harm.



About Kosi River:

Origin

- The river is formed by the merging of the Sun Kosi, Arun Kosi, and Tamur Kosi streams, which originate in the Himalayan regions of Nepal and Tibet.
- **States it flows through:** It traverses through China (Tibet), Nepal, and India, predominantly flowing through Bihar in India.
- **Tributaries of Kosi:** The major tributaries include Sun Kosi, Tama Koshi (Tamba Koshi), Dudh Koshi, Indravati, Likhu, Arun, and Tamor.

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Key Features of Kosi River:

- **Length:** Approximately 450 miles (724 km).
- **Drainage area:** 74,500 square kilometers (11,070 square kilometers in India).
- It is referred to as the “Sorrow of Bihar” due to its frequent flooding and the shifting of its channels towards the west.
- The river is highly braided, lacking a permanent channel, which leads to significant debris deposition and increased flood risks.
- Flood control is managed by the Chatra Gorge dam, which serves the purposes of flood moderation, irrigation, hydropower generation, and fisheries.
- The valley of the river is conducive to maize cultivation, thanks to its fertile sandy soils.