

INTERESTING FACTS

- The Kosi alluvial fan, one of the largest in the world, is 180 km long and 150 km wide.
- The Kosi River is also known as 'Kaushiki' in Sanskrit.
- The Kosi River is known as Saptakoshi in Nepal, as it is formed by the merging of seven rivers.
- The Kosi River basin has some of the tallest mountain peaks, such as the Mount Everest, Khangchendzonga and Lhotse.
- The headwaters of Kosi River are older than the Himalayas.

DRIVERS OF RIVERSCAPE CHANGE

- Annual floods in the Kosi River cause substantial soil erosion and a huge amount of silt deposition.
- Extensive riverbed agriculture, extraction of riverine resources for fuelwood, and fishing along the Kosi River have degraded the habitat of key aquatic species.
- Hydropower projects and barrages built on the Kosi River alter and modify its natural flow regime.



VIBRANT GANGA



Kosi River

THE SORROW OF BIHAR



NMCG
National Mission for Clean Ganga
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resource,
River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation,
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GENERAL INFORMATION

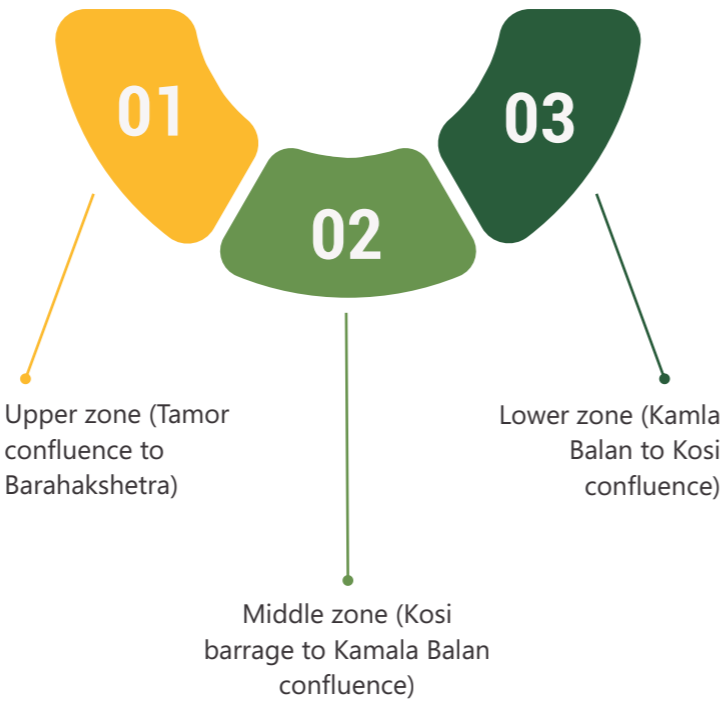
- Kosi is a transboundary river that flows through Tibet, Nepal and India. It drains the northern slopes of the Himalayas in Tibet and the southern slopes in Nepal.
- It is an antecedent river, which originates from the Tibetan Himalayas and cuts the Himalayan ranges before forming a mega-fan on the alluvial plain in the Gangetic Plains Biogeographic zone-7B.
- It debouches on the plains through a long deep gorge at Barahakshetra, and further downstream enters India through Birpur. It travels a total distance of about 720 km to join the Ganga River near Kursela in Bihar.
- The River drains an area of about 74,500 km² in Tibet, Nepal and India. In India, the River drains an area of 11,070 km². It is regarded as the most dynamic river system in the world.
- This River basin is surrounded by ridges that separate it from the Yarlung Tsangpo River in the north, the Gandaki in the west and the Mahananda in the east.
- The Baghmati, Kamla–Balan and Adhwara rivers are the major tributaries, which join the Kosi River on its right bank.



SALIENT FEATURES

- The Kosi River is one of the world's highest silt-carrying rivers. Morphologically, the Kosi River basin is a braided river system throughout its reach and transports around 43 MT/year suspended sediment load to downstream region.
- The River passes through highly erodible alluvium, changes its course frequently during bank full floods, and is known as the 'Sorrow of Bihar' due to catastrophic floods and damage to life.
- The climate of the Kosi River basin ranges from frigid in the north to tropical in the south.

Kosi River can be divided into three zones.



- The Kosi River basin has two forest types. Tropical moist deciduous covering the hills and Chhotanagpur plains and the tropical dry deciduous vegetation type occurring in the alluvial plain.
- 166 avifaunal species belonging to 45 families are reported from this river basin, of which 48.8% species are resident, 35.4% are winter visitors, and 15.8% species are resident migrants.
- Gharial and mugger were also recorded.
- A total of 12 species of turtles from the Kosi River have been recorded.
- Ten species of amphibians belonging to four families and nine genera have been documented from Kosi River.
- The presence of the Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) has also been confirmed from the Kosi River.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Reptiles
Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle

Avifauna
Greater adjutant

Mammals
Gangetic dolphin

KEY PROTECTED AREAS

- Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)
- Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (Nepal)
- Kusheshwar Asthan Bird Sanctuary (India)

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

Reptiles
Gharial
Red-crowned roofed turtle
Three-striped roofed turtle

Avifauna
Bengal florican

