



Sapta Kosi High Dam Project

For Prelims: India Nepal Relations, Sapta Kosi High Dam Project, Mahakali Treaty, India Nepal Border

For Mains: India-Nepal Relations and recent developments, Sapt Kosi High Dam Project, Mahakali Treaty

Why in News?

Recently, [India and Nepal](#) have agreed to take forward the **Sapta Kosi high dam project** through further studies.

- Senior officials of the two sides have **met and reviewed the bilateral water-sector cooperation**, including the implementation of the [Mahakali Treaty](#).

What is Sapta Kosi High Dam Project & Mahakali Treaty?

- **Sapta Kosi High Dam Project:**





- Sapta Kosi High Dam is a **multipurpose project** proposed to be **constructed on the Saptakoshi River of Nepal (Known as Kosi River in India)**.
- The project is primarily aimed to **control floods in south-east Nepal** and **northern Bihar** and to **generate hydropower**.
- The project will provide irrigation, control floods and generate 3,000 MW of electricity.



▪ **Mahakali Treaty:**

- **The Mahakali Treaty** was signed in 1996 over the integrated development of the **Mahakali River, including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar project.**
- Mahakali River is also known as **Sharda River or Kali Ganga in Uttarakhand.**
 - It joins **Ghagra river in Uttar Pradesh**, which is a tributary of [Ganga](#).

What do we know about the Kosi River System?

- 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.**

What are some other Recent Developments in India Nepal Relations?

- **Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT):**
 - A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between the **Government of Nepal** and **Sutlej Jal Vikas Nigam (SJVN) Limited** for the project in 2008 for execution

on a **Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT)** basis for a period of 30 years including five years of the construction period.

▪ **Hydropower Projects:**

- Nepal also **invited Indian companies to invest** in the [West Seti hydropower project](#) in Nepal.

▪ **Cross-border Rail Link:**

- The operationalisation of the **35 kilometers cross-border rail link from Jayanagar (Bihar) to Kurtha (Nepal)** will be further extended to Bijalpura (Nepal) and Bardibas (Nepal).

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2016)

Community sometimes mentioned in the news	In the affairs of
1. Kurd	Bangladesh
2. Madhesi	Nepal
3. Rohingya	Myanmar

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

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

Ans: (c)

Exp:

- **Kurd:** They are one of the indigenous peoples of the Mesopotamian plains and the highlands in what are now South-eastern Turkey, North-eastern Syria, northern Iraq, North-western Iran and South-western Armenia. They also adhere to a number of different religions and creeds, although the majority is Sunni Muslims. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Madhesi:** It is an ethnic group living mainly in the southern plains of Nepal, close to the border with India. Madhesis are predominantly Hindus with some Muslims and Christians. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Rohingya:** They are an ethnic group, largely comprising Muslims, who predominantly live in the Western Myanmar province of Rakhine. They speak a dialect of Bengali, as opposed to the commonly spoken Burmese language. According to Myanmar authorities, they are not the authorized citizens of the country. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

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