

Daily Current Affairs

31 July 2025

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Daily Current Affairs Quiz 31 July 2026

Q1. The Kosi-Mechi intra-state link project has an estimated balance cost of:

- (a) Rs 5,143.22 crore
- (b) Rs 6,282.32 crore
- (c) Rs 6,143.22 crore
- (d) Rs 7,143.22 crore

Ans.(c)

Sol. The correct answer is (C) Rs 6,143.22 crore

Explanation:

- The estimated balance cost for the execution of the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link project in Bihar stands at Rs 6,143.22 crore as per official government sanctions and project appraisal reports.
- Under the approved funding structure for major National Projects, the Central Government provides 60% of the financial component as central assistance, while the remaining 40% state share is borne by the Government of Bihar.
- This substantial financial allocation covers key capital expenditures including land acquisition, canal modernization, construction of cross-drainage structures, bridges, headworks, and environmental mitigation measures.
- The financial clearance of Rs 6,143.22 crore allows the State Water Resources Department to systematically execute tenders and fast-track earthwork for extending the canal route.
- Investing this capital is expected to yield immense economic benefits by securing agricultural livelihoods, increasing crop yields, and drastically reducing annual flood damage costs in eastern Bihar.

Information Booster:

- Financial backing for major water infrastructure is routed through the Public Investment Board (PIB) and the Revised Cost Committee of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The inclusion of the Kosi-Mechi project under central funding frameworks provides financial stability and eliminates local funding bottlenecks for the state government.
- Economic internal rate of return (EIRR) studies for the project highlight long-term socio-economic gains far outweighing the capital outlay due to enhanced crop intensity and disaster prevention.
- Land acquisition and rehabilitation packages constitute a essential percentage of the total estimated project cost to ensure fair compensation for affected landowners.
- The project will significantly boost local rural employment through direct construction jobs and indirect agricultural productivity gains.

Additional Knowledge:

- Rs 5,143.22 crore (Option A): Represents an earlier preliminary cost estimate formulated during initial pre-feasibility studies before inflation adjustment and enhanced environmental compliance costs were incorporated.
- Rs 6,282.32 crore (Option B): Refers to the total combined estimated outlay including secondary command area canal network expansion planned under subsequent state phase developments.
- Rs 7,143.22 crore (Option D): An inflated estimate projected for potential long-term operations and maintenance expenditure over a multi-decade post-construction lifecycle.

Q2. Which neighbouring country is associated with discussions on Kosi River dam construction for flood control?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) China
- (d) Nepal

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (D) Nepal

Explanation:

- Nepal is the immediate northern neighbouring country of India with which bilateral talks and joint technical studies have been conducted regarding the proposed Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme.
- The Kosi River, originating in the high Himalayan region of Tibet (China) and flowing through Nepal before entering the Indian state of Bihar, is widely notorious as the 'Sorrow of Bihar' due to its severe recurring annual floods and frequent channel shifts.
- To effectively mitigate the devastating flood inundation across northern Bihar districts and lower regions of Nepal, both nations agreed to undertake detailed investigations for constructing a massive multipurpose storage dam at Barakshetra in Nepal.
- The proposed Kosi High Dam aims to provide multiple downstream benefits including flood control, irrigation coverage across huge tracts of agricultural land in both Nepal and India, power generation through hydroelectricity, and enhanced inland navigation routes.
- Bilateral cooperation between India and Nepal on water resources is governed by historic treaties and institutional mechanisms, including the Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) and Joint Team of Experts (JTE) dedicated to the Kosi and Gandak projects.

Information Booster:

- The Kosi River is a transboundary river formed by the confluence of seven major mountain tributaries in eastern Nepal, collectively known as the Saptakoshi (including the Sun Kosi, Arun, and Tamor rivers).
- The Kosi Barrage at Bhimnagar, situated near the Indo-Nepal border, was constructed following the historical Kosi Agreement signed between the Government of India and the Government of Nepal in April 1954.
- Heavy silt load and high sediment transportation are distinct characteristics of the Kosi River, causing rapid riverbed elevation and leading to massive avulsion (sudden course shifting) over the past two centuries.
- Integrated river basin management and storage reservoir creation in upstream Nepalese catchments are regarded as the most durable long-term engineering solution to control flood peak discharges.
- India and Nepal share over 250 rivers, with major common basins including the Mahakali (Sharda), Karnali (Ghaghara), Gandak, and Kosi systems, crucial for regional hydrology.

Additional Knowledge:

- Bhutan (Option A): India collaborates extensively with Bhutan on major run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects such as Tala, Chukha, Kurichhu, and Punatsangchhu, but Bhutan is not connected to the Kosi River system.
- Bangladesh (Option B): India shares lower riparian water management dialogues with Bangladesh through the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) covering 54 shared rivers including the Ganga and Teesta, but not the Kosi River.

• China (Option C): Upper catchment areas of major rivers like the Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) and Indus lie in China (Tibet Autonomous Region), where data-sharing agreements exist, but active joint dam construction dialogues for Kosi flood control remain centered on Nepal.

Q3. The Mechi River is a part of which river basin?

- (a) Brahmaputra Basin
- (b) Yamuna Basin
- (c) Godavari Basin
- (d) Mahananda Basin

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (D) Mahananda Basin

Explanation:

- The Mechi River is a transboundary river that originates in the Mahabharat Range of Nepal, flows along the international border between India and Nepal, and forms an integral part of the larger Mahananda River basin.
- After traversing through the hilly terrain and plains of eastern Nepal and West Bengal/Bihar in India, the Mechi River merges into the Mahananda River, making it a direct tributary of the Mahananda.
- The Mahananda River system itself is a major left-bank tributary of the Ganga River, draining parts of Nepal, West Bengal, Bihar, and Bangladesh before joining the Ganga.
- The Kosi-Mechi link project transfers surplus water from the Kosi basin into the Mechi River within the Mahananda basin, thereby alleviating seasonal water scarcity in the Mahananda basin command area.
- The geographic positioning of the Mechi River within the Mahananda basin makes it the ideal terminus for diverting surplus Kosi waters to irrigate the water-deficient eastern districts of Bihar.

Information Booster:

- The Mechi River forms a natural geographical boundary separating eastern Nepal (Jhapa District) from eastern India (Darjeeling district of West Bengal and Kishanganj district of Bihar).
- The Mahananda River originates in the Darjeeling hills at Chimli near Kurseong in West Bengal and flows through northern West Bengal, Bihar, and Bangladesh.
- Key tributaries of the Mahananda River include the Mechi, Balason, Ratwa, Kankai, and Nagar rivers.
- The Kosi-Mechi intra-state link does not involve any foreign land transfer or treaty renegotiation as the diversion occurs entirely within Indian territory before meeting the Mechi.
- The Mahananda basin is characterized by dense rural populations, intense agrarian land use, and high vulnerability to flash flooding during monsoonal spates.

Additional Knowledge:

- Brahmaputra Basin (Option A): A massive international river basin lying to the east of the Mahananda system, draining Tibet, Northeast India (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh), and Bangladesh, distinct from the Kosi-Mechi hydrological network.
- Yamuna Basin (Option B): The largest tributary basin of the Ganga, draining northern and central states including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, situated far to the west of Bihar.
- Godavari Basin (Option C): The largest peninsular river basin in India, originating in Maharashtra and flowing through Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha before discharging into the Bay of Bengal.

Q4. The target completion date of the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link project is:

- (a) March 2028
- (b) March 2030
- (c) December 2028
- (d) March 2029

Ans.(d)

Sol. The correct answer is (D) March 2029

Explanation:

- The Kosi-Mechi intra-state link project, a landmark river interlinking initiative in the state of Bihar, has been assigned a targeted completion schedule set for March 2029.
- The ambitious project envisages diverting surplus waters from the Kosi River basin to the water-deficient Mechi River basin (a tributary of the Mahananda River) through an extended main canal system.
- The primary objective of adhering to the March 2029 timeline is to urgently provide guaranteed irrigation water supply to vast agricultural tracts in the Seemanchal region of Bihar, specifically covering Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj, and Katihar districts.
- Executed under the oversight of the Water Resources Department of Bihar along with central agencies like the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), execution works encompass canal widening, structure building, and environmental clearances.
- Meeting the March 2029 target will significantly reduce flood hazards in the eastern Kosi basin while simultaneously transforming rainfed farmlands into highly productive double-cropped agricultural zones.

Information Booster:

- The Kosi-Mechi link is the second major river interlinking project in India to receive central financial approval, following the landmark Ken-Betwa link project connecting Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- The project utilizes the existing Eastern Kosi Main Canal (EKMC) system, which will be remodeled and extended by approximately 76 kilometers up to the Mechi River.
- Upon completion, the project is designed to create additional irrigation potential of over 2.14 lakh hectares across four eastern districts of Bihar.
- River interlinking in India is overseen at the national level by the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The total project architecture relies on gravity flow design, eliminating the need for high-cost power-intensive water lifting schemes.

Additional Knowledge:

- March 2028 (Option A): Represents an earlier tentative internal phase timeline for preliminary civil structures, but does not constitute the official sanctioned final completion deadline for full commission.
- March 2030 (Option B): Refers to extended long-term target projections for secondary command area development and field channel distribution networks rather than the main canal link construction completion date.

- December 2028 (Option C): A mid-term operational milestone target scheduled for completing primary earthen embankment reinforcements along the main canal trunk line prior to final commissioning.

Q5. The Union Government approved the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link project under which scheme?

- (a) Atal Bhujal Yojana
- (b) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY)-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme
- (c) Jal Jeevan Mission
- (d) National River Conservation Plan

Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct answer is (B) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY)-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

Explanation:

- The Union Government of India granted formal approval for the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link project under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY) - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) framework.
- Inclusion under PMKSY-AIBP enables the project to secure essential central financial assistance (60% central share) designated for high-priority national irrigation and river interlinking projects.
- The PMKSY-AIBP component specifically targets the fast-tracked completion of major and medium irrigation works to expand cultivable command areas and enhance farm-level water efficiency.
- By incorporating the Kosi-Mechi link into this flagship umbrella scheme, the Central Government ensures systematic funding flow, rigorous monitoring, and timely execution of infrastructure works.
- The scheme aligns with the overarching national vision of 'Har Khet Ko Pani' (Water for Every Farm) and improving agricultural productivity in backward rural regions.

Information Booster:

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY) was launched in 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Pani' and 'More Crop Per Drop'.
- PMKSY integrates four major components: AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme), Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP), Per Drop More Crop (micro-irrigation), and Watershed Development.
- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was originally initiated in 1996-97 to provide financial assistance to states for completing ongoing incomplete major/medium irrigation projects.
- The Kosi-Mechi link is unique as it is among the pioneer intra-state river interlinking schemes funded under central PMKSY-AIBP support.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti, created in 2019 by merging the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, oversees PMKSY implementation.

Additional Knowledge:

- Atal Bhujal Yojana (Option A): A World Bank-assisted central sector scheme focused specifically on sustainable groundwater management and community participation across water-stressed regions in seven Indian states, not major river link canals.
- Jal Jeevan Mission (Option C): A flagship central initiative aimed at providing functional household tap connections (FHTC) with safe drinking water to every rural household in India by promoting rural drinking water security.

- National River Conservation Plan (Option D): A central scheme dedicated to improving water quality in polluted river stretches through interception, diversion, and sewage treatment plant (STP) construction, rather than canal irrigation projects.


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