



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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MAP OF THE DAY 19-03-26

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Kamaraj IAS Academy

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Thursday, 19 March 2026



Kopili River

- The **Prime Minister** recently virtually inaugurated the **120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project** in Assam.
- **Kopili River** is an **interstate river** in Northeast India flowing through **Meghalaya and Assam**.
- It is the **largest south-bank tributary** of the **Brahmaputra River** in Assam.
- The Kopili originates on the **Meghalaya Plateau** in the state of **Meghalaya**.
- The river flows through the **hill districts** and **Central Assam** before joining the Brahmaputra.
- In Assam, Kopili drains the districts of **Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, Kamrup, and Nagaon**.
- The total length of the river is approximately **290 kilometres (180 miles)**.
- Its **catchment area** covers about **16 420 square kilometres (6,340 square miles)**.
- The **Kopili Flow Irrigation Scheme (1975)** in **Kamrup district** irrigates around **1,300 hectares (3,200 acres)** of agricultural land.
- The project includes the **Khandong Dam, Umrongso Dam**, and their **reservoirs**.
- Kopili HEP has three power houses with a **total installed capacity of 275 MW**.
- The river is important for **regional irrigation, electricity generation, and biodiversity** in both states.
- Kopili is part of the **Brahmaputra River basin**, one of India's largest river systems.
- The **acid mine drainage** problem in Kopili has been cited in environmental impact reports on **coal mining in Meghalaya**.
- Kopili HEP is a major component of **North Eastern energy infrastructure**.

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Seven emirates of the UAE

Geography & Location:

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** occupies the **southeast corner of the Arabian Peninsula** and comprises **seven emirates**.
- The UAE shares land borders with **Oman** (East and South) and **Saudi Arabia** (South and West), while maritime boundaries touch **Qatar and Iran**.
- The nation has a **dual coastline**, with the **Persian Gulf** on the West/North and the **Gulf of Oman** on the East.

Emirate Profiles:

Abu Dhabi:

- **Capital of UAE** and the largest emirate, occupying **87% of total land area**.
- Composed of **Abu Dhabi City, Al Ain, and Al Dhafra**, integrating **urban hubs, agricultural zones,**

Sharjah:

- Home to the **Rub' al Khali (Empty Quarter)**, the **largest continuous sand desert in the world**.
- **Liwa Oasis** represents a historically significant agricultural and settlement area.
- **Al Ain Oasis**, recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage site**, preserves ancient **Falaj irrigation systems**.

Dubai:

- **Most populous emirate** and the **primary financial and commercial hub**.
- Situated on the **Persian Gulf coast**, with **Dubai Creek** dividing the city into **Deira (North)** and **Bur Dubai (South)**.
- Features **artificial islands** such as **Palm Jumeirah** and **The World**, reshaping its urban and coastal

Ras Al Khaimah (RAK):

- The only emirate with direct access to **both the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman**.
- Comprises three eastern enclaves: **Khor Fakkan, Kalba, and Dibba Al-Hisn**.
- Known for **mangrove conservation** and the **highest concentration of natural reserves** among the emirates.
- Northernmost emirate, bordering the **Omani exclave of Musandam**.
- **Jebel Jais**, the highest peak in UAE at **1,934 meters**, dominates the Hajar Mountains.
- Fertile mountain soil supports **diverse agriculture** due to higher **orographic rainfall**.

Fujairah:

- The only emirate entirely on

the Indian Ocean side.

- Dominated by the **Hajar Mountains**, leaving a narrow **coastal settlement strip**.
- Strategically bypasses the **Strait of Hormuz**, making its port crucial for **global energy transit**.

Ajman:

- **Smallest emirate** in terms of land, covering approximately **259 sq km**.
- A **coastal enclave** on the **Persian Gulf**, surrounded by Sharjah.
- Includes two **inland agricultural areas**, **Manama and Masfout**.

Umm Al Quwain:

- **Least populous emirate** among the seven.
- Known for **Al Sinniyah Island**, a major **Socotra cormorant nesting habitat** in its coastal lagoon.

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