



## Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project | Rajasthan | 01 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh governments inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)**.

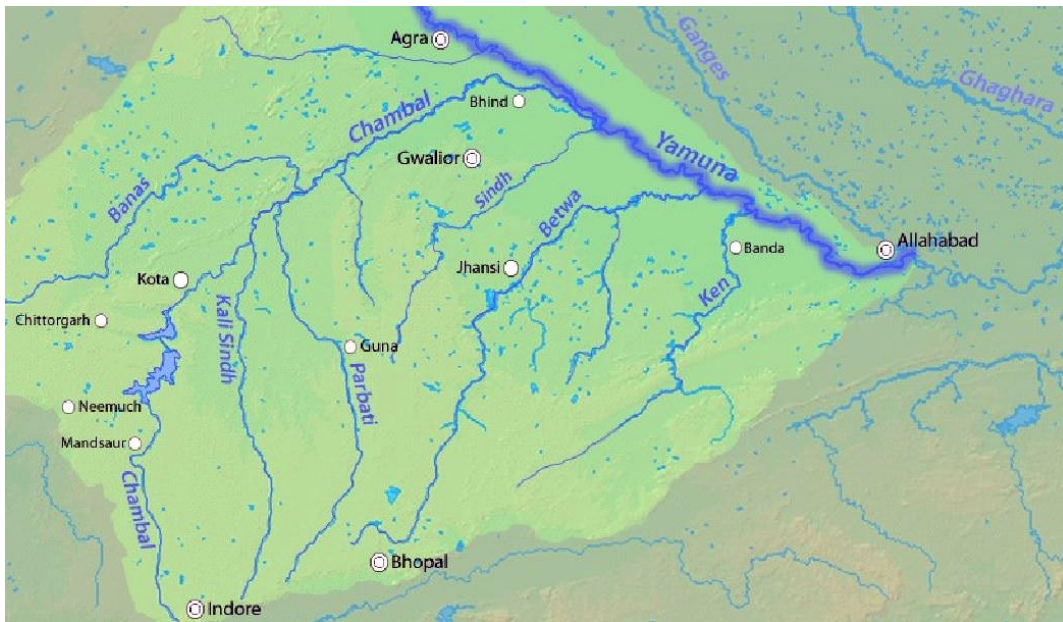
### Key Points

- MoU will pave the way for the availability of drinking water and irrigation in **13 districts** of Rajasthan and will also play a huge role in changing the economic conditions of the region.
- The Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP), an **ambitious drinking and irrigation water project**, was announced by the state government in the state budget 2017-18 as a permanent solution to the problem of drinking and irrigation water in 13 districts of eastern Rajasthan.
  - The districts included **Jhalawar, Baran, Kota Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tok, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dholpur**.
- ERCP aims to harvest surplus water available during rainy season in rivers in Southern Rajasthan such as **Chambal and its tributaries**, including **Kunnu, Parvati, Kalisindh**, and use this water in south-eastern districts of the state, where there is scarcity of water for drinking and irrigation.
  - ERCP is planned to meet drinking and industrial water needs of the southern and south eastern Rajasthan, for humans and Livestock till the year 2051.

### Chambal River

- **About:** It originates at the **Singar Chouri peak** in the northern slopes of the **Vindhya mountains** (Indore, Madhya Pradesh). From there, it flows in the North direction in Madhya Pradesh for a length of about 346 km and **then follows a north-easterly direction for a length of 225 km through Rajasthan**.
  - It **enters UP** and flows for about 32 km before joining the **Yamuna River** in Etawah District.
  - It is a rainfed river and its **basin is bounded by the Vindhyan mountain ranges and the Aravallis**. The Chambal and its tributaries drain the Malwa region of northwestern Madhya Pradesh.
  - The **Hadauti plateau in Rajasthan** occurs in the upper catchment of the Chambal River to the southeast of the Mewar Plains.
- **Tributaries:** Banas, Kali Sindh, Sipra, Parbati, etc.
- **Main Power Projects/ Dam:** Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam, and Kota Barrage.
- The **National Chambal Sanctuary** is located along river Chambal on the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It is known for critically endangered gharial, the red-crowned roof turtle, and the endangered Ganges river dolphin.

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## Madhya Pradesh Government to Introduce Strong Law to Prevent Exam Paper Leaks | Madhya Pradesh | 01 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

The **Madhya Pradesh government** would enact a **strong law to stop exam paper leaks**.

### Key Points

- A stringent law will be made to ensure that **no person, including the in charge of examination centres, involved in such malpractices, can escape**.
  - No one will be able to make question papers available to students.
- If there is any issue in the government system, it will also come under the purview of this law. **Such acts will come under the ambit of criminal activity.**
- With this law, the MP School Education Department will ensure that students appear for exams in a **"tension-free" atmosphere**.

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## Super Speciality Hospital in Rewa & Parbati-KaliSindh-Chambal Link Project | Madhya Pradesh | 01 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, **Madhya Pradesh government has approved Rs 164 crores** for the expansion of a **super specialty hospital in Rewa**.

## Key Points

- This decision will **benefit** the people of **Rewa and Shahdol divisions** as it is the **largest super specialty hospital in those divisions**.
- The council of ministers also took an important decision about [the startup policy in the state](#).
  - All the startup people who want to participate in **national or international competitions** will be given a **reimbursement of Rs 50,000 by the state government** for participating in national competitions and **Rs 1.50 lakh for participating in international competitions**.
  - The amount will be given **once in a financial year and up to twice in the entire tenure for a startup**.
- The [Parbati-KaliSindh-Chambal Link Project](#) pending for almost two decades, would now be implemented with the initiative of the PM.
  - This would benefit **12 districts of Malwa and Chambal region** in the state and **13 districts of eastern Rajasthan**.
  - The **availability of drinking water** will increase in these areas and water will also be available for irrigation and industrial use.
  - The **project worth Rs 75000 crore** and the **state would invest only 10%, the rest 90% of the amount would be provided by the central government**.

## Parbati-KaliSindh-Chambal Link Project

- It **aims to harvest surplus water** available during rainy season in **rivers in Southern Rajasthan** such as **Chambal** and its tributaries, including Kunnu, Parvati, Kalisindh, and use this **water in south-eastern districts of the state**, where there is scarcity of water for drinking and irrigation.
- It is planned to meet **drinking and industrial water needs** of the southern and south eastern Rajasthan, for humans and Livestock till the year 2051.
- It **proposes to provide drinking water to 13 districts of Rajasthan** and provide irrigation water for 2.8 lakh hectares of land through 26 different large and medium projects.
  - **13 Districts:** Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa and Dholpur.

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## Champai Soren New CM of Jharkhand | Jharkhand | 01 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)** Legislature Party **elected Transport Minister Champai Soren as new leader** after **Hemant Soren resigned** as Chief Minister.

### Key Points

- The [Enforcement Directorate](#) arrested **Hemant Soren** in a land scam case soon after he **resigned as Jharkhand Chief Minister**.
  - The resignation came after the ED officials questioned the CM for more than seven hours at his official residence in Ranchi.
  - **Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan** has **accepted the resignation**.

- Senior Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader and Transport Minister **Champai Soren was elected leader of the Legislature Party.**
- Champai Soren is a five-time **MLA from Seraikela.** In the 1990s, he actively took part in the **movement for the creation of a separate State of Jharkhand** along with JMM patron **Shibu Soren.**

## Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

- The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a **multi-disciplinary organization** mandated with **investigation of offences of [money laundering](#) and violations of foreign exchange laws.**
- It functions under the **Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.**
- As a premier financial investigation agency of the Government of India, the Enforcement Directorate functions **in strict compliance with the Constitution and Laws of India.**

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## Uttarakhand: Home to 2nd Largest Snow Leopard Population | Uttarakhand | 01 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

According to the **Snow Leopards Population Assessment in India (SPAI)**, Uttarakhand has documented a notable population of **124 [snow leopards](#)**, securing the **second position after Ladakh, which boasts 477.**

### Key Points

- The recently released report, titled '**Status of Snow Leopard in India**', represents the **first-ever scientific effort estimating** the presence of **718 snow leopards in [the Indian Himalayan territories.](#)**
- A team at the **[Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#)**, conducted a comprehensive scientific assessment, highlighting **[Gangotri National Park](#)** as a pivotal area for conservation.
- According to authorities, **[Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve](#)** has also emerged as a promising habitat for snow leopards.
- **The survey spanned six snow leopard range states** with Himachal Pradesh leading with 51 elusive cats, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (9), resulting in a total of 718 across these states.

# Snow Leopard

*Panthera Uncia*

Often referred to as the "ghost of the mountains"

## HABITAT

- Mountainous regions of **Central and Southern Asia**
- **12** Range Countries
- In India:
  - **Western Himalayas:** Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh
  - **Eastern Himalayas:** Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh

## MAJOR SITES

- Hemis National Park, Ladakh
  - **Snow leopard capital of the world**
- Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh
- Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand
- Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim

## PROTECTION STATUS

- **Vulnerable:** IUCN Red List
- **Appendix I:** CITES
- **Schedule I:** Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972

## THREATS

- Human Snow Leopard Conflict
- Climate Change
- Loss of Prey and Habitat
- Poaching

## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

- Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme
- Himal Sanrakshak- Community Volunteer Programme
- Project Snow Leopard
- Snow Leopard Conservation Breeding Programme- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, West Bengal



## Gangotri National Park

- It was **established in 1989** and is situated in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand in the upper catchment of **Bhagirathi River**.
- **Gaumukh at Gangotri glacier**, the origin of river Ganga, is located inside the park.
- The park area forms a viable continuity between **Govind National Park and Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Flora:** The park is enveloped by dense coniferous forests that are mostly temperate. Chirpine, deodar, fir, spruce, oak and rhododendron are the common vegetation.
- **Fauna:** Various rare and endangered species like **bharal or blue sheep, black bear, brown bear, himalayan monal, himalayan snowcock, himalayan tahr, musk deer and snow leopard** are found in the park.

## The Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

- It was **established in 1988** and was **declared a [UNESCO World Heritage site](#) 1988**. The reserve is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including several endangered species such as the **snow leopard, Asiatic black bear, Himalayan musk deer, and blue sheep**.
- The reserve is also known for its rich cultural heritage and is home to several indigenous communities such as the **Bhotiyas and the Joharis**. These communities have been living in the area for centuries and have developed a unique way of life that is closely tied to the natural environment.

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## Uttarakhand First Woman Chief Secretary | Uttarakhand | 01 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Senior [Indian Administrative Service \(IAS\)](#) officer **Radha Raturi** was appointed as the **first woman chief secretary of Uttarakhand**.

### Key Points

- Raturi, an IAS officer of the **1988 batch, replaced Sukhbir Singh Sandhu**. She is the first woman to hold the top administrative post in Uttarakhand.
- She has worked as a bureaucrat both in undivided Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which came into existence in November 2000.

