



# Illegal Sand Mining

## Why in News?

Recently, a police officer was hit by a tractor transporting **illegally mined sand in Madhya Pradesh**.

## Key Points

- The **illegal sand mining** is rampant in Madhya Pradesh, with hundreds of dumpers transporting sand from the banks of the **Son river**.
- Sand mining is the **removal of primary natural sand and sand resources** (mineral sands and aggregates) from the natural environment (terrestrial, riverine, coastal, or marine) for extracting valuable minerals, metals, crushed stone, sand and gravel for subsequent processing.
- This activity, driven by various factors, poses serious **threats to ecosystems and communities**.

## Son River

- The Son River, a **perennial river in central India, is the [Ganges'](#) 2nd-largest southern tributary**.
- Originating near **Amarkantak Hill in Chhattisgarh**, it flows through Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, forming waterfalls at the Amarkantak plateau.
  - It merges with the Ganges near Patna, Bihar.
- Tributaries include Ghaghar, Johilla, Chhoti Mahanadi, Banas, Gopad, Rihand, Kanhar, and North Koel River.
- Prominent dams include the **Bansagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh** and the **Rihand Dam** near Pipri in Uttar Pradesh.

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