



Chite Lui River

Why in News?

The **Chite Lui River in Mizoram** holds significant cultural and sentimental value for the people of the hilly northeastern state.

- However, the river is facing [pollution](#) and degradation due to [unplanned urbanisation](#), encroachments, and businesses located near its banks.

What are the Key Aspects Concerning the Chite Lui River?

▪ About:

- The Chite Lui River is **situated in an alluvial valley at an altitude of around 1,000 metres**, the river originates from the **Bawngkawn range in north Aizawl and flows for approximately 20 km before joining the River Tuirial**.

▪ Main Threats and Challenges facing Chite Lui River:

- **Urbanisation:** The **rapid growth of Aizawl city** has led to unplanned construction activities on the banks and even on the river bed of Chite Lui River.
 - Many houses, shops, garages, eateries and other establishments have encroached upon the river's space and reduced its width and depth.
 - The river also suffers from loss of natural vegetation and soil erosion due to deforestation and land use change.
- **Pollution:** The river has become a **dumping ground for various kinds of waste generated by the urban population**.
 - The **pollution affects the aquatic life, [biodiversity](#) and health of the river and its users**.

▪ Initiatives to Save Chite Lui:

- **Zoram Research Foundation:** This is a non-profit organisation that works for traditional water management in Mizoram.
 - It started an initiative to save the **Chite Lui River in 2007** by conducting surveys, awareness campaigns, clean-up drives and advocacy programs.
 - It also formed a **Save Chite Lui Coordination Committee** composed of local leaders, activists, experts and volunteers to coordinate the efforts.
- **Chite Lui (Prevention and Control of Water Pollution) Act, 2018:** This is a legislation passed by the **Mizoram government in 2018** to prohibit the dumping of animal carcasses, bio-medical waste or any garbage into the river.
 - The act also **empowers the state pollution control board to monitor and regulate the activities** affecting the river's quality and quantity.
- **River Restoration Project:** This is a project initiated by the Mizoram government to **revive Chite Lui River by removing encroachments, restoring natural vegetation, constructing check dams**, improving drainage and sewerage systems, and creating recreational facilities along the river.

Note:

- The largest river in **Mizoram is Chhimtuipui**, (138.46 km in length). It originates in **Myanmar Burma**. The river is in patches and has four tributaries.

- Some important and constructive rivers of Mizoram are the **Tlawng, Tuirial and Tuivawl** which course through the northern territory and ultimately join the **Barak River in Assam**.



Source: DTE

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