



PM Inaugurates Projects in Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 18 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 24 projects** worth over Rs 46,300 crore **in Rajasthan**.

- Projects span **sectors like [energy](#), [roads](#), [railways](#), and [water resources](#).**

Key Points

▪ **Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Project:**

- It is an inter-state river linking initiative designed to **divert surplus water** from the **Parbati, Newaj, and Kalisindh rivers** to the **Chambal River** in Madhya Pradesh to the **Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)** in Rajasthan.
- This integration aims to address issues like **water sharing, cost-benefit distribution, and water exchange** between the concerned states.
- The project aims to provide irrigation and drinking water to **21 districts in Rajasthan**.
- Expected to boost development in both Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Rivers Involved in the Project:**
 - **Chambal River:**
 - **Origin:** Singar Chouri Peak, Vindhya Mountains, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
 - **Major Tributaries:** Banas, Kali Sindh, Sipra, Parbati.
 - **Parvati River:**
 - **Origin:** Vindhya Range, Sehore District, Madhya Pradesh.
 - **Significant Tributaries:** None.
 - **Kali Sindh River:**
 - **Origin:** Bagli, Dewas District, Madhya Pradesh.
 - **Major Tributaries:** Parwan, Newaj, Ahu.

▪ **Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP):**

- The state government **approved and expanded the ERCP** to address water issues.
- 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.

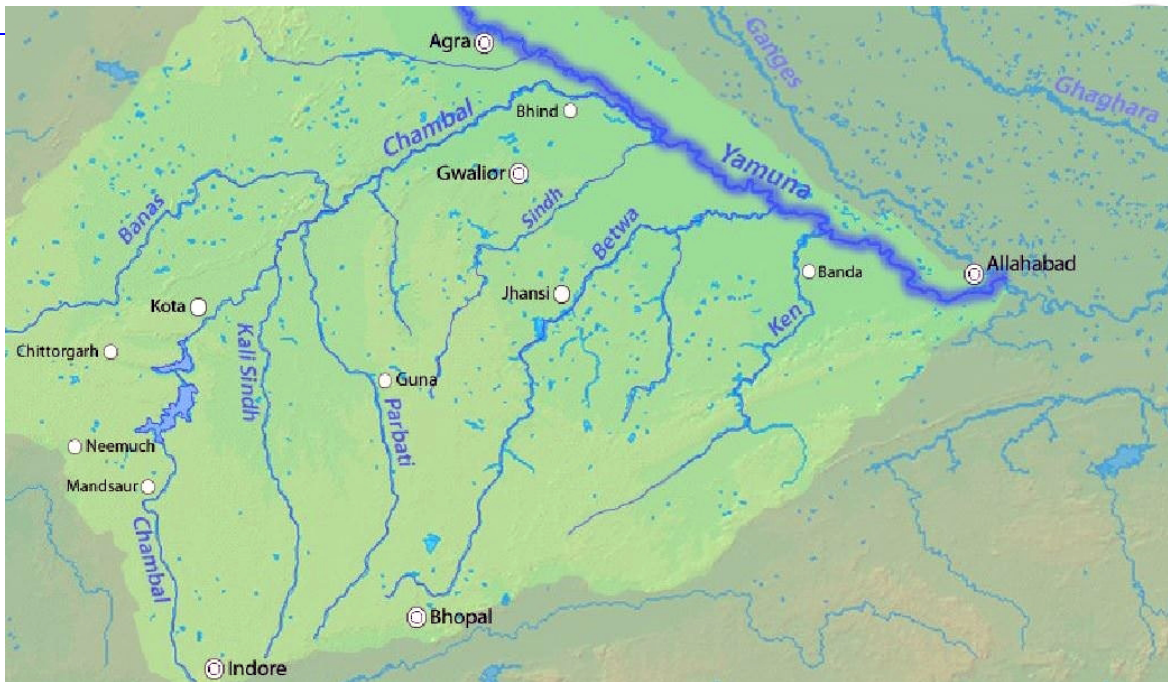
Chambal River

▪ **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](#).



Rajasthan CM's Welfare Initiatives at Kisan Sammelan | Rajasthan | 18 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The **Chief Minister of Rajasthan** transferred Rs 700 crore as the **second installment of the [Kisan Samman Nidhi](#)** to the bank accounts of over 70 lakh farmers and credited Rs 200 crore to 3.25 lakh cattle breeders as assistance of Rs 5 per litre of milk.

Key Points

- **Direct Benefit Transfers to Farmers:**

- Under the **Direct Benefit Transfers** Rs 29 crore transferred to 15,983 farmers for **drip and sprinkler irrigation equipment**.
 - Rs 96 crore disbursed to 14,200 farmers for activities like fencing, laying pipelines, farm pond construction, organic manure, and agricultural equipment.
 - Rs 80 crore allocated for the installation of 8,000 **solar pumps**.
- **Recognition of Progressive Farmers:**
 - The Chief Minister honoured 10 innovative farmers under the Centrally sponsored **ATMA Yojana**.
- **Investment in Agriculture:**
 - 2,500 MoUs signed for Rs 58,000 crore investment in agriculture during the **Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit** held in Jaipur.
- **Key Decisions for Farmer Welfare:**
 - Distribution of short-term crop loans worth Rs 20,000 crore to 30 lakh farmers.
 - Issuance of eight lakh soil health cards.
 - Installation of 26,000 solar plants.
 - Allotment of land for food parks at 31 locations.
 - Procurement of wheat, moong, groundnut, and mustard at **minimum support prices (MSP)**.
- **Launch of New Schemes:**
 - Introduced a **livestock insurance scheme**.
 - Announced a **camel conservation** and development mission.
 - Initiated the **installation of cow dung log machines** in 100 gaushalas.
 - Launched 1,000 new milk collection centres and installed 200 new bulk milk coolers.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- **About:**
 - It was **launched on 24th February, 2019** to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers.
- **Financial Benefits:**
 - Financial benefit of **Rs 6000/- per year in three equal installments, every four months** is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode**.
- **Scope of the Scheme:**
 - The scheme was initially meant for **Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) having landholding upto 2 hectares** but scope of the scheme was **extended to cover all landholding farmers**.
- **Funding and Implementation:**
 - It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Government of India.
 - It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- **Objectives:**
 - To supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers in procuring various inputs to **ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income** at the end of each crop cycle.
 - To protect them from falling in the clutches of moneylenders for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.

Little Bunting Bird | Rajasthan | 18 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **birdwatchers spotted a [little bunting](#) in [Mount Abu](#)**, marking its first recorded appearance in Rajasthan.



Key Points

▪ Little Bunting Description and Habitat:

◦ About:

- Little bunting is a **small passerine bird** belonging to the bunting and sparrow family.
- Its breeding range spans the **[taiga](#) of far northeast Europe and northern Asia**.
- The bird **migrates to southern China and northeast India during winter** and typically inhabits agricultural areas, feeding on grains.

◦ Features:

- This is a **small bunting**, measuring only 12-14 cm (4.7-5.5 inch) in length.
- It has **white underparts** with **dark streaking** on the **breast and sides**.
- With its chestnut face and white malar stripe, it resembles a small female reed bunting, but has black crown stripes, a white eye-ring, and a fine dark border to the rear of its chestnut cheeks.

◦ [IUCN Red List](#): Least Concern

▪ Possible Role of Climate Change:

- Experts suggest **[climate change](#)** might have pushed the bird to Rajasthan, as it tends to avoid extremely cold conditions.

▪ Sightings in Northern India:

- Little buntings have **recently been spotted in regions like Gurugram, Chandigarh, and northern Punjab**.
- These birds are typically seen in the subtropics of northern India, southern China, and northern Southeast Asia.

▪ Significance for Conservation:

- The sighting emphasizes the importance of **preserving forest areas and [wetlands](#)** to support such migratory species.

