



Rajasthan's River-Link Project

Why in News?

The proposed **river-linking project** in Rajasthan, which aims to address the state's growing [water scarcity](#), has sparked significant debate over its potential environmental impact.

- The **canal project** is expected to **channel surplus water of the Chambal river basin** for **irrigation, drinking and industrial** use to **23 districts of Rajasthan**, benefitting **3.45 crore** people.

Key Points

- This river linking project is mounting over the possible submergence of approximately **37 square kilometers** within the [Ranthambore Tiger Reserve](#).
- The submergence will be caused by the largest dam proposed under the [Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal-Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project \(PKC-ERC\)](#), which is part of the ambitious [Interlinking of Rivers \(ILR\) program](#).
 - The **PKC-ERC** project in Rajasthan involves a total submergence area of **408.86 sq km**. Of this, **227 sq km** will be submerged under the reservoir of a proposed dam across the **Banas River, a Chambal tributary**.
 - The dam, planned to be **39 meters high** and **1.6 km long**, will be located near Doongri village, about 30 km from **Sawai Madhopur**.
 - The project details show, **37.03 sq km** belong to **Ranthambore National Park (392 sq km)** and [Keladevi Wildlife Sanctuary \(674 sq km\)](#), both part of the **Ranthambore tiger reserve (1,113 sq km)**, currently home to **57 tigers**.
 - Ranthambore is the **third tiger reserve** facing loss of land to upcoming reservoirs.
- The environmental cost of the project has become a contentious issue. Conservationists warn that submerging parts of the **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve** could threaten the biodiversity of one of India's most celebrated wildlife sanctuaries.
 - Ranthambore, home to a stable population of **tigers** and other species, plays a crucial role in the nation's conservation efforts.

Note:

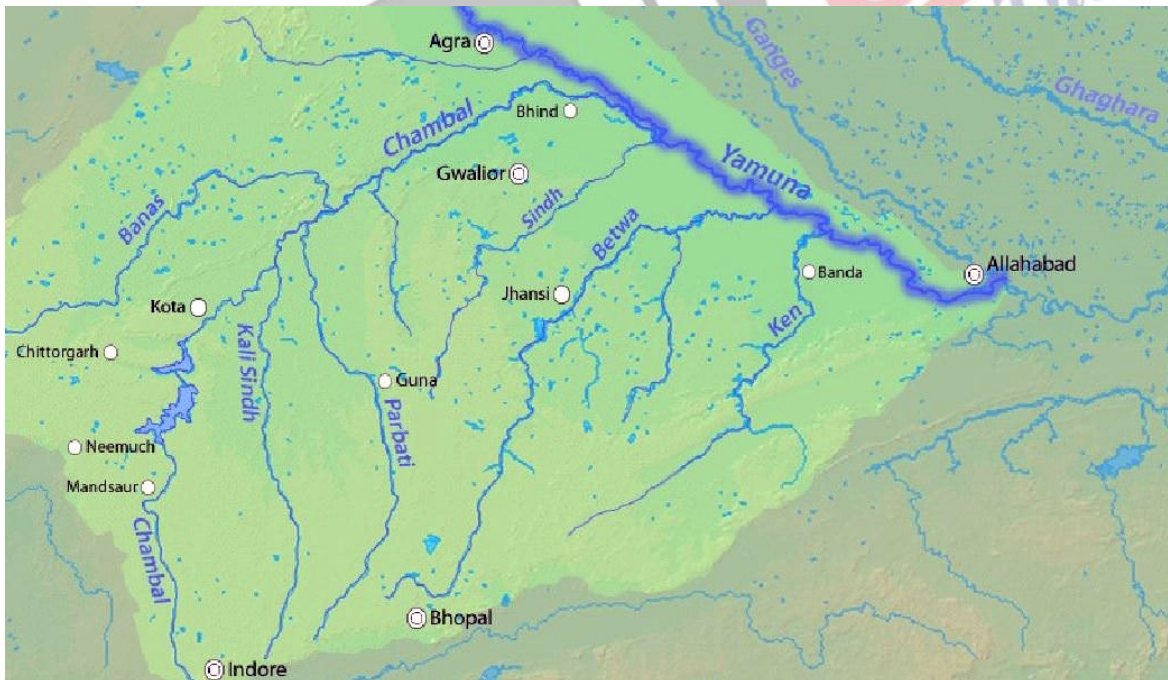
- **Other projects that are facing land loss include:**
 - The **North Koel Reservoir Project** will submerge 10.07 sq km of [Palamu tiger reserve](#) in Jharkhand, the [Ken-Betwa river link project](#) is expected to drown **41.41 sq km** of [Panna tiger reserve](#) in **Madhya Pradesh**.

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WHAT THE PROJECT ENTAILS



Chambal River



- Chambal River 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 Uttar Pradesh 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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