

INTERESTING FACTS

- According to folklore the infamous game of dice between the Kauravas and Pandavas was played on the banks of the Chambal River. An enraged Draupadi, on finding she had been wagered and lost over a roll of dice, cursed the river for being a mute witness to her humiliation.
- The Chambal River is mentioned as "Charmanwati" in the Mahabharata in a reference to cattle skins being dried on its banks.
- Despite its "cursed" distinction in Indian mythology and the erstwhile fear of dacoits, the Chambal still remains one of the cleanest rivers in India, unlike the severely polluted "holy" rivers of the country.
- The Chambal ravines' labyrinthine maze of deep gullies formed by accelerated erosion, were a natural ally to those seeking to hide or shelter in their folds.

DRIVERS OF RIVERSCAPE CHANGE

- Riparian agriculture and associated activities substantially contributes to the loss of gharial and mugger habitat.
- The awaited relocation of villagers from the sanctuary has resulted in population load, causing the unsustainable resource extraction.
- Illegal riverbed mining is another issue in the Chambal basin that alters or blocks the river channel. Sand mining also disturbs the basking and nesting sites of gharials and other species.
- Fishing using gill nets is a severe threat to the aquatic fauna in the Chambal River.
- Rapid urbanization with increased tourist influx has led to the issue of solid and liquid waste being dumped into the river and its tributaries.
- The hydrology of the Chambal River has been affected by four upstream storage dams viz., Gandhi Sagar, Rana Pratap Sagar, Jawahar Sagar and the Kota Barrage. These impoundments have altered the aquatic habitat of the Chambal River.

VIBRANT GANGA



Chambal River

A HAVEN FOR WILDLIFE



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GENERAL INFORMATION

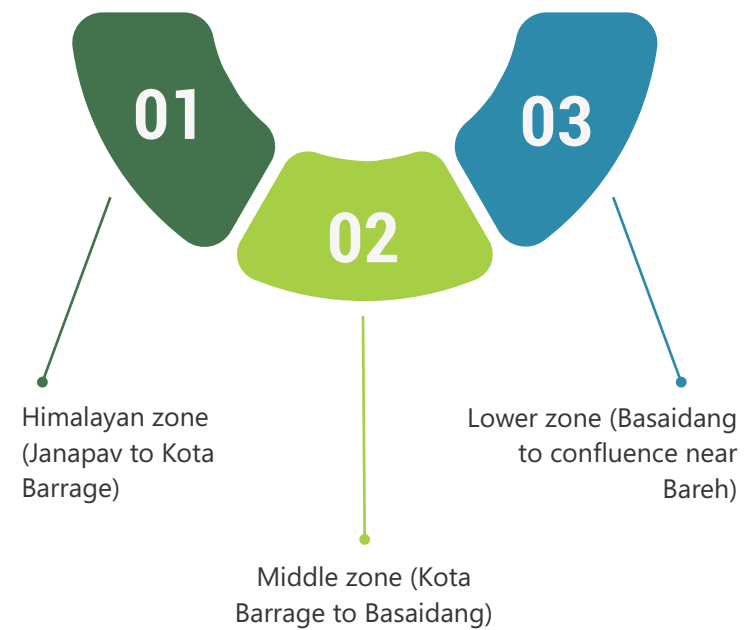
- Chambal, the largest tributary of the Yamuna, flows through the three largest states of India, viz. Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- It originates in the Vindhyan range near Indore district of Madhya Pradesh, at an elevation of 840 m asl and joins the Yamuna River near Bareh in Uttar Pradesh.
- The length of Chambal River is 960 km. It initially flows northward in Madhya Pradesh for a distance of around 346 km and subsequently flows northeastward in Rajasthan for a distance of 225 km. It enters Uttar Pradesh and travels for 32 km prior to meeting the Yamuna River in Etawah district, U.P.
- The Chambal River drains an area of 1,43,219 km², out of which 76,854 km² lies in Madhya Pradesh, 65,264 km² in Rajasthan and 1,101 km² in Uttar Pradesh.
- Main tributaries of Chambal River are Siwana, Retam, Shipra, Choti Kalisindh, Ansar, Parvati, and Kuno in Madhya Pradesh and Parwan, Banas and Gambhir in Rajasthan.



SALIENT FEATURES

- The Chambal is the most significant river of the Malwa flat terrain. The river basin is a portion of the ditches, floodplain, and gorges.
- Badlands topography is a characteristic feature of the Chambal valley, whereas Kankar has extensively developed in the older alluvium.
- The flora comprises of thorn jungle, a subcategory of the Northern Tropical Forests. This sub-category usually grows in less barren regions with 600–700 mm precipitation. A few patches of Saline/Alkaline Babul Savannah (5E/8b), grow in this area.

Chambal River can be divided into three zones, viz.



- The Chambal River is regarded pollution free, and is home to a remarkable variety of riverine fauna, including the Gangetic dolphin, gharial and smooth-coated otter.
- The river harbours one of the last and largest strongholds of wild gharial and red-crowned roofed turtle populations.
- The Chambal River is home to 9 species of freshwater turtles and 1 species of tortoise, making it one of the most diverse regions in terms of testudine diversity.
- 148 fish species comprising of 33 families and 308 bird species comprising of 64 families have their distribution in Chambal River basin.
- A large stretch of the river is protected as National Chambal Sanctuary, the first riverine protected area of the country declared in 1975.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Reptiles

Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle

Avifauna

Indian skimmer
Black-bellied tern

Mammals

Gangetic dolphin

KEY PROTECTED AREA

National Chambal Sanctuary
Keoladeo National Park

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

Reptiles

Gharial
Red-crowned roofed turtle

