

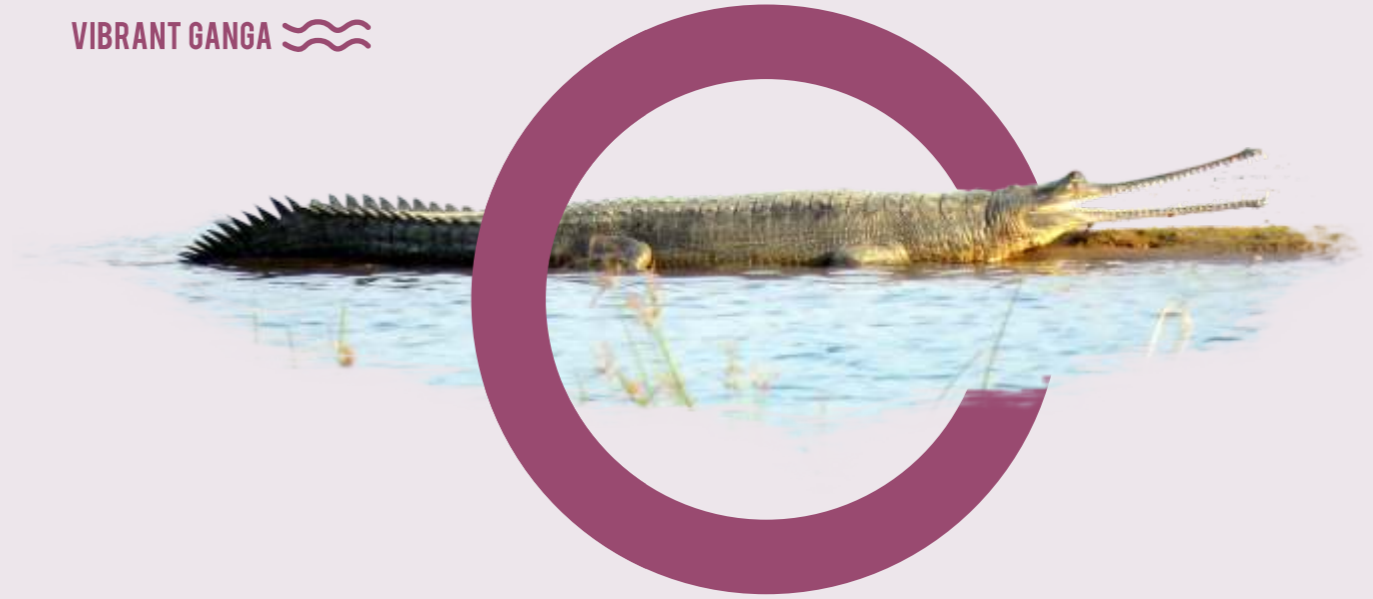
INTERESTING FACTS

- Son River is called "*Hiranyavaha*" because of its golden coloured sand. It was believed that the River carried gold dust in its flow.
- The upper stretch of the Son River passes through the tiger landscape of Central India.
- Son Gharial Sanctuary was established in 1981 under Project Crocodile for conservation and restoration of gharial and mugger population.
- Irrigation canals on the Son River have transformed the districts of Bihar viz., Aurangabad, Jehanabad, Patna and Buxar among others, into a "Grain Bowl".

DRIVERS OF RIVERSCAPE CHANGE

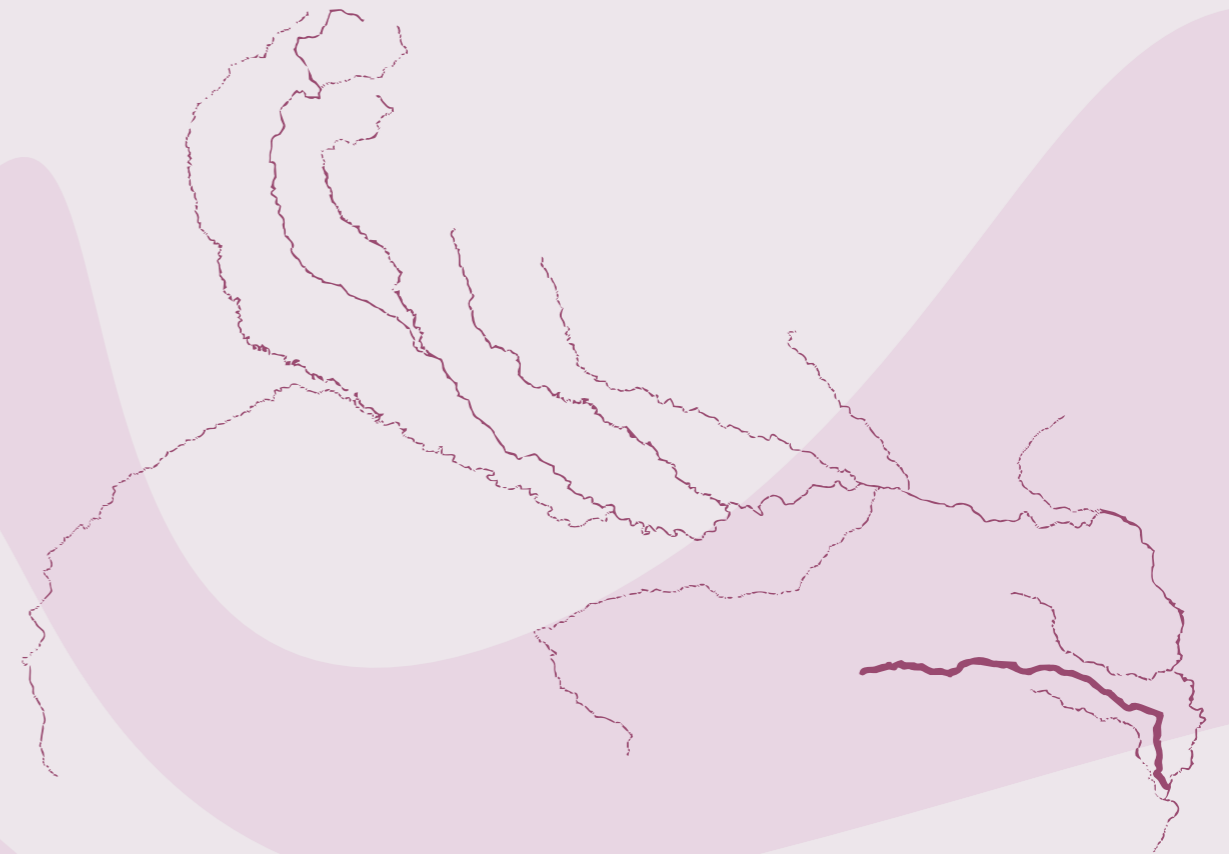
- In the upper zone, sewage through several drains such as Ghattan nalla, Nargadha nalla, Tanki nalla, Gaibudh nalla and Baigha nalla are deteriorating the water quality of the Son River.
- Extensive water abstractions from the Bansagar Dam and Indrapuri Barrage are causing significant depletion in the river discharge. They act as longitudinal barriers, causing habitat fragmentation and degradation.
- Riverbed mining is another major issue affecting habitat quality in the middle and lower stretch of the Son River in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

VIBRANT GANGA

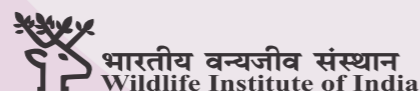


Son River

THE STREAM OF GOLD



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National Mission for Clean Ganga
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resource,
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GENERAL INFORMATION

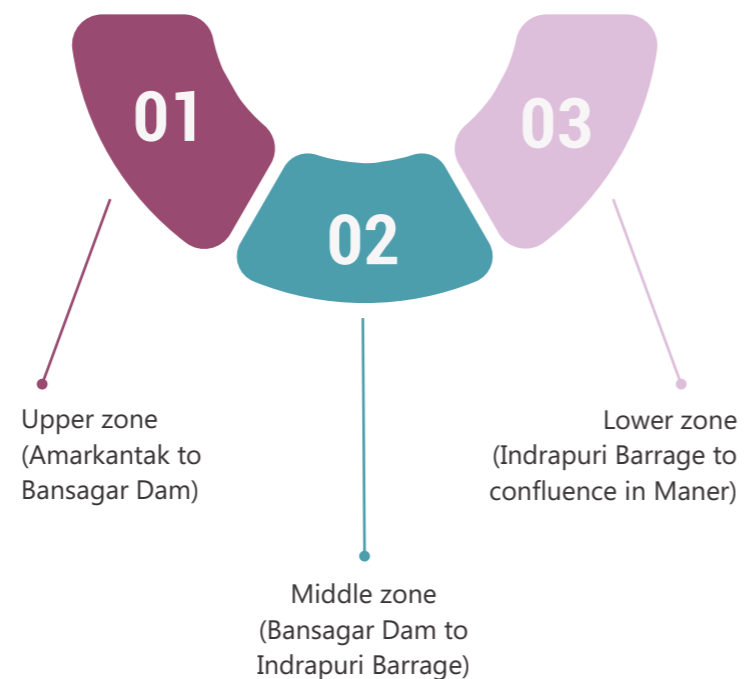
- Son River is a perennial river that originates in the Amarkantak hills of the Maikal Range in Madhya Pradesh, at an elevation of 600 m asl.
- The River's total length is 784 km, of which around 500 km flows in Madhya Pradesh, 82 km in Uttar Pradesh, and 202 km in Jharkhand and Bihar.
- The River flows in a north-northwest direction till Bansagar reservoir, after which it changes its course sharply eastwards, flowing parallel to Kaimur Range, and joins Ganga River 30 km upstream of Patna in Bihar.
- Major tributaries of the Son River are Banas, Gopad, Rihand, Kanhar and North Koel.



SALIENT FEATURES

- Son River flows through the Deccan Peninsula and Gangetic Plains biogeographic zones.
- Son Gharial Sanctuary, a 160 km stretch of the River, is protected under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve the critically endangered gharial.
- Son River supports seven species of turtles, two species of crocodylians, and 82 species of water and water associated birds including four species of island nesting birds; 109 species of fish have been reported from the River.

Son River can be divided into three zones, viz.



- Son River supports populations of gharial and mugger — key indicator species.
- Seven species of turtles viz., Red-crowned roofed turtle (*Batagur kachuga*), three-striped roofed turtle (*Batagur dhongoka*), crowned river turtle (*Hardella thurjii*), Indian tent turtle (*Pangshura tentoria*), Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle (*Chitra indica*), Ganges softshell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*), and Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*) have been reported from the River.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Avifauna

Indian skimmer
Black-bellied tern
Pallas's fish-eagle

Reptiles

Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

Reptiles

Gharial
Red-crowned roofed turtle
Three-striped roofed turtle

KEY PROTECTED AREAS

- Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary
- Son Gharial Sanctuary
- Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh)
- Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (Bihar)

