



Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project

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Why in News

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has **demande**d the national project status for the **Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)**.

- The main advantage of a project which has received national project status is that **90% of the funding for the project will be given by the central government**.
- The estimated cost of the ERCP is around Rs. 40,000 crore.

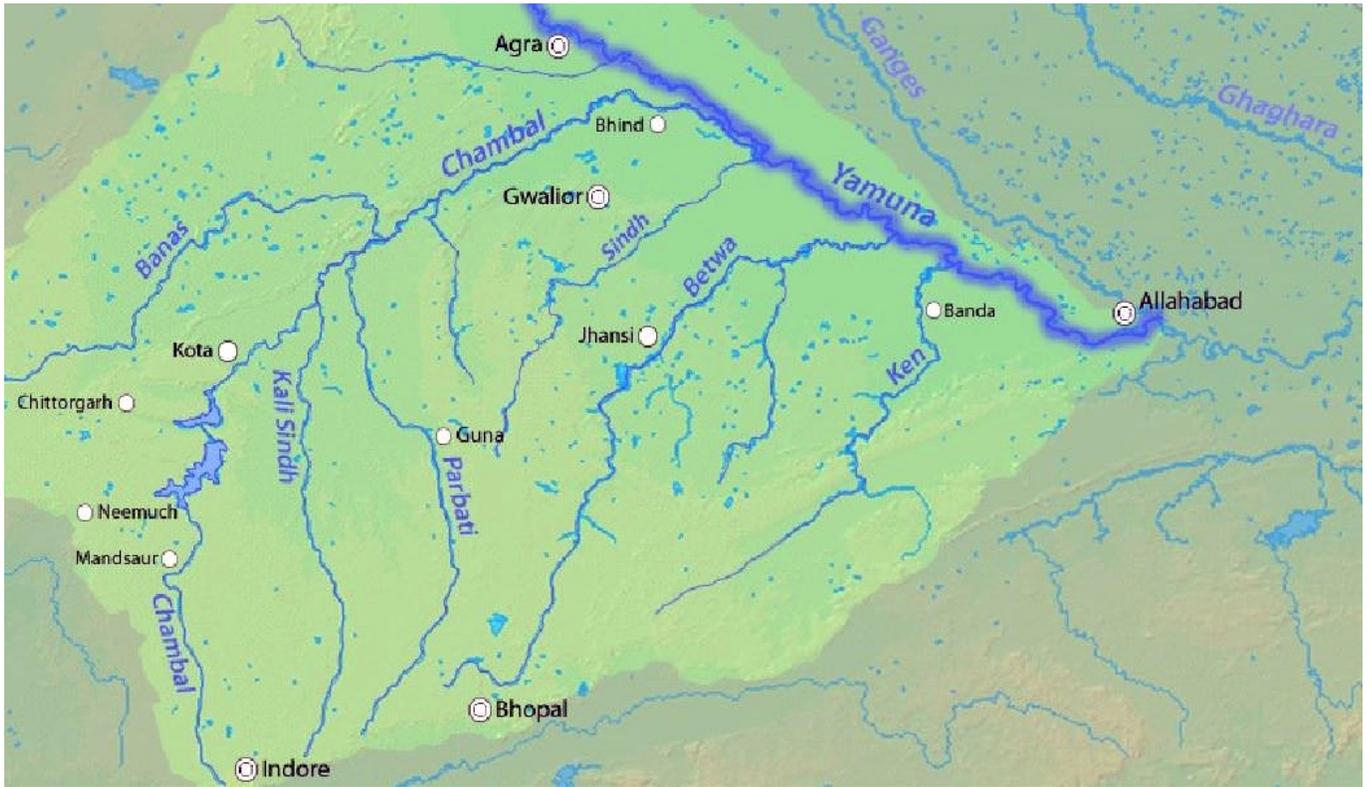
Key Points

- **Background:**
 - According to the state Water Resources Department, **Rajasthan**, the **largest state of India** with a geographical area of 342.52 lakh hectares which amount to 10.4% of the entire country, **holds only 1.16% of India's surface water and 1.72% of groundwater**.
 - Among the state's water bodies, **only the Chambal river basin has surplus water** but this water cannot be tapped directly because the area around the Kota barrage is designated as a crocodile sanctuary.
 - Through the help of diversion structures, interbasin water transfers, linking channels and construction of pumping main feeder channels, the **ERCP aims to create a network of water channels** which will cover 23.67 % area of Rajasthan along with 41.13 % population of the state.

- **About the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project:**
 - It **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.
 - **ERCPC** is planned to meet **drinking and industrial water needs** of the southern and south eastern Rajasthan, for humans and Livestock till the year 2051.
 - It **proposes to provide drinking water to 13 districts of Rajasthan** and provide irrigation water for 2.8 lakh hectares of land through 26 different large and medium projects.
 - 13 districts:** Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa and Dholpur.
- **Benefits:**
 - A significant area of land will get **irrigation facilities**.
 - It **intends to improve the ground water table in the rural areas** of the state. Positively influencing the socio-economic conditions of the people.
 - It adds special emphasis on the **Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)** and envisages that sustainable water sources will enhance and help industries grow in these areas.
 - Resulting in investment and revenue.

Chambal River

- It is one of the most pollution-free rivers of India.
- 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 U.P.** 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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