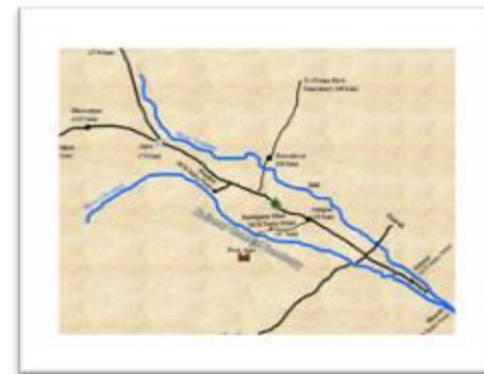




Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in the Chambal River valley

The Madhya Pradesh government has proposed to open 292 hectares for mining in five stretches on **Chambal** and its tributary **Parvati rivers**.

- The step is taken to free its forest department from devoting too much time, resources, and efforts in fighting illegal mining in the **National Chambal Sanctuary**.
- Sand mining has been banned in the sanctuary since 2006.



Where is National Chambal Sanctuary?

- **About:**
 - It was set up in 1979 as a riverine sanctuary along an approximately 425 km length of the Chambal River.
 - Its ravines stretches over 2-6 km wide along the **Chambal River** near the tri-point of **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**.
 - The National Chambal Sanctuary is listed as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** and is a proposed **Ramsar site**.



- **Ecological Significance:**

- The National Chambal Sanctuary is **home to critically endangered Gharial (small crocodiles), the red-crowned roof turtle** and the endangered **Ganges River dolphin**.
 - Chambal supports the largest population of Gharials in the wild.
- Only known place where nesting of **Indian Skimmers** is recorded in large numbers.
- Chambal supports **8 rare turtle species** out of the 26 found in the country.
- Chambal is one of the **cleanest rivers in the country**.
- Chambal supports more than **320 resident and migrant birds**.

- **Economic Support:**

- Locals directly depended on various resources of the Sanctuary. They **farm along the river**, extract river water for **irrigation**, practice **sustenance and commercial fishing, and quarry sand**.

What are the Other Sanctuaries and National Parks of Madhya Pradesh?

- Madhya Pradesh has **9 National Parks and 25 Sanctuaries** spread over an area of 10,862 square km constituting 11.40% of the total forest area and 3.52% of the geographical area of the state.
- At present, the state has **5 Project Tiger** areas in the state namely –
 - **Kanha National Park**



- **Panna National Park**
- **Bandhavgarh National Park**
- **Pench National Park**
- **Satpura National Park**
- It is also known as the '**Tiger State**' as it occupies around 19% of India's Tiger Population and 10% of the world's tiger population.