

## Ancient River Palaeo Channel discovered in UP.

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance Geography*

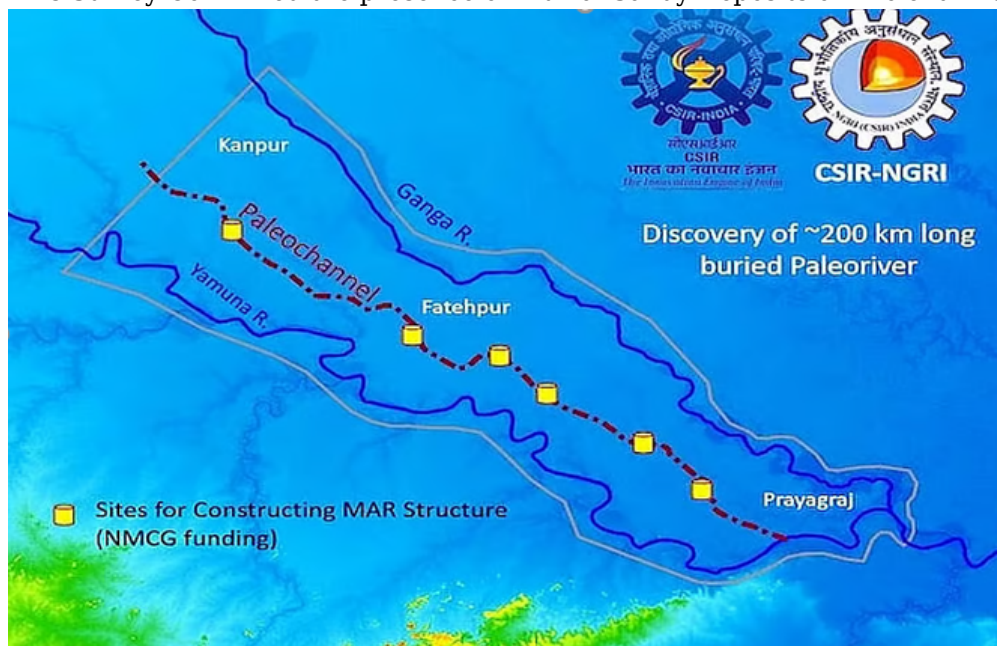
### Why in the news?

Recently, a massive ancient underground river channel ( Palaeo - channel) has been found beneath the Prayagraj - Kanpur stretch in UP by Scientists.

- **Mapped by** - Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- **CSIR** - Established in 1942.
- **Functions** - Under the Ministry of Science & Technology, it runs a national wide network of 37 laboratories.

### Highlights of the Discovery

- **Geographical Stretch** - Channel lies about 10 to 15 metres below the surface & Extends up to 200 km connecting Prayaraj & Kanpur.
- **Drilled Sites are** - Sarai Akil, Sirathu & Fatehpur.
- **Dimensions** - The width of the channel is of 4 to 5 km & Groundwater holding capacity is around 3500 to 4000 Million Cubic Metres.
- **Air Bone Electromagnetic (AEM) Geophysical Surveys** - Was the technology used for the survey via Helicopters later ground truthed through deep drilling.
- This Survey Confirmed the presence of Fluvial Sandy Deposits of Ancient river Beds.



- Is a Channel which is no longer part of an active river system and has ceased to be a conduit of water is commonly referred to as a palaeochannel.
- Occurs when rivers change their course due to the movement of tectonic plates or severe floods and cut new ones.
- Some of the palaeochannels lie buried under younger sediments.
- Palaeochannels are commonly occurring landforms in alluvial landscapes, and have an economic significance because of their use in the exploration for freshwater resources, artificial recharge and storage of groundwater.
- They are important in locating & assessment of mineral deposits such as uraniferous ores, gold, silver and other placer deposits.

**For Reference -** [Down to Earth | IAS Parliament](#)

