

National Mission for Clean Ganga



Site Visit Report for Pollution and Siltation Issues in Chhoti Gandak River, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh

Date – 04.05.2026 to 06.05.2026

Site Visit Report:		Pollution and Siltation Issues in Chhoti Gandak River, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh	Location:	Deoria District, Uttar Pradesh
Date/Time:		04.05.2026 to 06.05.2026		
#	Agenda items for the site visit			
	1. Core Assessments: River conservation and cleaning, Siltation and flow obstruction, Condition of ghats and religious-use areas, Impacts of funeral/last rites activities 2. Stakeholder Coordination: Conduct inter-departmental meetings with Flood Work Division, Irrigation, UPPCB for data provision, geotag sites, document with photographs			

Site Visit Attendees		
#	Organization	Name
1	NMCG	Dr. Kriti Varma, Project Officer
2	PMC	Mr. Harish Kumar Mahavar (Small River Rejuvenation Expert)

1 Introduction

1.1 Background and purpose of the visit

The site visit was undertaken in response to a VIP reference from Shri Shashank Mani, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (Deoria Constituency, Uttar Pradesh), regarding conservation and rejuvenation of the Chhoti Gandak River. The communication highlights concerns about degradation of the river, including siltation along the banks and pollution issues, seeking appropriate remedial action under relevant schemes.

Chhoti Gandak River flows through a total length of 250 km, passing through Maharajganj (~10 km), Kushinagar (~126 km), and Deoria (~104 km) districts in Uttar Pradesh, before merging with the Ghaghara River in Siwan, Bihar.

The site visit from 04.05.2026 to 06.05.2026 by the NMCG Small River Rejuvenation Team aims to conduct a comprehensive ground verification of pollution sources, encroachments, and river morphology to enable targeted rejuvenation measures. Key purposes include assessing remediation feasibility, coordinating with district departments for data like drain details, village disposal details and SWM status, and recommending solutions to restore the flow of the river.

1.2 Key officials met during the site visit

बाढ़ कार्य खण्ड देवरिया			
क्र० सं०	अधिकारियों का नाम	पद नाम	मो० नं०
1	इ० राधेश्याम प्रसाद	अधिशाली अभियन्ता	9628288080
2	इ० संजय कुमार सिंह	सहायक अभियन्ता प्रथम	8707564596
3	इ० रविशंकर यादव	सहायक अभियन्ता द्वितीय	6387451220
4	इ० उपेन्द्र प्रसाद	सहायक अभियन्ता तृतीय	7985247102
5	इ० अरविन्द कुमार	सहायक अभियन्ता चतुर्थ	8765384863

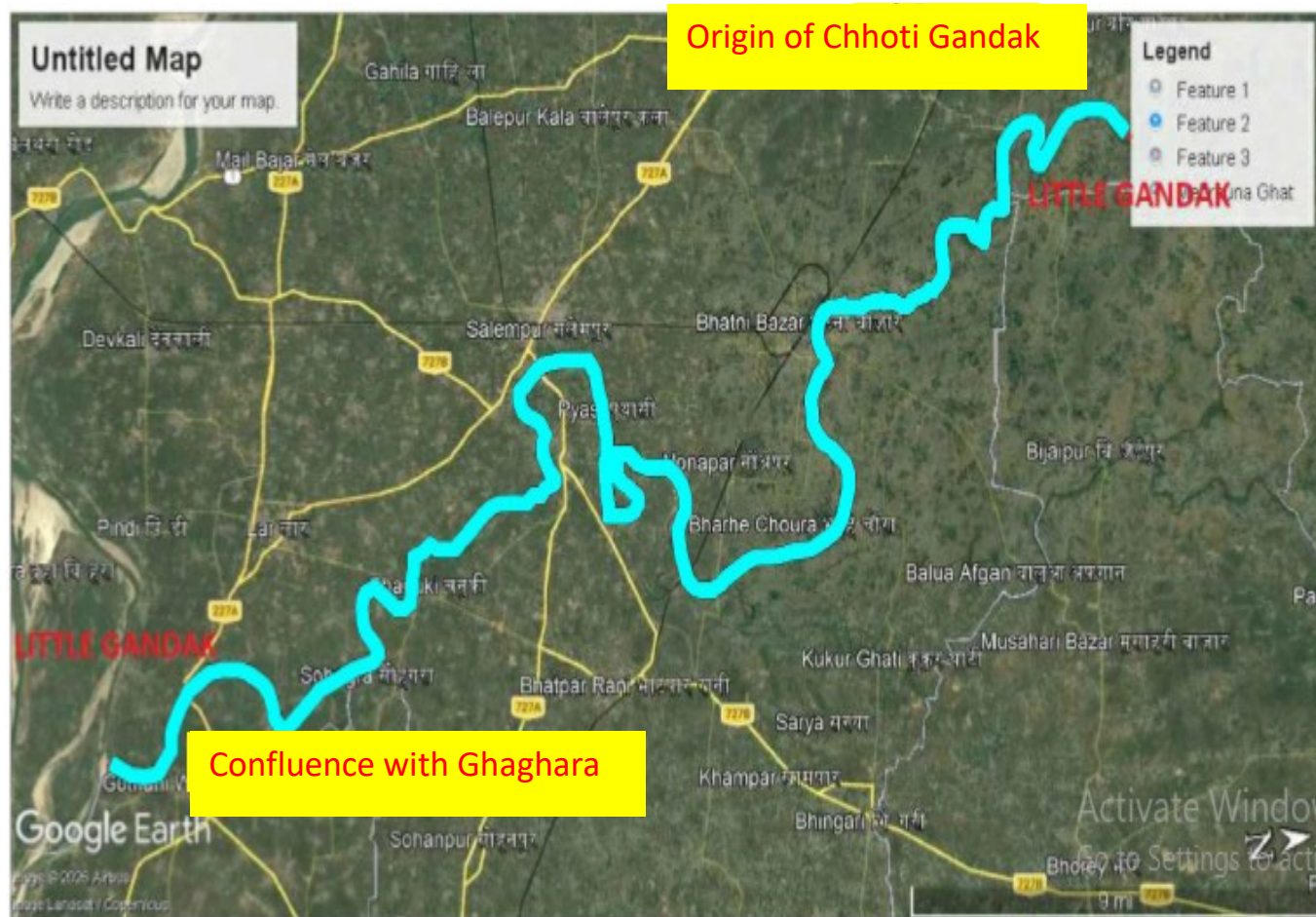


Figure 1: Chhoti Gandak River Map

2. Overview of the site visit:

2.1 Key technical details:

- a) Alignment and confluence: The Chhoti Gandak River originates near the Maharajganj side and flows via Kushinagar district before entering Deoria district at village Bhatauli (Hetimpur). Within Deoria district it finally meets the Ghaghara River near village Churia.
- b) River length and protection works: Length of Chhoti Gandak within Deoria district is about 104 km. Along this river, 25 embankments have been constructed, with a combined length of about 133.878 km. On these embankments, 56 vented regulators have been provided for flood and drainage management. These embankments and regulators together provide protection to approximately 41,783 ha of land, 439 villages covering a population of about 4,51,119 in Deoria district.
- c) Drains/nalas joining the river: A total of 10 major drains/nalas join the Chhoti Gandak River at different locations within Deoria district. The combined length of these 10 drains is about 271.10 km, with a total design discharge indicated as 11078.40 cumec.
- d) Rainfall context: The seven-year record of annual rainfall at the Deoria gauge, showing significant inter-annual variability, with total yearly rainfall roughly between about 350 mm and 1550 mm over 2019–2025.

2.2 Details of visit

Based on the issues raised in the attached VIP reference, the agenda items for the Chhoti Gandak site visit can be framed as:

- a) **River conservation and cleaning:** Assess overall river health and visible pollution along the stretch in Deoria (solid waste, ritual waste, and solid waste littering in the river and on ghats).
- b) **Siltation and flow obstruction:** Examine locations where excessive silt has deposited, evaluate its impact on river flow and carrying capacity, and identify priority reaches for desilting works.

- c) **Condition of ghats and religious-use areas:** Inspect ghats used during Chhath and other major festivals, review cleanliness, safety, and access, and identify requirements for ghat re-development and better O&M.
- d) **Impacts of funeral activities:** Verify accumulation of clothes and other remains from cremation in the river, assess associated encroachment/riverbank pressure, and suggest regulated facilities and waste handling systems.

2.3 Detailed Observations

- a) **Domestic wastewater and solid waste:** Localized domestic wastewater inflows and solid waste dumping along the banks contribute to water quality deterioration, particularly near settlements and ritual-use areas. Currently, no treatment facility is available in Deoria district.
- b) **Funeral/Cremation ground location:** At the Rampur Karkhana stretch, the funeral practices taking place at the bank of the river has physically altered the riverbank through silt and cremation remains deposition, reducing the effective width of the river corridor and increasing vulnerability of the bank to erosion.
- c) **Existing flood and riverfront assets:** Embankment and riverfront development works executed by Flood Work Division, Deoria, provide partial protection and can be integrated with ecological rejuvenation and community-use planning to ensure that embankment safety and river health are both maintained.
- d) **Siltation and solid waste issue due to funeral ceremonies :** At the location near Rampur Karkhana, Deoria, the team visited the site where funeral and cremation ceremonies has reduced the river width, as shown in site visit photographs.
- e) **River embankment and riverfront development works:** The river embankment protection and riverfront development (RFD) works have been undertaken on specific reaches of the Chhoti Gandak River by the Flood Work Division, Deoria, as reflected in the site photographs. These works primarily consist of embankment strengthening and riverfront protection measures intended to safeguard adjoining habitations and infrastructure, and they provide an important baseline for planning further rejuvenation and bank stabilization interventions.

- f) **Nature of pollution in the river:** The pollution in the inspected stretches of the Chhoti Gandak River is predominantly of domestic origin, arising from household wastewater, ritual activities at ghats/funeral sites, solid waste dumping, and local runoff. No industrial discharge points or industrial effluent-conveying drains were observed falling directly into the river along the visited stretches, and no evidence of industrial pollution was reported by local stakeholders during the visit.

3. Department-wise Action

S. N.	Issue/ Agenda	Current Status	Action	Concerned Department
1	River boundary demarcation and floodplain zonation	Not done	Define the river boundary to prevent future encroachment	District Administration/ Revenue Department/ Irrigation Department
2	Silt deposition in the riverbed	Reduced depth and width of the river	Remove excess silt deposition from the river bed and banks	District Administration/ Flood Work Division
3	Solid waste dumping	Dumping from cremation sites and domestic sources has led to reduced width of the river channel and pollution issues at specific stretches	Proper solid waste management from domestic sources through door-to-door collection, waste segregation, and proper disposal. Electric crematoria may be constructed for managing the funeral waste.	District Administration/ Municipal Corporation/ Nagar Nigam

4	Liquid waste discharge into the river	Sewage from nearby localities is getting discharged into the river through 10 drains	Creation of treatment facilities, preferably Nature-based Solutions (NbS), for mitigation of pollution in rivers caused by discharge from drains.	Uttar Pradesh Pey Jal Nigam
5	Rainwater Harvesting	No provision at present	Since the area receives good rainfall, Rainwater Harvesting structures can be installed at suitable locations for reuse-recharge purpose, and to enhance baseflow.	District Administration

4. Conclusion

The visited stretches of the Chhoti Gandak River in Deoria district are affected primarily by domestic pollution and by localized dumping at the riverbank, particularly at funeral sites, rather than by industrial discharges.

Going forward, proposed rejuvenation measures should focus on: (i) regulating and planning cremation/ritual-use areas to avoid further siltation, (ii) improving local solid waste and domestic wastewater management near the river, and (iii) improving the interventions for flood protection and riverfront development works for maintaining flood safety, and ecological balance of the river.

Site Visit photographs



Figure 2: Chhoti Gandak entering in Deoria District at village Bhataulli, Hetimpur & RFD work done by Flood Work Division, Deoria

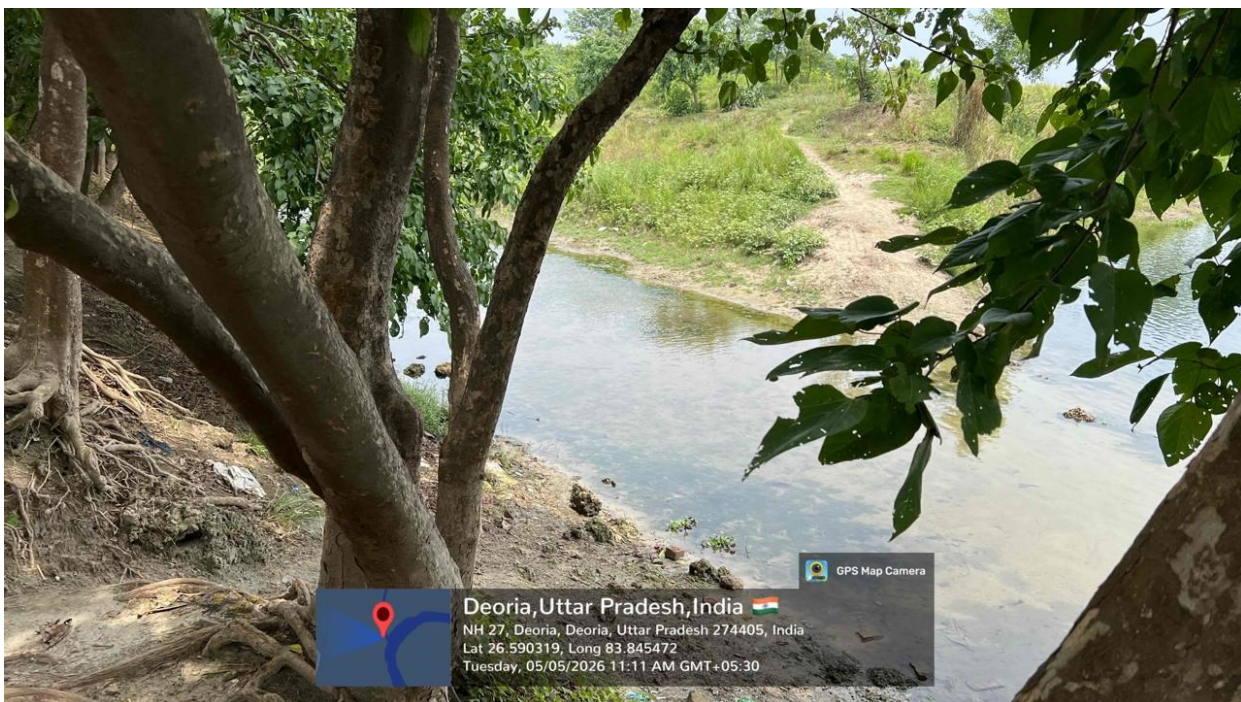


Figure 3: Dohari Drain merging with Chhoti Gandak

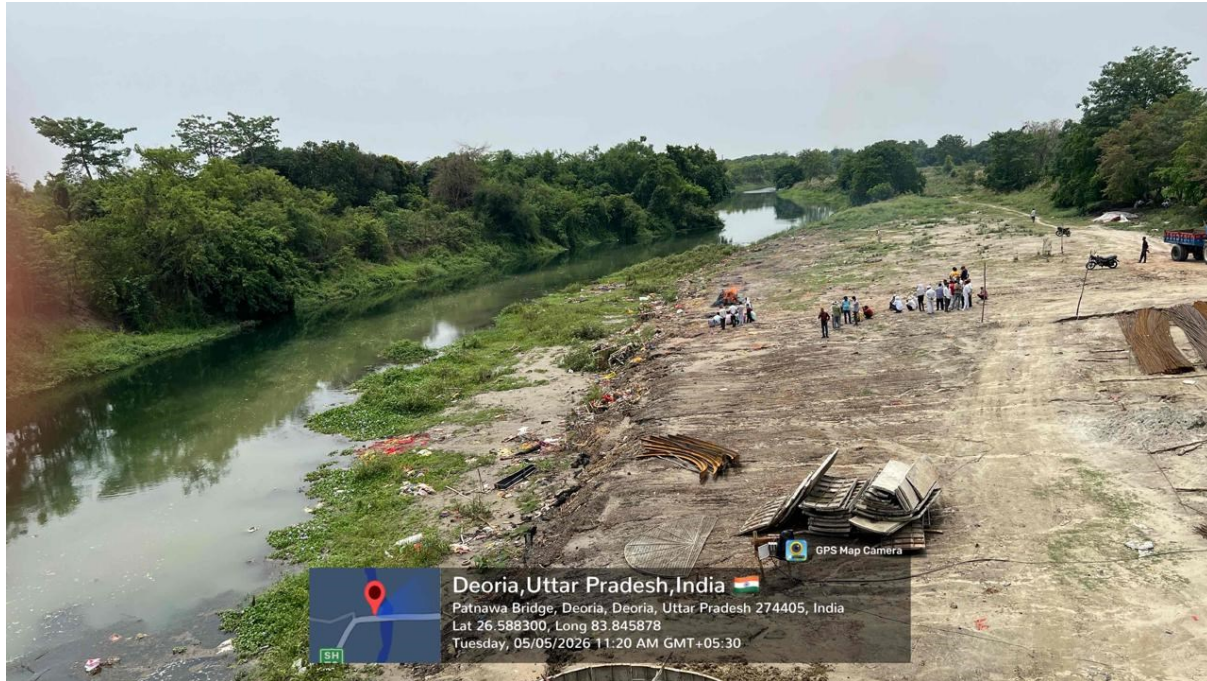


Figure 4: Issue raised in the letter for this location near Rampur Karkhana, Deoria, where river is silted due to funeral ceremonies



Figure 5: River embankment & RFD works done on Chhoti Gandak River by Flood Work Division, Deoria



Figure 6: Dorachi Nala merging with Chhoti Gandak River

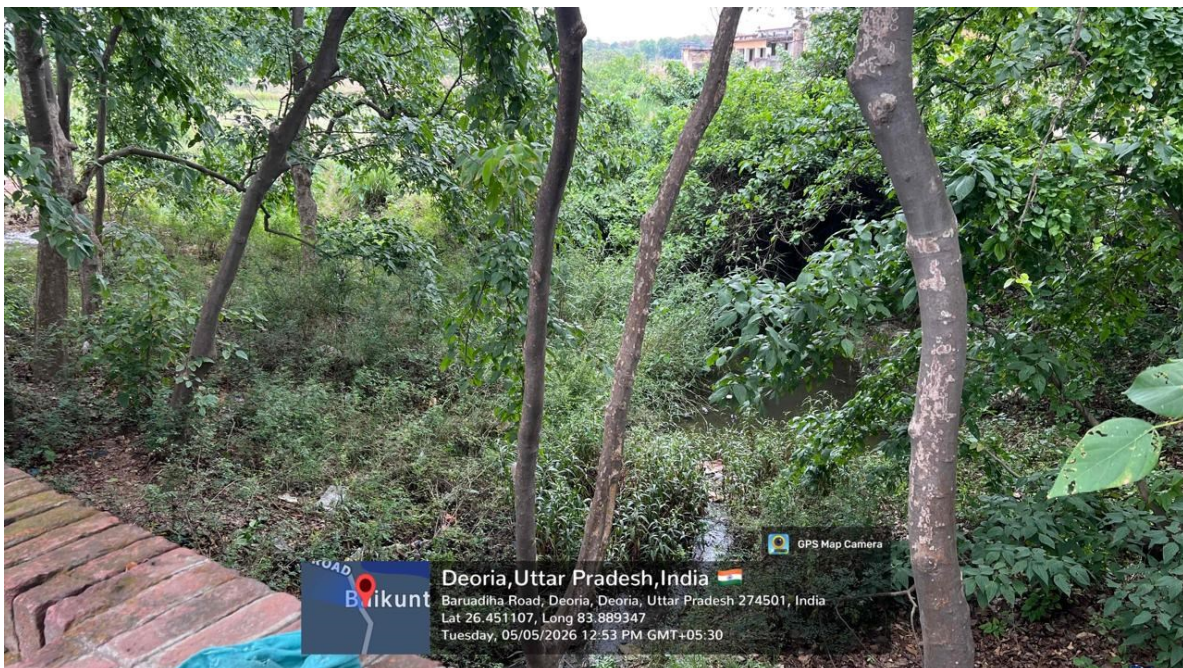


Figure 7: Baikunthpur Drain

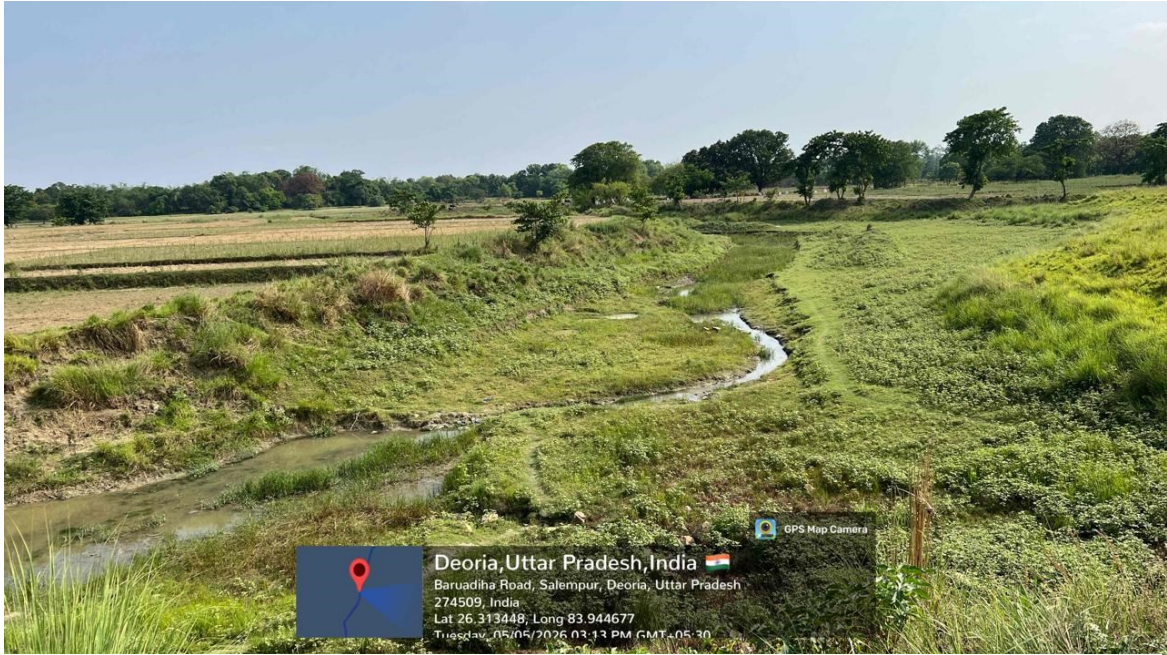


Figure 8: Koilaar Nala

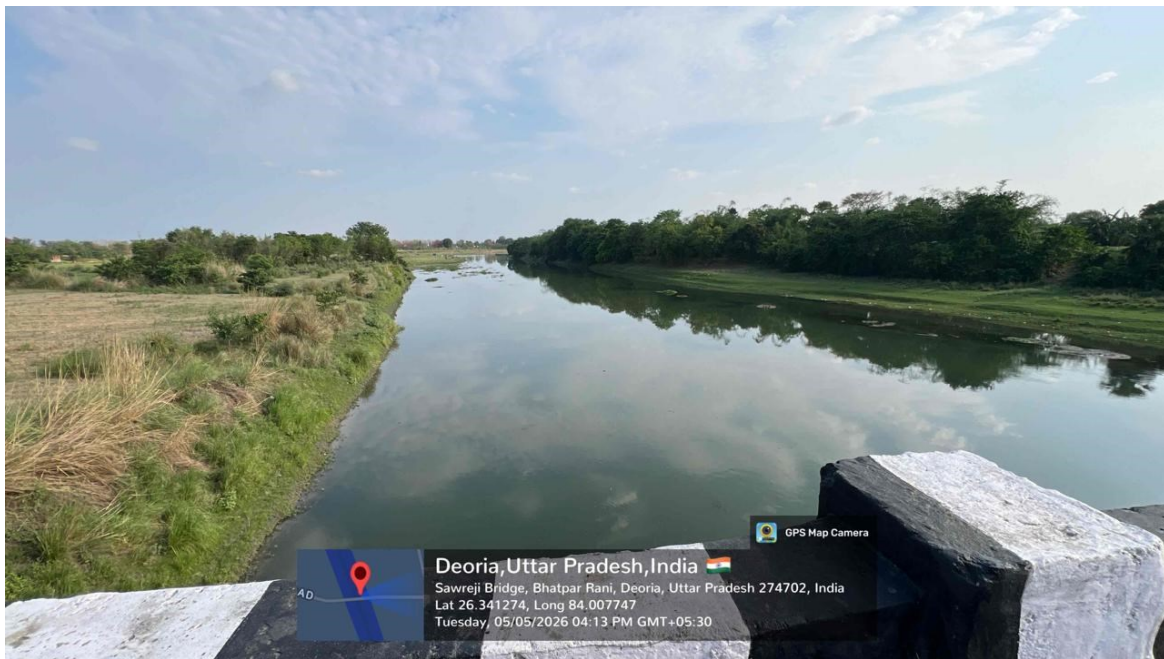


Figure 9: Khanua Nala



Figure 10: Chhoti Gandak merging with Ghaghara River