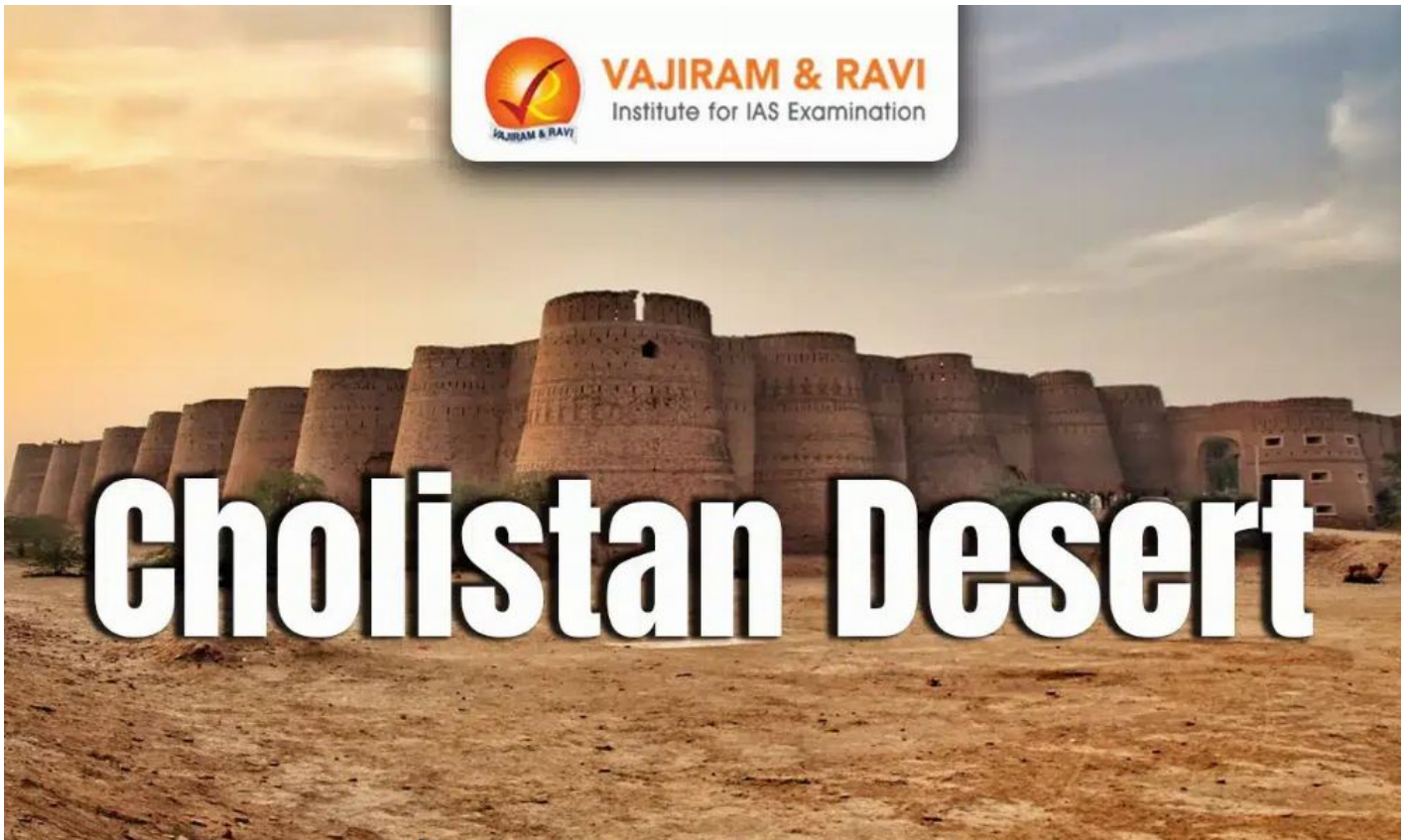


## Cholistan Desert

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### Cholistan Desert Latest News

Recently, Pakistan's Government decided to halt its ambitious canals project after widespread protests in Sindh.

### Why in the News?

- The **Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI)**, launched in 2023, aims to modernise Pakistan's **agriculture sector** by providing **irrigation infrastructure**, introducing **advanced technologies**, and improving **agricultural productivity**.
- The **Cholistan Canal**, a major component of this initiative, was supposed to irrigate about **1.2 million acres** of land in **southern Punjab**, particularly in the **Cholistan Desert**, a water-scarce region.

### About Cholistan Desert

- It is also known locally as **Rohi**, and is located in the **southern part of Pakistani Punjab**.
- It forms part of the **Greater Thar Desert**, which extends into **Sindh province** of Pakistan and the **Indian state of Rajasthan**.

- The name “Cholistan” comes from the **Turkic word “chol”**, meaning “sands” and the **Persian suffix “istan”**, meaning “land”.
- Historically, Cholistan was a **centre for caravan trade**, leading to the construction of **numerous forts** during the medieval period.
- The **Derawar Fort** is the **best-preserved example** of these medieval structures.
- **Cholistan** covers an area of **25,800 km² (10,000 sq mi)** across the **Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar**, and **Rahim Yar Khan** districts.
- About **81%** of the region is **sandy**, while **19%** comprises **alluvial flats** and **small sandy dunes**.
- The Cholistan Desert has an **arid and semi-arid tropical desert climate** with **very low annual humidity**.
- Water resources include **natural pools** called **Toba** and **manmade pools** called **Kund**.

## Cholistan Desert FAQs

**Q1.** Where is the Cholistan Desert located?

**Ans.** The Cholistan Desert is located in the southern part of Punjab province in Pakistan, near the India-Pakistan border.

**Q2.** Which major river once supported the Cholistan Desert?

**Ans.** The now-dried-up Hakra River (believed to be part of the ancient Saraswati-Ghaggar river system) once supported human settlements in the Cholistan region.

**Source:** [IE](#)

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Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/cholistan-desert/>

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