

## Gharials

### Source: TH

A lone female gharial in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam has sparked hopes for the species' revival in the Brahmaputra River System (BRS).

- The <u>gharial (Gavialis gangeticus)</u> is distinct from other crocodilians due to its long snout. It is thought to have disappeared from the BRS in the 1950s, with some reported sightings in the 1990s.
- According to the <u>Wildlife Institute of India</u>, gharials were widely distributed in the Brahmaputra, <u>Ganga, Indus</u>, and the Mahanadi-Brahmani-Baitarani river systems of India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan.
  - Currently, their major populations occur in three **tributaries of the Ganga** (the Chambal and Girwa in India, and the Rapti-Narayani river in Nepal).
- According to the <u>IUCN's Red List</u> the Gharial is *Critically Endangered* due to construction projects and water extraction impacting its river ecosystems.

Ш

# **CROCODILE** SPECIES IN INDIA

### India harbours three diverse crocodile species—Mugger, Saltwater, and Gharialfound in distinct habitats nationwide.

		O <sup></sup>		100 million (100 million)
Aspects	5	Gharial	Mugger/Indian Crocodile	Saltwater Crocodile
Scientific N	ame	Gavialis Gangeticus	Crocodylus Palustris	Crocodylus Porosus
			and the second	- Changer
Distribution: India		Viable Population: National Chambal Sanctuary (U.P, Raj, M.P) Small Non-Breeding Population: Son, Gandak, Hooghly, Ghagra & Satkosia WLS (Odisha)	Throughout India	East Coast (Odisha's Bhitarkarnika WLS, Andaman & Nicobar Islands coast & Sundarbans
Distribution bourhood	: Neigh	Brahmaputra of Bhutan & Bangladesh& Irrawaddy River	Extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar	Across Southeast Asia
Special Fea	ture	Longest of all Crocodile, Long and thin Snout	Egg-laying, Hole-nesting, Wide & U-shaped Snout	Largest living reptile, Pointed & V-shaped Snout
Habitat	3	Freshwater	Freshwater	Saltwater, Brackish & Wetlands
IUCN Status	s	CR	VU	LC
CITES Statu	ıs	Appendix I	Appendix I	Appendix I
CMS Status	5	Appendix I	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Appendix II
WPA,1972 S	tatus	Schedule I	Schedule I	Schedule I
Threats		Dams, Pollution, Sand mining	Habitat Destruction	Hunted for its skin and Habitat loss
Governmen Initiatives	t	<ul> <li>Odisha: Rs. 1000 award to conserve Gharial in Mahanadi River Basin</li> <li>Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975</li> <li>Mugger Conservation Programme</li> <li>Madras Crocodile Bank Trust</li> </ul>	Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975

#### **MISCELLANEOUS FACTS**

- () 17th June: World Crocodile Day
- Annual Reptile Census, 2023: Marginal Increases in number of saltwater crocodiles (Bhitarkanika National Park and its nearby areas)
- Odisha's Kendrapara District: Only district in India where all three species of crocodiles found



Read more: Gharials, Brahmaputra River System (BRS)

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/gharials-4

