



# Mugger Crocodile

## Why in News?

Recently, the Indian Railways has delivered water to Pali district in western Rajasthan to ensure survival of [Mugger Crocodile or Marsh Crocodile](#) as the region's water bodies have dried up due to a hot March.

## What is Mugger or Marsh Crocodile?

- **Scientific Name:** *Crocodylus palustris*
- **Description:**
  - An egg-laying and hole-nesting species, also known to be dangerous.
- **Habitat:**
  - Mainly restricted to the Indian subcontinent where it may be found in a number of freshwater habitat types and also in coastal saltwater lagoons and estuaries. [//](#)
  - It is already extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar.
- **Threats:**
  - Habitat destruction, fragmentation, and transformation, fishing activities and use of crocodile parts for medicinal purposes.
- **Protection Status:**
  - [IUCN List of Threatened Species:](#) Vulnerable
  - [CITES:](#) Appendix I
  - [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:](#) Schedule I



## What are the Other Species of Crocodylian?

- **[Estuarine or Saltwater Crocodile:](#)**
  - Considered as the Earth's largest living crocodile species, infamous globally as a known man-eater.
  - Found in Odisha's [Bhitarkanika National Park](#), the [Sundarbans](#) in West Bengal and the [Andamans and Nicobar Islands](#).
    - Also found across Southeast Asia and northern Australia.
  - **Protection Status:**
    - [IUCN List of Threatened Species:](#) Least Concern
    - [CITES](#) : Appendix I (except the populations of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, which are included in Appendix II).
    - [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#) : Schedule I
- **Gharial:**
  - Sometimes called gavials, are a type of Asian crocodylian distinguished by their long, thin snouts which resembles a pot (ghara in Hindi).
  - Mostly found in **fresh waters of the himalayan rivers.**
  - The [Chambal river](#) in the northern slopes of the Vindhya mountains (Madhya Pradesh) is known as the **primary habitat** of gharials.
  - Other himalayan rivers like [Ghagra](#), Gandak river, Girwa river, Ramganga river and the

- Some river are **secondary habitats**.
- **Protection Status:**
    - **IUCN List of Threatened Species:** Critically Endangered
    - **CITES:** Appendix I
    - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
  - **Odisha** has announced a **cash award of Rs. 1,000** to conserve gharials in [Mahanadi River Basin](#).

### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. If you want to see gharials in their natural habitat, which one of the following is the best place to visit? (2017)**

- (a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
- (b) Chambal River
- (c) Pulicat Lake
- (d) Deepor Beel

**Ans: (b)**

**Q. Consider the following fauna of India: (2013)**

1. Gharial
2. Leatherback turtle
3. Swamp deer

**Which of the above is/are endangered?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

**Ans: (c)**

**Q. Consider the following pairs: (2010)**

Protected area	Well-known for
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1. Bhitarkanika, Orissa : Salt Water Crocodile
2. Desert National Park, : Great Indian Rajasthan Bustard
3. Eravikulam, Kerala : Hoolak Gibbon

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (b)**

**Source: DTE**

