



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 [gharial \(*Gavialis gangeticus*\)](#) 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 [Wildlife Institute of India](#), gharials were widely distributed in the **Brahmaputra, Ganga, Indus, 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 IUCN's Red List](#) the Gharial is **Critically Endangered** due to construction projects and water extraction impacting its river ecosystems.

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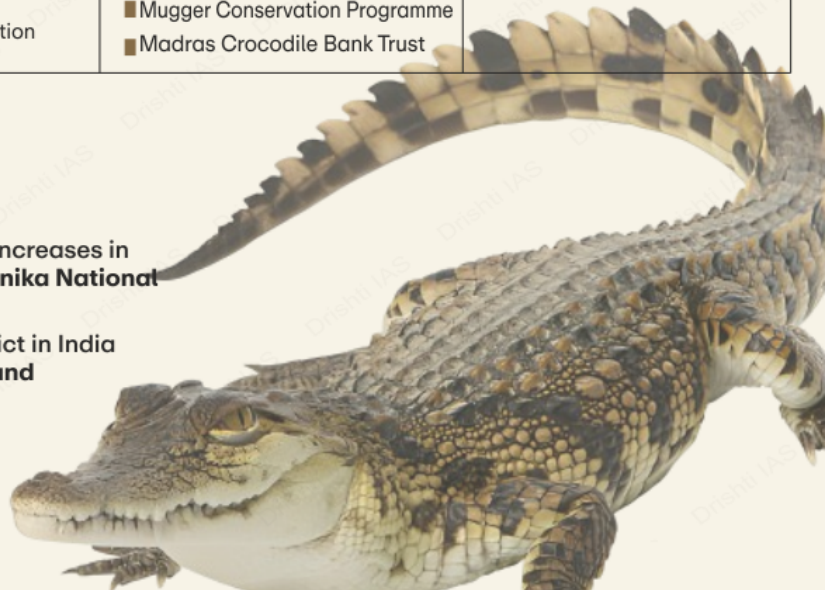
CROCODILE SPECIES IN INDIA

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

Aspects	Gharial	Mugger/Indian Crocodile	Saltwater Crocodile
Scientific Name	<i>Gavialis Gangeticus</i> 	<i>Crocodylus Palustris</i> 	<i>Crocodylus Porosus</i> 
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: Neighbourhood	Brahmaputra of Bhutan & Bangladesh & Irrawaddy River	Extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar	Across Southeast Asia
Special Feature	Longest of all Crocodile, Long and thin Snout	Egg-laying, Hole-nesting, Wide & U-shaped Snout	Largest living reptile, Pointed & V-shaped Snout
Habitat	Freshwater	Freshwater	Saltwater, Brackish & Wetlands
IUCN Status	CR	VU	LC
CITES Status	Appendix I	Appendix I	Appendix I
CMS Status	Appendix I	-	Appendix II
WPA,1972 Status	Schedule I	Schedule I	Schedule I
Threats	Dams, Pollution, Sand mining	Habitat Destruction	Hunted for its skin and Habitat loss
Government Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Odisha: Rs. 1000 award to conserve Gharial in Mahanadi River Basin ■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975 ■ Mugger Conservation Programme ■ Madras Crocodile Bank Trust 	Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS

- 🕒 **17th June:** World Crocodile Day
- 📊 **Annual Reptile Census, 2023:** Marginal Increases in number of saltwater crocodiles (**Bhitarkarnika 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 \(BRS\)](#)

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