




## Crocodile Species in India



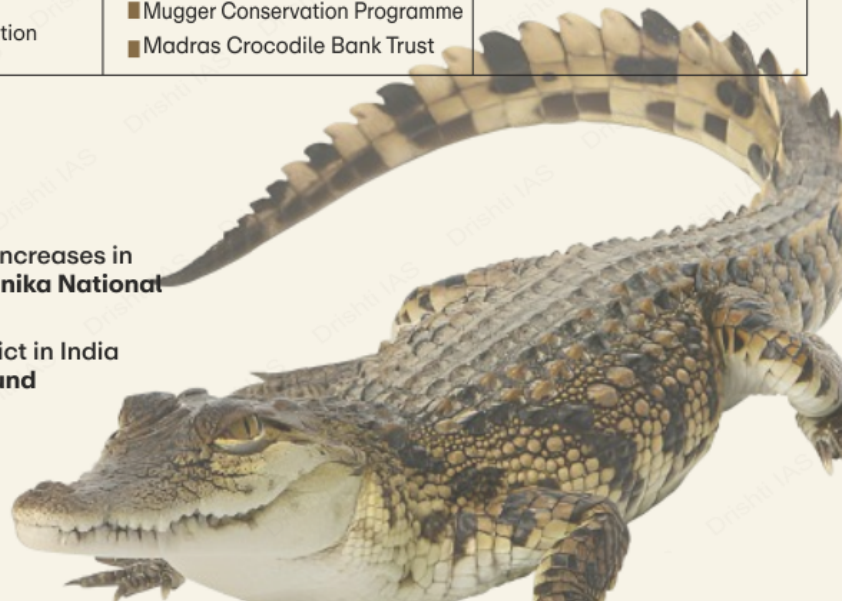
# CROCODILE SPECIES IN INDIA

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

| Aspects                            | Gharial  | Mugger/Indian Crocodile  | Saltwater Crocodile  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Scientific Name</b>             | <i>Gavialis Gangeticus</i><br>  | <i>Crocodylus Palustris</i><br>  | <i>Crocodylus Porosus</i><br> |
| <b>Distribution: India</b>         | <b>Viable Population:</b> National Chambal Sanctuary (U.P, Raj, M.P)<br><b>Small Non-Breeding Population:</b> Son, Gandak, Hooghly, Ghagra & Satkosia WLS (Odisha)           | Throughout India   | East Coast (Odisha's Bhitarkarnika WLS, Andaman & Nicobar Islands coast & Sundarbans)                            |
| <b>Distribution: Neighbourhood</b> | Brahmaputra of Bhutan & Bangladesh & Irrawaddy River   | Extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar  | Across Southeast Asia  |
| <b>Special Feature</b>             | Longest of all Crocodile, Long and thin Snout  | Egg-laying, Hole-nesting, Wide & U-shaped Snout  | Largest living reptile, Pointed & V-shaped Snout   |
| <b>Habitat</b>                     | Freshwater   | Freshwater   | Saltwater, Brackish & Wetlands   |
| <b>IUCN Status</b>                 | CR   | VU   | LC   |
| <b>CITES Status</b>                | Appendix I   | Appendix I   | Appendix I   |
| <b>CMS Status</b>                  | Appendix I   | -  | Appendix II  |
| <b>WPA,1972 Status</b>             | Schedule I   | Schedule I   | Schedule I   |
| <b>Threats</b>                     | Dams, Pollution, Sand mining   | Habitat Destruction  | Hunted for its skin and Habitat loss   |
| <b>Government Initiatives</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Odisha: Rs. 1000 award to conserve Gharial in Mahanadi River Basin</li> <li>■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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



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