




Vishwamitri River and Mugger Crocodiles

Source: DTE

The Government of **Gujarat** conducted a **crocodile census** in the **Vishwamitri river** of Vadodara, to estimate the population of **mugger or marsh crocodiles** (*Crocodylus palustris*).

- **Vishwamitri River:** Originates from the **Pavagadh hills** (part of [Western Ghats](#)) in Gujarat, flows through **Vadodara**, and joins the **Gulf of Khambhat**, fed by tributaries **Dhadhar and Khanpur**.
 - Its banks had ancient settlements dating back to **1000 B.C.**, including **Ankotakka (now Akota)**, which developed during the **Guptas and Vallabhi rule**.
 - It hosts **mugger crocodiles**, freshwater turtles, and **monitor lizards**, making it ecologically unique among urban rivers.
- **Mugger Crocodiles:** Found in **India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal**, with its range extending westwards into **eastern Iran**, mainly in **freshwater habitats** like rivers, lakes, and marshes.
 - Found in 15 Indian states, mainly in the **Ganga River basin** (Bihar and Jharkhand), **Chambal River** (Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh) and **Gujarat**.
 - They feed on fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals. They are hole-nesting species, laying 25-30 eggs during the dry season, with an incubation period of 55-75 days.
 - Face threats from **habitat destruction, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict**.
 - **Conservation:** Vulnerable ([IUCN](#)), [CITES](#) (Appendix I), and Schedule I ([Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#)).

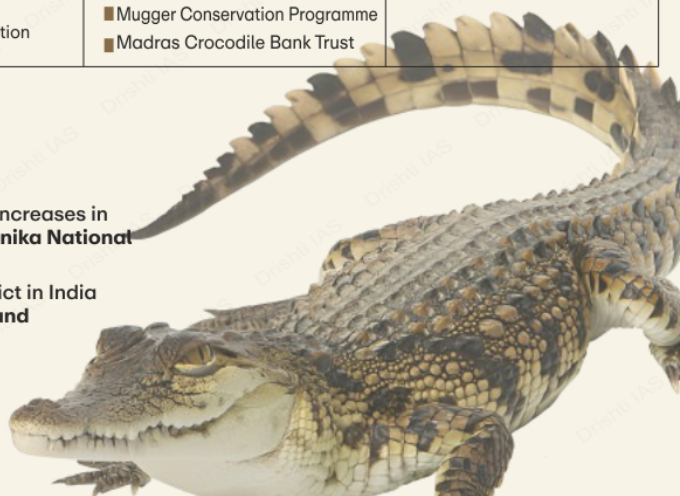
CROCODILE SPECIES IN INDIA

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 Bhitarkanika 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	■ Odisha: Rs. 1000 award to conserve Gharial in Mahanadi River Basin ■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975	■ 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 (Bhitarkanika National Park and its nearby areas)
- 🕒 **Odisha's Kendrapara District:** Only district in India where all three species of crocodiles found



Read more: [Mugger Crocodile](#)

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