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# **Topic Wise Content**

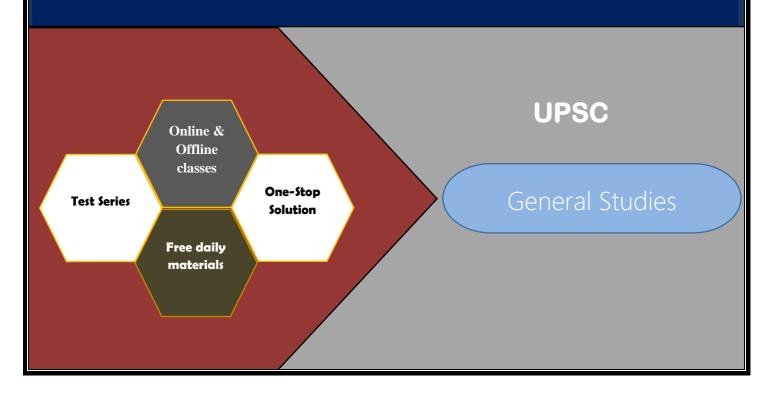


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## **Gharials**

## Notes for civil services preparation





#### **Gharials**

Recently, the Department of Punjab Forest and Wildlife Preservation, in collaboration with the **World-Wide Fund for Nature-India** (**WWF-India**) has released a lot of **24 gharials** (**Gavialis Gangeticus**) **into the Beas** ConservationReserve.

• The gharial reintroduction in the **Beas Conservation Reserve** is an ambitious programme of the Punjab government.

### **Key Points**

- About:
  - o Gharials, sometimes called gavials, are a type of Asian crocodilian distinguished by their long, thin snouts. Crocodilians are a group of **reptiles** that includes crocodiles, alligators, caimans, and more.
  - India has three species of Crocodilians namely:
    - Gharial (Gavialis gangeticus): IUCN Red List- Critically Endangered
    - Mugger crocodile (Crocodylus palustris): IUCN- Vulnerable.
    - Saltwater crocodile (Crocodylus porosus): IUCN- Least Concern
      - All the three are listed on Appendix I of CITES and Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
      - Exception: Saltwater Crocodile populations of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea are included in Appendix II of CITES.
- Habitat of Gharials:
  - o **Natural Habitat:** Fresh waters of the northern part of India.
  - o **Primary Habitat: Chambal river** (a tributary of Yamuna).
  - o **Secondary Habitat: Ghagra**, Gandak river, Girwa river (Uttar Pradesh), the Ramganga river (Uttarakhand) and the Sone river (Bihar).
- **Significance:** Population of Gharials are a good indicator of clean river water.
- Conservation Efforts:
  - o Breeding Centres of Kukrail Gharial Rehabilitation Centre in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, National Chambal Sanctuary (Gharial Eco Park, Madhya Pradesh).
- Threats:
  - Increased river pollution, dam construction, massive-scale fishing operations and floods.
  - Illegal sand mining and poaching.

