

www.vishnuias.com



Topic Wise Content



<https://t.me/vishnuiasmentor>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel>

Ghazals

Notes for civil services preparation



UPSC

General Studies

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 Conservation Reserve**.

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

Key Points

- **About:**
 - 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:**
 - **Natural Habitat:** Fresh waters of the northern part of India.
 - **Primary Habitat: Chambal river** (a tributary of Yamuna).
 - **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:**
 - 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.