

Dog-faced Water Snake (Cerberus Rynchops)

Why in News?

Herpetologists recently sighted the dog-faced water snake for the first time in the floodplains at Garemara in western Assam's Nalbari district.

- It is a rear-fanged, mildly venomous, and semi-aquatic snake.
- It is also known as the *South Asian bockadam*.
- **Appearance** - Mottled grey and black colour.
- It is well adapted to brackish water, due to their aquatic habitat they have nostrils placed higher upon their snout giving them a dog-like appearance.
- They have salt glands below upper lip that discard excess salt acquired from the brackish water they consume.
- **Size** - Grow up to one metre.
- **Diet** - It is known to hunt for fish and crustaceans in shallow waters, using a **sit-and-wait predatory strategy**.
- **Habitat** - Predominantly associated with coastal ecosystems, inhabiting mangroves, coastal mudflats, and estuarine habitats, Inland records of the species are rare.
- **Distribution** - Across South, Southeast Asia, and parts of Australia002E
 - Indian coastal regions in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Breeding** - **Viviparous** - Give birth to young ones.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN** - Least Concern.
- **Threats**
 - Loss of Mangrove Habitats
 - Entanglement in fishing nets.

References

1. [The Hindu - Dog-faced snake](#)
2. [Round Glass Sustain - Dog-faced water snake](#)