

Vishwamitri River

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Recently, the Gujarat Forest Department conducted a Mugger crocodile census in Vadodara's Vishwamitri River after flood-mitigation works.

- **Location** - It is a **non-perennial river located in Vadodara, Gujarat.**
- It is situated between two major perennial rivers, namely the Mahi and the Narmada.
- **Origin** - It starts from the **Pavagadh hills in Gujarat.**
- **Course** - It flows westward through Vadodara, joining the Dhadhar and Jambuva tributaries.
- **Drainage** - Finally, it empties into the Arabian Sea via **the Gulf of Khambhat.**
- **Ecology** - Supports rich biodiversity and is home to Indian crocodiles in an 18 km stretch.
 - It is highly **meandering in nature.**
- **Fauna** - Mugger crocodile, Indian Softshell turtles, monitor lizards, and various bird species.

Quick Fact

Mugger crocodile

- It is a medium-sized broad-snouted crocodile, also known as the marsh crocodile.
- **Scientific name** - *Crocodylus palustris*
- **Habitat** - They are primarily found in freshwater habitats like rivers, lakes and marshes.
- **Distribution** - India (15 states), Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Iran.
 - **Key populations** - Middle Ganga, Chambal River, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu's Cauvery delta.
- **Characteristics** - Crocodiles eat minimally during winters; it is only during their breeding season in summers that they become opportunistic predators.
- **Diet** - Muggers primarily eat fish, crabs, insects, and small fish.
- Adults consume amphibians, reptiles (snakes, turtles), birds, monkeys, deer, buffalo.
- **Threats** - Habitat destruction, fishing equipment entanglement, illegal poaching for skin and meat and the use of body parts in medicine and human conflict.
- **Conservation status** -
 - IUCN RedList - Vulnerable
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 - Schedule I



References

1. [IE | Vishwamitri River](#)
2. [ToI | Vishwamitri River](#)