



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Gharial Survey: A Basin-Wide Snapshot

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**News Context:** The first-ever comprehensive survey of the entire Ganga River Basin (released Jan 2026) recorded 3,037 gharials across 22 surveyed rivers.

- **Strongholds vs. Sinks:** \* **Chambal River:** Remains the global capital, hosting **2,097** individuals (nearly 70%).
- **Ghaghara & Girwa:** Show promise but act as "sink populations" (sustained by migration rather than local breeding).
- **Key Challenges:** Despite the numbers, **92% of the surveyed river stretches** were found unsuitable due to illegal sand mining, discarded fishing nets (causing drowning), and altered river flows.
- **Wholistic Insight:** The survey emphasizes that simply "restocking" (releasing captive-bred gharials) isn't enough. Without protecting the **Sandbars** (needed for nesting and basking), the species remains "critically endangered" despite the population hit of 3,000.

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