



DATE: 18 APRIL 2026

## 1 Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha (Source: The Hindu)

### Chairperson of Rajya Sabha

- *The vice-president of India is the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.*
- During the Role of President
  - During any period when the Vice President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President, he does not perform the duties of the office of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
  - During any period when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President, he is not entitled to any salary or allowance payable to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Power & Function of the Chairman Of The Rajya Sabha**
  - The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is empowered to adjourn the House or to suspend its sitting in the event of the absence of a quorum.
  - The 10th Schedule of the Constitution empowers the Chairman to determine the question as to the disqualification of a member of the Rajya Sabha on the ground of defection.
  - The Chairman's consent is needed to raise a question of breach of privilege in the House.
  - Parliamentary Committees, regardless of whether set up by the Chairman or by the House, work under the direction of the Chairman.
  - He nominates members to different Standing Committees and the Department-related Parliamentary Committees.
  - He is the Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee, the Rules Committee and the General Purposes Committee.
  - It is the duty of the Chairman to interpret the Constitution and rules so far as matters in or relating to the House are concerned, and no one can enter into any argument or controversy with the Chairman over such interpretation.



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- **Salary:** The salaries and allowances of the Chairman are also fixed by the Parliament, and they are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Removal of Chairperson:** He can only be removed as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha when he is removed from the office of Vice-President of India.
- **Majority Needed For Removal**
  - He can be removed from the office by first giving 14 days' advance notice and then a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Rajya Sabha (effective majority) and agreed to by the Lok Sabha with a simple majority.
  - While the resolution is in effect for the removal of the Vice-President, he cannot preside over the house as chairman, although he can be part of the house.

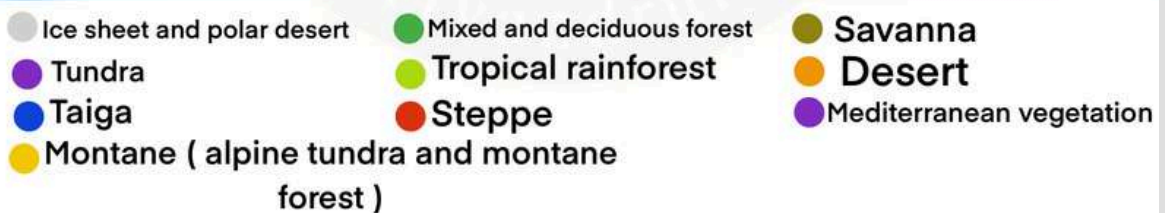
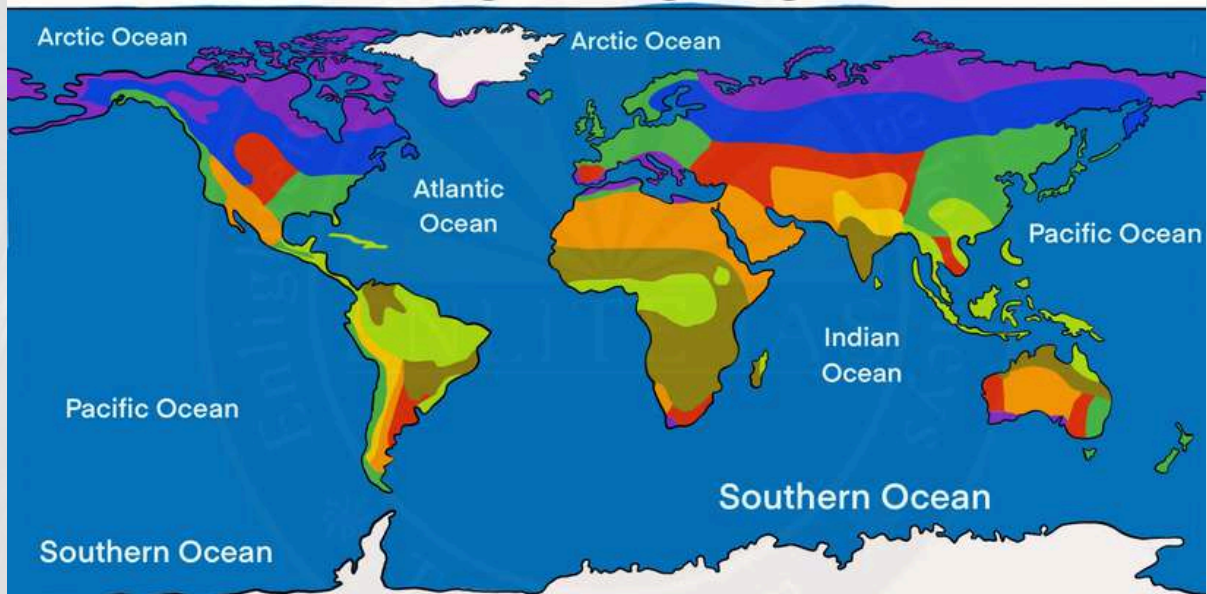
## Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

- *The Deputy Chairman is elected by the Rajya Sabha itself from amongst its members.*
- **Vacancy in Office**
  - If he ceases to be a member of the Rajya Sabha;
  - If he resigns by writing to the Chairman
  - Removal
    - Passed in effective majority after giving 14 days' notice to the deputy chairman.
    - When a resolution for the removal of the Deputy Chairman is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside over a sitting of the House, though he may be present.
- **Function**
  - The Deputy Chairman performs the duties of the Chairman's office when it is vacant or when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President.
  - He also acts as the Chairman when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House.

## 2 Amazon Rainforest (Source: Down To Earth)

- Lies in the Amazon River Basin (the world's largest river by discharge volume)
- Countries with the Amazon Rainforest: 60% is in Brazil, 13% in Peru, 8% in Bolivia, 7% and 6% in Colombia and Venezuela, nearly 3% each in Guyana and Suriname, and around 1% in French Guiana and Ecuador.
- The Amazon rainforest, or Amazonia, covers close to 1.3% of the planet's surface and 4.1% of the Earth's land area, but as a biome, the Amazon is home to 10% of the world's wildlife species.

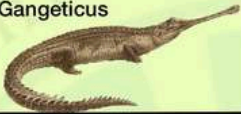


## The main Biome in the World



## 3 Gharial (Source: The Hindu)

### CROCODILE SPECIES IN INDIA

India harbours three diverse crocodile species - Mugger, Saltwater, and Gharial- found in distinct habitats nationwide.

Aspects	Gharial	Mugger/Indian Crocodile	Saltwater Crocodile
Scientific Name	Gavialis Gangeticus 	Crocodylus Palustris 	Crocodylus Porosus 
Distribution : India	Viable Population: National Chambal Sanctuary ( U.P, Raj, M.P) Small Non Breeding Population: Son, Gandak, Hooghly, Ghagra & Satkosia WLS (Odisha)	Throughout India	East Coast (Odisha's Bhitarkanika WLS, Andaman & Nicobar Islands coast & Sundarbans)
Distribution: Neighborhood	Brahmaputra of Bhutan & Bangladesh & Irrawaddy River	Extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar	Across Southeast Asia
Special Feature	Longest of all Crocodile, Long and thin Snout	Egg-laying, Hole-nesting, Wide & U-shaped snout	Largest living reptile, Pointed & V-shaped Snout
Habitat	Freshwater	Freshwater	Saltwater, Brackish & Wetlands
International Union for Conservation of Nature Status	CR	VU	LC
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Status	Appendix I	Appendix I	Appendix I
CMS Status	Appendix I	-	Appendix II
WPA, 1972 Status	Schedule I	Schedule I	Schedule I
Threats	Dams, Pollution, sand mining	Habitat Destruction	Hunted for its skin and Habitat loss
Government Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Odisha : Rs1000 award to conserve Gharial in Mahanadi River Basin</li> <li>● Indian Crocodile Conservation Project, 1945</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Indian Crocodile Conservation Project, 1975</li> <li>● Mugger Conservation Programme</li> <li>● Madras Crocodile Bank Trust</li> </ul>	Indian Crocodile Conservation Project, 1975

### Facts

17th June : World Crocodile Day

Annual Reptile Census, 2023: Marginal Increases in number of saltwater crocodiles ( Bhitarkanika National Park and its nearby areas).

Odisha's Kendrapara District: Only district in India where all three species of crocodiles found.

