

Crocodile Catfish

Why in News?

Crocodile catfish, a rare fish species was discovered.

- **Crocodile Catfish** - It is one of the ***largest freshwater catfish species*** in Asia.
- **Discovered in** - Bahini River, Guwahati, Assam.
- **Taxonomy**
 - **Scientific name** - Bagarius suchus.
 - **Family** - Sisoridae.

Sisoridae is the largest family of Asian catfishes, found throughout the southern arc of the Asian continent.

- It is known as Asian giant river catfish, crocodile goonch catfish or giant devil catfish.
- **Size** - 70 centimeters (28 inches).
- **Distribution** - South and Southeast Asia, including countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Thailand.
- **Habitat** - Fast-flowing rivers, turbulent rapids, boulders, large rocks, submerged roots, and debris.
- **Morphology** - It has a long, cylindrical body with a broad head, a wide mouth, typically dark brown or black in colour, and have irregular patches or spots on its body.
- The dorsal fin is long and extends almost the entire length of the back.



- **Sexual Dimorphism**
 - **Males** - Typically slimmer than females and may have slightly more pronounced coloration.

- **Characteristics** - It inhabits the rivers characterized by *strong currents, rocky substrates, and cooler water temperatures*.
- It best fed in the evening or at night when they are most active.
- **Diet** - It is a *carnivorous predator* feed on smaller fish, crustaceans, and invertebrates.
- Its overfeeding lead to poor water quality and health issues.
- **Threat to aquatic ecosystem** - It is an *invasive species*, threatens the local aquatic ecosystem by depleting native fish populations and disturbing the natural balance.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN List** - Near Threatened (NT).

References

1. [Northeast Now| Discovery of Rare Crocodile Catfish](#)
2. [Monesteraquarium| Crocodile Goonch Catfish](#)
3. [Aqua-Fish| Crocodile Catfish](#)

