

VIBRANT GANGA 



Rapti River



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The river originates at 3,500 m asl from the Mahabharat Range of the Himalayas in Nepal and meets the Ghaghra River near Barhaj in the Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It is a major left-bank tributary of the Ghaghra River with a basin area of around 25,793 km². About 44% of the Rapti River Basin lies in Nepal and 56% in India.

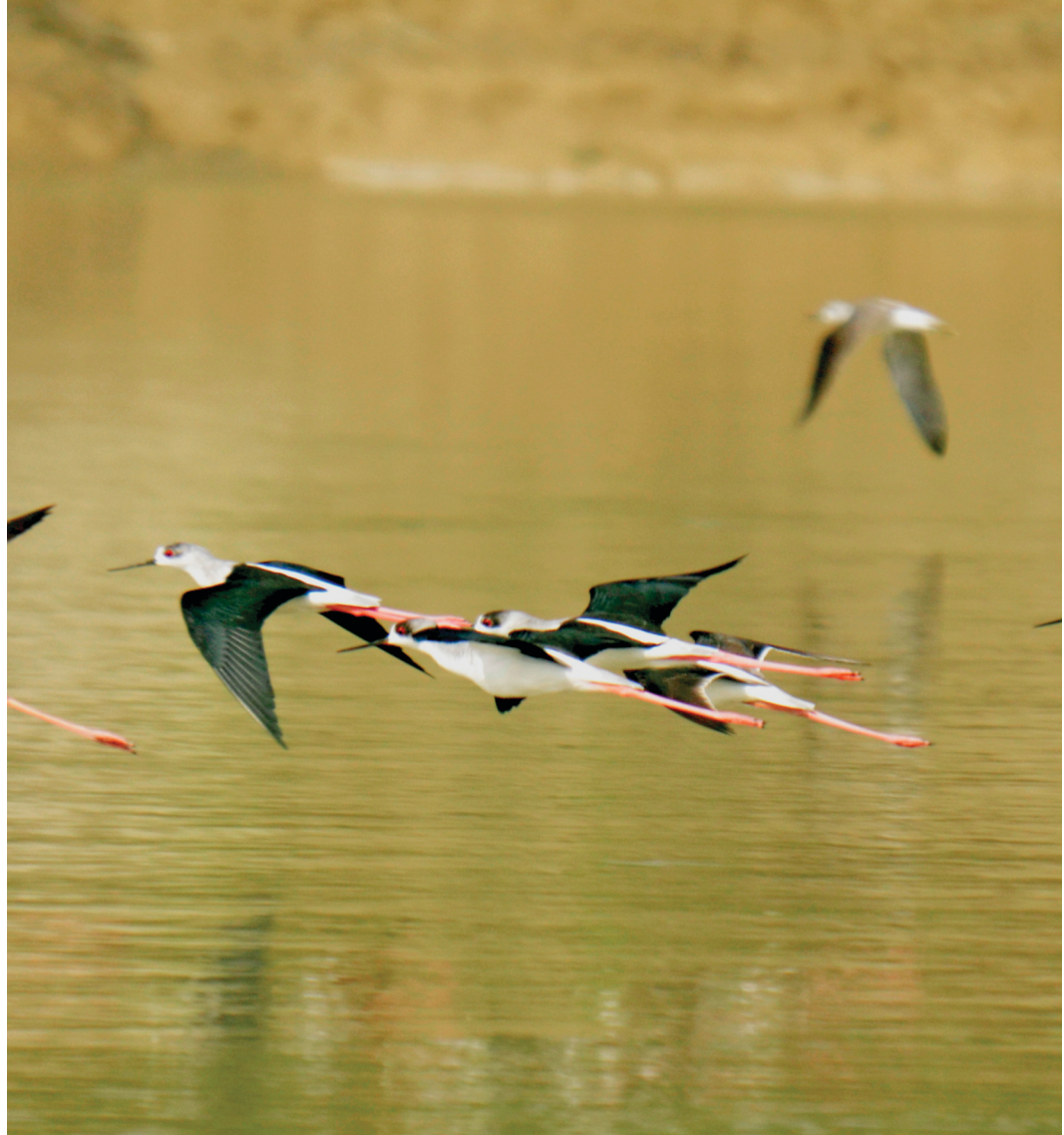


SALIENT FEATURES

- It is the largest tributary of the Ghaghra River.
- The Rapti River, the largest tributary river is about 776 km from its origin to its confluence with the Ghaghra. About 290 km of the River passes through Nepal, before entering India.
- The river passes through two biogeographic zones, the Himalayas and the Gangetic Plains.
- River supports a rich diversity of flora and fauna, including Gangetic dolphin, mugger, gharial, and 47 species of water and water-dependent birds.
- The characteristic umbrella species of the Sharda River include the Gangetic dolphin, gharial, and mugger.

- The threatened bird species of the river include Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*), Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*), Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), River Tern (*Sterna aurantia*).





THREATENED SPECIES

Mammals

Gangetic dolphin

Avifauna

Indian skimmer

Sarus crane

Lesser adjutant

Reptiles

Gharial

Mugger

Indian softshell turtle

Indian flapshell turtle

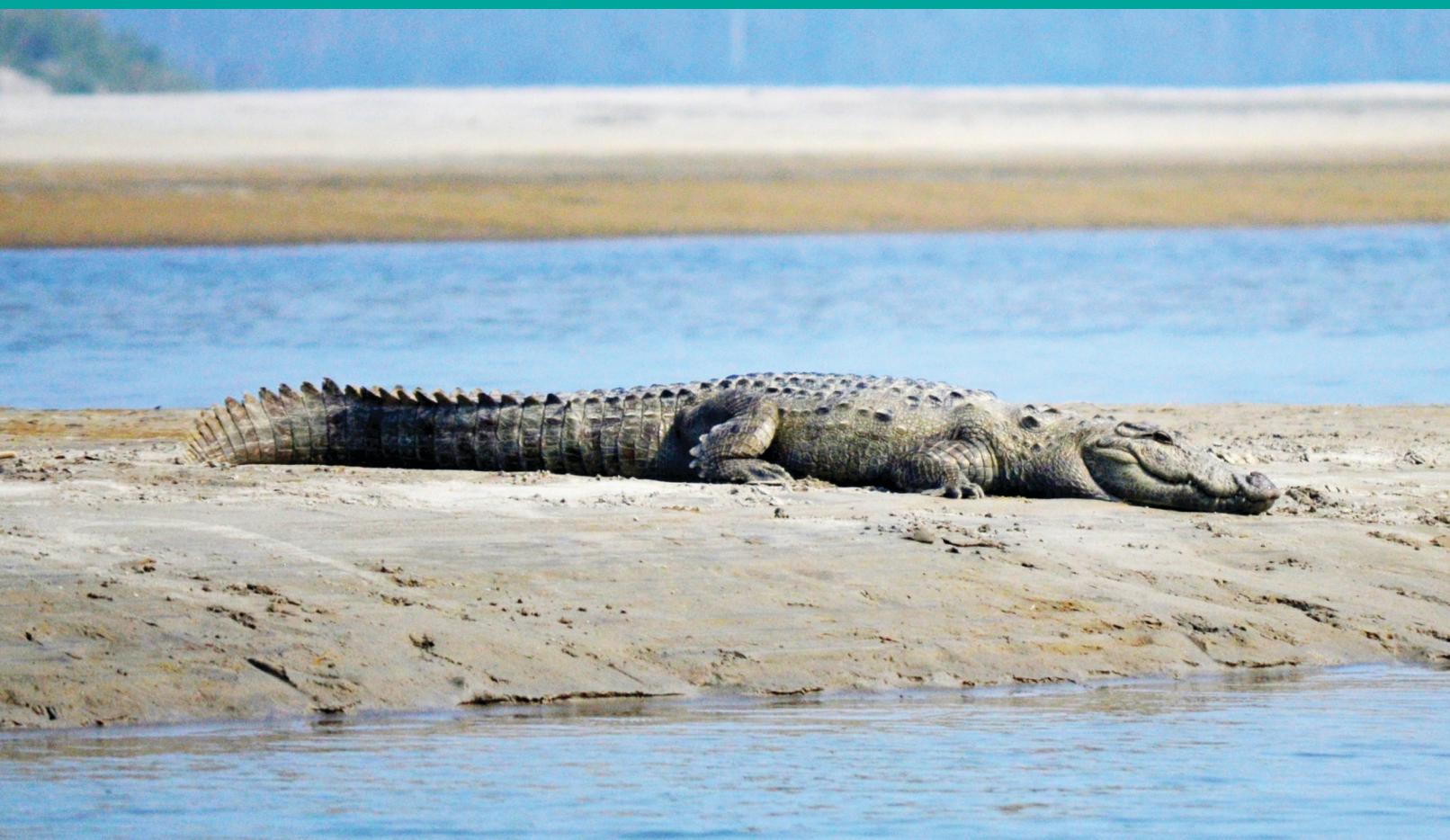


INTERESTING FACTS

- The ancient Buddhist pilgrimage site 'Shravasti' with the remains of Saheth-Maheth is situated on the bank of the Rapti River, where Buddha spent most of his monachal life.
- Rohini and Dano are the major tributaries of the Rapti River, joining in Gorakhpur and Tal Natwa, respectively.
- Rapti River, also known as 'Airavati' in the ancient text, is one of the sacred rivers of Buddhism.

DRIVERS OF RIVERSCAPE CHANGE

- Reduction in discharge due to large-scale water abstraction from Rapti Barrage in the Shravasti district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The domestic and sewage effluents from Gorakhpur city are deteriorating the water quality of the river.
- Poaching of waterbirds, illegal fishing, and sand mining are the major issues affecting the habitat quality of the river.



NMCG

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