

AGRICULTURE · C4S COURSES

Afro-Asian Sand Snake Sighted in Kutch

30 September 2026

Source: Indian Express

Context A sighting of the **Afro-Asian Sand Snake** was reported from **Kutch, Gujarat** — a species of India's arid north-west.

What It Is

- ***Psammophis schokari*** — also called the **Schokari Sand Racer**, **Forskål's Sand Snake** or **Sind Sand Snake**
- Family **Psammophiidae** (earlier placed under **Lamprophiidae**; often listed historically under Colubridae)
- First described by **Forskål in 1775**

Distribution

- Found across **North Africa, West Asia, Central Asia** and **north-western India** — hence the name "**Afro-Asian**"
- In India, recorded from **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh** and **Jammu & Kashmir**
- One of about **four *Psammophis* species** recorded in India, alongside ***P. condanarus*, *P. leithii*** and ***P. longifrons***

Conservation Status

- **IUCN: Least Concern**

Important Facts for Exams

- ***Psammophis schokari*** — Afro-Asian Sand Snake / Schokari Sand Racer; family **Psammophiidae**
- **IUCN: Least Concern**; described by **Forskål, 1775**
- Distribution: **North Africa to Central Asia and north-western India**; in India from **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, HP** and **J&K**
- **Rear-fanged (opisthoglyphous)** — fangs at the back of the upper jaw; venom is delivered by chewing, and such snakes are generally not medically significant to humans
- India's "**Big Four**" medically significant snakes: **Russell's viper, saw-scaled viper, common krait** and **spectacled cobra**
- **Kutch, Gujarat** — India's largest district, containing the **Great and Little Rann of Kutch**, a salt marsh ecosystem
- The **Rann of Kutch** is the world's only **breeding ground for Greater Flamingos** in the region — **Flamingo City**

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