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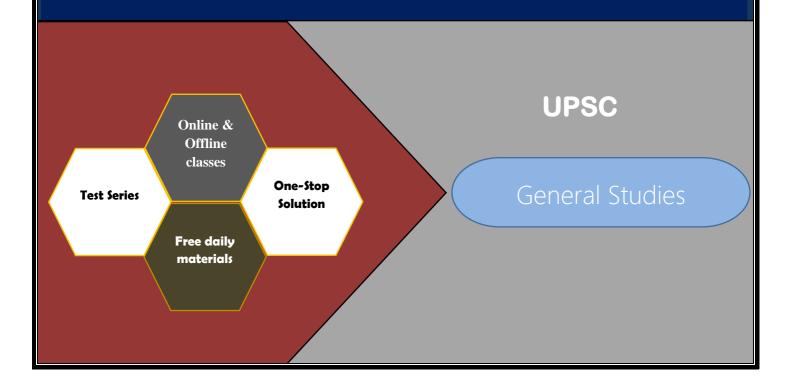


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Indus River Dolphin

Notes for civil services preparation





Indus River Dolphin

Recently, Punjab's wildlife preservation wing has batted for conservation of Indusriver dolphins and also their natural habitat.

• The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in2019.

Key Points

About:

- o Scientific Name: Platanista gangetica minor
- According to a recent study of South Asian river dolphins, Indus and Ganges River dolphins are not one, but two separate species. Currently, they are classified as two subspecies under Platanista gangetica.
- Like other **freshwater dolphins** (such as Ganges river dolphins), the Indus river dolphin is an important indicator of the health of a river.
- Other dolphins found in Indian waters include: Ganges River Dolphins, Irrawaddy dolphins.

Habitat:

o They can only be found in the lower parts of the **Indus River in Pakistan** and in **River Beas**, a **tributary of the Indus River** in Punjab,India.

Threats:

- o Biological Resource Use: Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources.
- o Natural System Modifications: Dams & water management/use.
- o **Pollution:** Domestic & urban waste water, Industrial & military effluents, Agricultural & forestry effluents.

Conservation Status:

- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species(CITES): Appendix I
- o Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972: Schedule I

Steps Taken:

- **Enumeration of freshwater dolphins** is being undertaken as a nationwide project of the Central Government.
- Project Dolphin: Announced on the eve of Independence Day in theyear 2020, it will be on the lines of Project Tiger, which has helped increase the tiger population.

