



Indus River Dolphin

Why in News

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

- The Indus river dolphin was declared the **State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019**.



Key Points

▪ About:

- **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:

- 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:

- **Biological Resource Use:** Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources.
- **Natural System Modifications:** Dams & water management/use.
- **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
- [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 the year 2020, it will be on the lines of [Project Tiger](#), which has helped increase the tiger population.

[Source: TH](#)

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