

PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



Recently, it was observed that conservation reserves, citizen science, and habitat protection gives the Indus River dolphin a fighting chance in India.

Indus River Dolphin

The Indus River dolphin (*Platanista minor*) is one of the rarest mammals.

Distribution: It presently only occurs in the Indus River system, along with a remnant population in the Beas River.

Features of Indus River Dolphin

It is functionally blind. It has extremely reduced eyes without lenses.

Instead of vision, it relies entirely on echolocation to navigate, hunt and avoid obstacles in the highly turbid waters.

It has a remarkable trait of swimming predominantly on its side.

This allows it to use its long, sensitive snout to probe the riverbed for prey. Side-swimming is extremely rare among cetaceans and is a signature feature of this species.

It lives largely solitary or in very small groups (typically mother-calf pairs).

Threats: Water pollution, poaching, fragmentation of habitat due to barrages

Conservation Status

IUCN Red List: Endangered

Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I