



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

# Study finds 6327 gangetic dolphins in four states

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## Context

The first estimate of Gangetic dolphins, the only riverine dolphins in India, has found 6,327 of them in the Ganga and its tributaries.

A press report by the Environment Ministry on Monday, World Wildlife Day, said there were 6,324 Ganges river dolphins, and three Indus river dolphins (a related species).

## Gangetic Dolphins

The highest number of dolphins was reported from **Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.**

Ganga River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) commonly known as **Susu** is **endemic to the Indian sub-continent.**

Also known as the **Tiger of the Ganga.**

It has **long thin snout**, rounded belly, stocky body, and large flippers.

Its slit similar to a blowhole on top of its head, acting as a nostril.

**Females are larger than males** and give birth to one calf **every two to three years**



## National Board for Wildlife (NBWL):

It is constituted by the Central Government under Section 5A of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** in 2022.

It **replaced the Indian Board for Wildlife**, which was formed in 1952.

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It is a 47-member committee, **headed by the Prime Minister** and the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change as vice chairperson.

NBWL is **India's top-level advisory body to the government on matters pertaining to wildlife conservation**, particularly within Protected Areas (PAs).

It is responsible for guiding the government's decisions on matters related to wildlife conservation and issuing approvals for projects in PAs.

The WLPA mandates that, **without the approval/recommendation of the NBWL**, construction of tourist lodges, alteration of the boundaries of PAs, destruction or diversion of wildlife habitat, and de-notification of Tiger Reserves **cannot be done**.

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The infographic features a blue background with a large, stylized title 'GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN' in white and blue. A small illustration of a dolphin is in the top right corner. Below the title, the scientific name '(Platanista gangetica gangetica)' is in a red box. A red vertical bar precedes the text 'National aquatic animal of India'. The infographic is divided into five sections: Facts, Habitat & Distribution, Protection Status, Threats, and Conservation. Each section has a header in a light blue box and a list of points with blue arrow icons. The background also has faint, repeating watermarks of 'Drishhti IAS'.

# GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN

(*Platanista gangetica gangetica*)

**National aquatic animal of India**

## Facts

- Can only live in freshwater; prefer deep water
- Essentially blind; hunts by emitting ultrasonic sound
- Can't breathe in water; must surface every 30-120 seconds for air
- Also called 'susu' because of sound they make while breathing

## Habitat & Distribution

- Distributed in Ganges and Brahmaputra River basins of India, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Distribution range in India covers 7 states namely, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

## Protection Status

- IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- CITES:** Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I

## Threats

- Habitat destruction
- Pollution
- Bycatch
- Climate Change
- Hunting

## Conservation

- Project Dolphin**
- National Dolphin Conservation Society** and Asia's first dolphin sanctuary
- Dedicated dolphin sanctuaries**
  - Vikram Sarabhai Dolphin Sanctuary
  - Hastina Dolphin Sanctuary