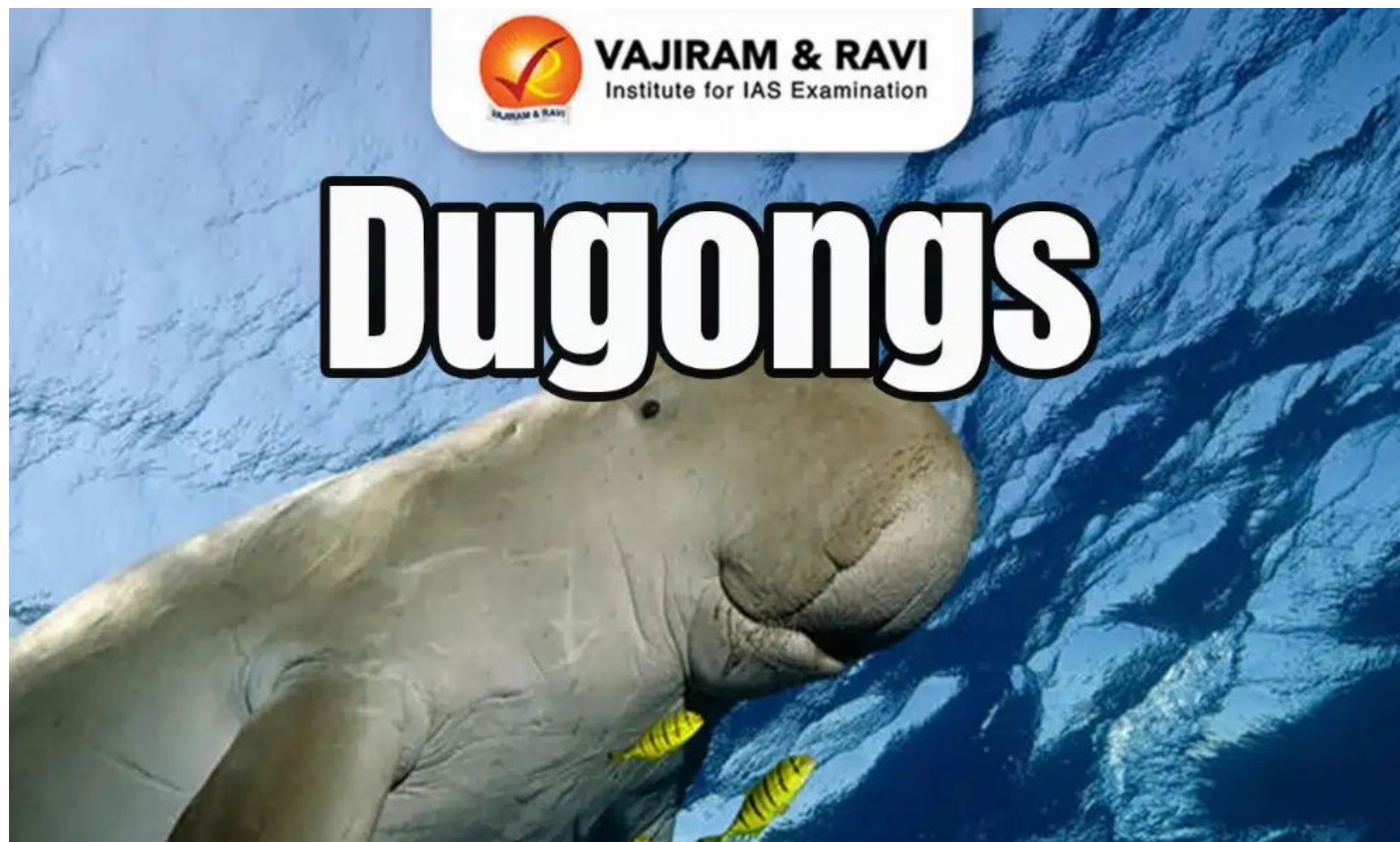


Dugong

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Dugong Latest News

Every year, May 28th is celebrated as World Dugong Day.

About Dugong

- Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*) are the only **herbivorous mammals** found in India's marine ecosystems.
- **Appearance:** It is **known as the sea cow**, but resembles a cross between a seal and a whale, and is **distributed through the Indo-Pacific region**.
- **Distribution:** They are found along the Indian coastline, primarily inhabiting warm waters around the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, and the Gulf of Kutch**. The dugong is a long-lived species, able to live up to **70 years**.
- **Habitat:** Due to their **dependence on seagrass beds** for habitat and food, dugongs are **restricted to shallow waters**, where they spend the day feeding on seagrasses of the genera **Cymodocea, Halophila, Thalassia, and Halodule**.
- **Reproduction of Dugong**

- Individuals reach reproductive **maturity after only nine or ten years** and can give birth at intervals of around three to five years.
- Due to its slow reproductive cycle, extended time to maturity, and infrequent calving, a dugong population's maximum potential **growth rate is estimated to be just about 5% per year.**

- **Conservation status of Dugong**

- **IUCN:** Vulnerable
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I**

- **Threats:** The threats they face worldwide include rapidly declining populations and the ongoing **degradation of their seagrass habitats.**

Dugong FAQs

Q1: Where is dugong found in India?

Ans: Dugongs are protected in India and occur in Gulf of Mannar, PalkBay, Gulf of Kutch and Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Q2: Which national park is famous for dugong?

Ans: Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

Q3: What is the scientific name for the dugong?

Ans: Scientific name: Dugong dugon

Source: TH

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-dugong/>

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