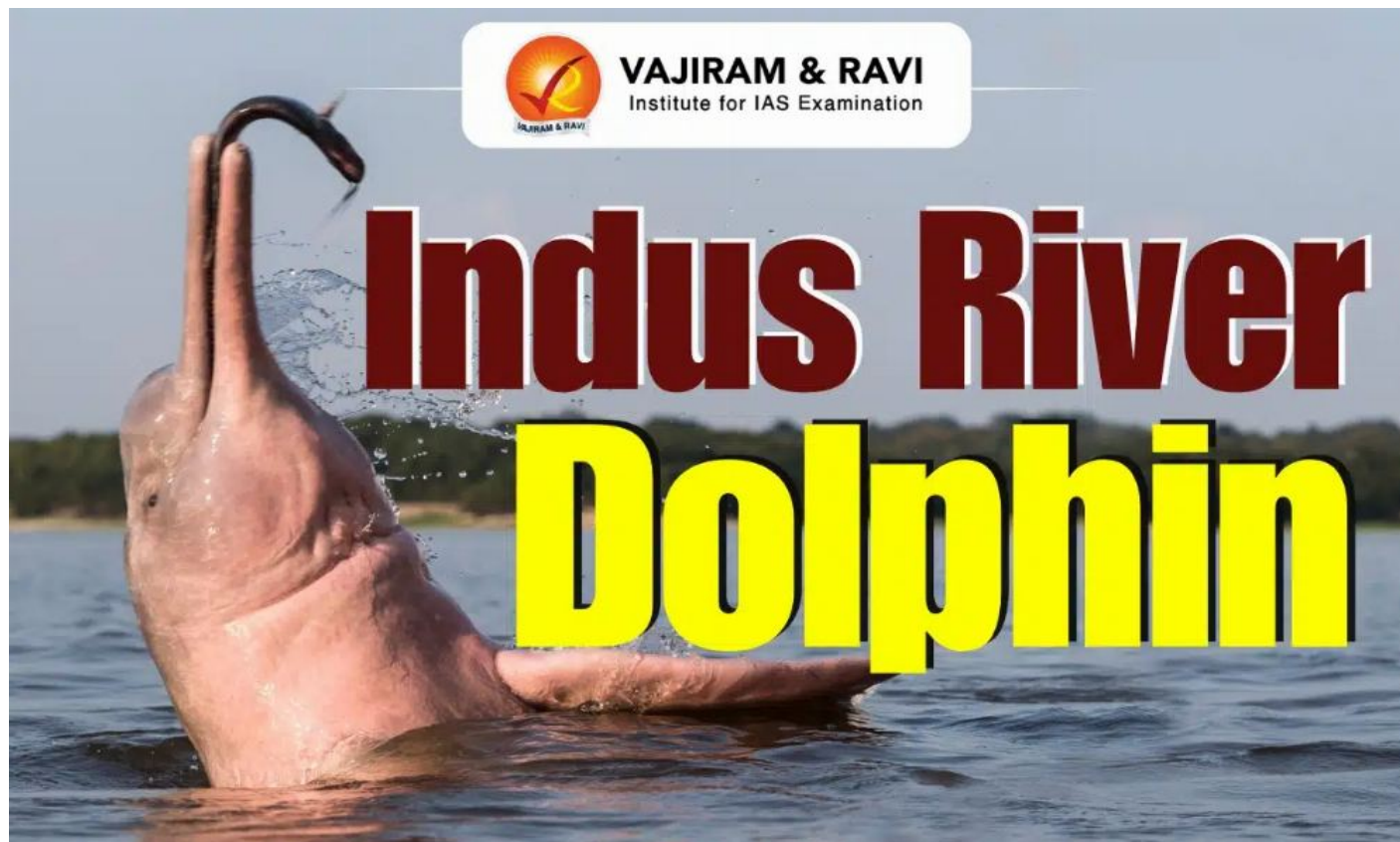


Indus River Dolphin

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Indus River Dolphin Latest News

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

About Indus River Dolphin

- The Indus River dolphin (*Platanista minor*) is one of the **rarest mammals**.
- **Appearance**
 - It has the **long, pointed nose** characteristic of all river dolphins.
 - The **teeth are visible in both the upper and lower jaws** even when the mouth is closed.
- **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).
- **Diet:** These **are carnivores** (piscivores). They feed on a variety of fish and crustaceans, including prawns, carp, catfish, and gobies.
- **Threats:** Water pollution, poaching, fragmentation of habitat due to barrages
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
 - **Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/indus-river-dolphin/>

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