



GANGETIC RIVER DOLPHIN & INDUS RIVER DOLPHIN : ENVIRONMENT

NEWS : India is conducting an 8,000-km aquatic survey focusing on its freshwater whales – the Ganges (*Platanista gangetica*) and Indus (*Platanista minor*) dolphins.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

According to an analysis of the Indus and Ganges River dolphins, it was found they are not one but two separate different species.

- **Current Classification:** Indus and Ganges River dolphins are currently classified as subspecies of South Asian river dolphins (*Platanista Gangetic*).
- **New Research Findings:** DNA analysis reveals clear genetic differences between Indus and Ganges River dolphins, including differences in teeth, color, growth patterns, and skull shapes, confirming them as separate species.

Gangetic River Dolphin:

- **Habitat:** Found in the Ganges, Brahmaputra rivers, and their tributaries in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. They live only in freshwater.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN: Endangered
 - CITES: Appendix I
 - Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule 1
- **Threats:** Dams, reduced river flow, mechanized boats causing injury.



Indus River Dolphin:

- **Habitat:** Found in Pakistan and River Beas in Punjab, India.
- **Population:** Increased from 1,200 (2001) to 2,000 (2017).
- **State Animal:** Punjab's state aquatic animal.
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN: Endangered.

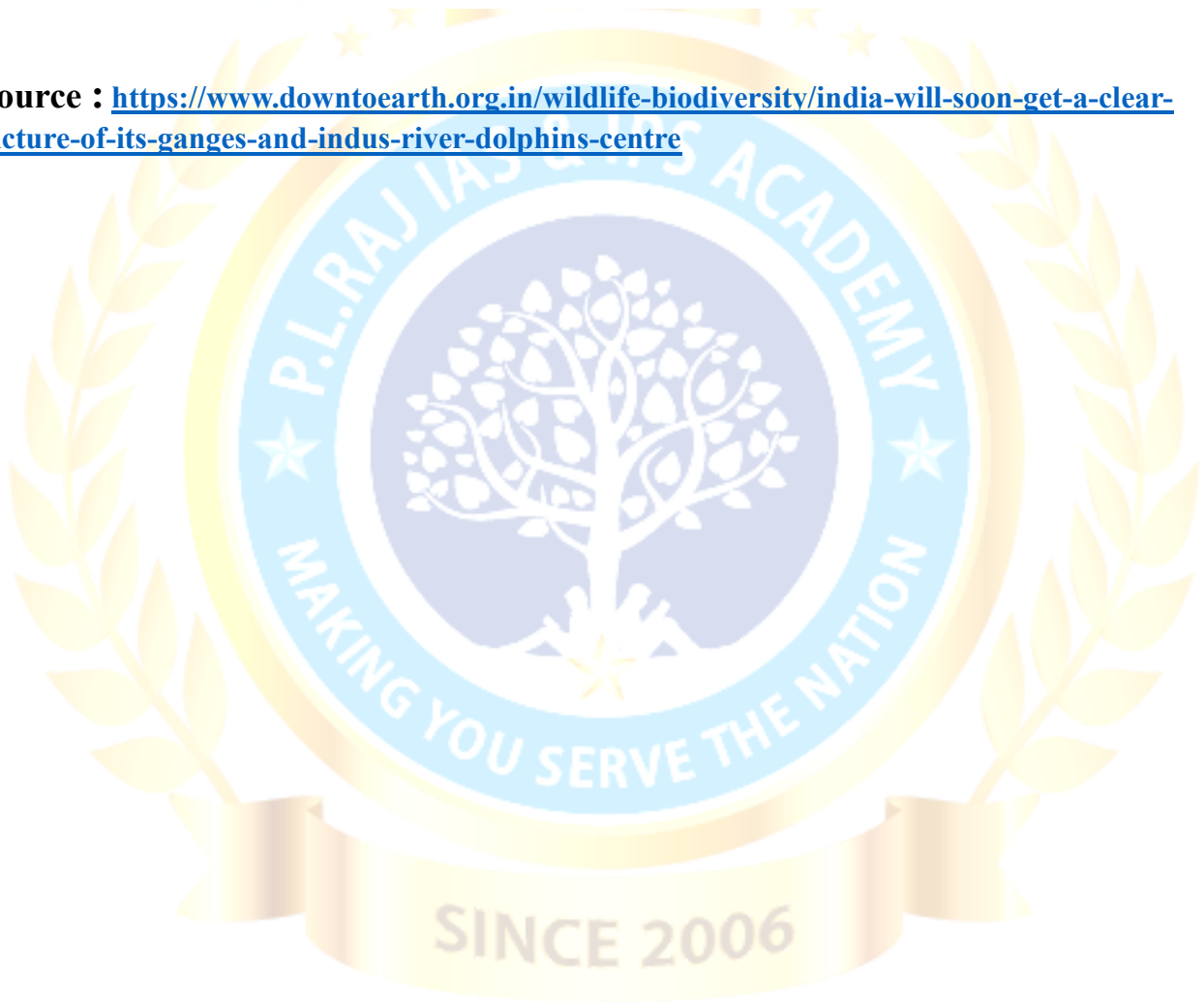


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Source : <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/wildlife-biodiversity/india-will-soon-get-a-clear-picture-of-its-ganges-and-indus-river-dolphins-centre>



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