



Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, estd. 1982, is an internationally recognised institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, that is actively engaged in research related to biodiversity and wildlife conservation.

India's National Aquatic Animal, the Ganges river dolphin is found in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli river systems of India, Nepal and Bangladesh. IUCN listed the Ganges dolphin as Endangered in 2004 as it's population has been declining contineously. It has now received the highest level of protection available in India as a Schedule - I species listed under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. On 15th August, 2020, the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi launched Project Dolphin aiming at long term conservation of the species. The project aims at developing species and habitat monitoring system and engaging citizens and other stake holders, especially fishermen, as active participants in river conservation.



Organisers :
Katwa College, Burdwan University

Principal : Dr Nirmalendu Sarkar

IQAC Coordinator : Prof. Utpal Das

About Katwa College

Katwa College accommodates thousands of first generation learners from economically backward section of the rural / semi-rural population. The College tries to attract students from the minority community as far as possible. The College endeavors to inculcate communal harmony among the learners. The College achieved the status of an undergraduate College in 1959. The main campus comprises the Main Building, Science Building, B.Ed Building, Boys' Common Room, Girls' Common Room, Canteen, Administrative Building and a Post Office. The second campus holds the Girls' Hostel, Principal's Quarter and Teaching Staff quarters. On the third campus stands the Boys' Hostel. The Sports Ground of the College forms the fourth campus of the College. At the outset, the College was affiliated to Calcutta University until Burdwan University was established on 16th June 1960. The College was included into 2(f) and 12(b) categories under UGC Act 1956 in the year 1959. The College enjoys Grant-in-Aid financial status under the Government of West Bengal.

GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN AWARENESS PROGRAMME

VENUE : Katwa College

TIMING : 11 am to 2 pm

Date : 19th May 2023



Organised by



In Collaboration with



**भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India**



KATWA MUNICIPALITY



Scientific Name : *Platanista gangetica*

Common Names:

Ganges river dolphin, blind dolphin, Ganges dolphin, Gangetic dolphin, *susu*, *hihu*, *soons*, *patukari*, *talbonsh*, side-swimming dolphin, South Asian River Dolphin

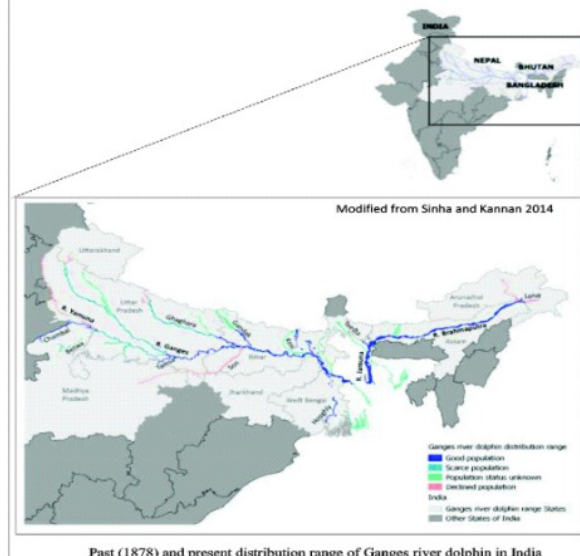
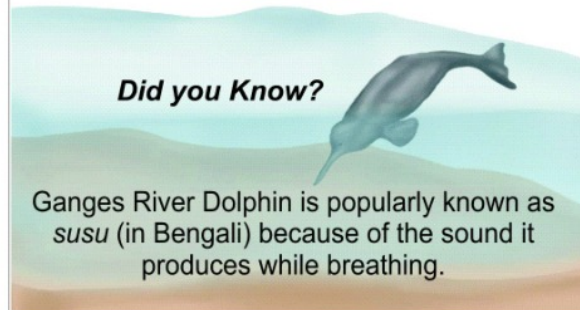
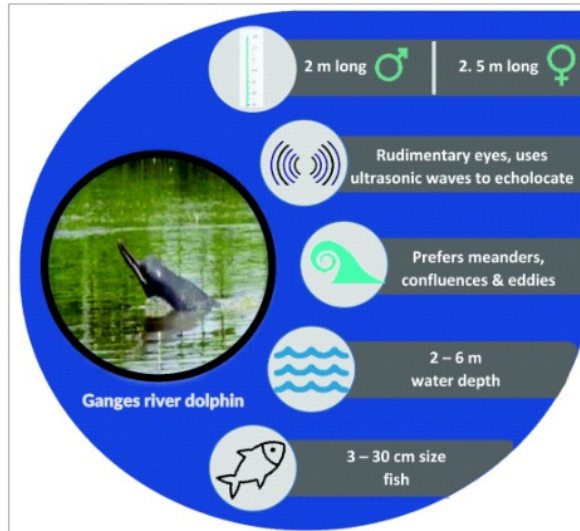
Taxonomy:

Ganges River Dolphin

Kingdom : Animalia
 Phylum : Chordata
 Class : Mammalia
 Order : Cetartiodactyla
 Family : Platanistidae
 Genus : *Platanista*
 Species : *gangetica*

Conservation status:

IUCN : Endangered
 IWPA : Schedule I
 CITES : Appendix I

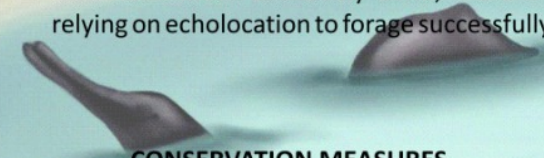


MAJOR THREATS

- Habitat Destruction
- Range Fragmentation
- Bycatch in Fishing Gear
- Pollution
- Boat Traffic
- Poaching

FEATURES & CHARACTERISTICS

- Life span: Estimated around 25-35 years
- Gestation length: Approximately 10 months
- Sexual maturity: 7-10 years
- Diet: Freshwater fish and invertebrates with carp, catfish, prawns and crustaceans.
- Appearance: They have very long snouts with long, thin, sharp teeth, round belly, stocky body and large flippers.
- Movement: They exhibit unique sidewise swimming patterns.
- Respiration : They have a slit similar to a blowhole on top of its head, which acts as a nostril.
- Communication: Effectively blind, therefore relying on echolocation to forage successfully.



CONSERVATION MEASURES

- Range wide population estimation
- Identification of hotspots (intensive study sites).
- Research on associated riverine fauna.
- River water quality assessment.
- Citizens Science initiative.
- Mass outreach and awareness campaigns.
- Formation of Dolphin Conservation Network (DCN) including students, community volunteers and wildlife enthusiasts.

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