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- The centre is being set up on banks of Ganges, as per recommendation of a steering committee constituted for implementation of **Project Dolphin**.
- As per the committee, Bihar had a natural advantage as it accounted for 50% of the world's river dolphin population.
- It was first time proposed in 2011.

About Gangetic Dolphin



- The Gangetic River dolphin is India's national aquatic animal (declared in 2009).
- It is **one of four freshwater dolphin species in the world**. The other three are:
 - 'Baiji' in Yangtze River in China (Functionally extinct since 2006)
 - 'Boto' in Amazon River
 - 'Bhulan' in Indus River in Pakistan
- Habitat: The Gangetic Dolphin is endemic to the Indian sub-continent and has a fairly extensive distribution range. It is found in the Ganga -Brahmaputra - Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of India and Bangladesh, while a few individuals survive in the Karnali, and the Sapta Kosi Rivers in Nepal.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Reliable indicator of the health of the entire river ecosystem.
 - It is **blind** and **finds its way** and prey in river waters through echolocation.
 - ✓ Echolocation is a technique used by bats, dolphins and other animals to determine the location of objects using reflected sound.
 - Usually found in turbulent waters, where there are enough fish for them to feed on.
 - Live in a zone where there is little or no current, helping them save energy.
 - If they sense danger, they can dive into deep waters. They swim from the nocurrent zone to the edges to hunt for fish and return.
- Poaching for dolphin oil, used as fish attractant and for medicinal purposes **Habitat destruction** due to development Fragmented projects (construction populations created by of barrages, dams), **Threats** dams and barrages water pollution have degraded (industrial effluents faced downstream habitat and municipal sewage) and created and overexploitation impoundments with of prey due to high sedimentation. widespread use of non-selective fishing gear Unintentional killing through entanglement in fishing gear
- Being a mammal, the Ganges River dolphin cannot breathe in water and must surface every 30-120 seconds. Because of the sound it produces when breathing, the animal is popularly referred to as 'Souns/Susu/Sushuk/Seho'.
- Generally, Females are larger than males and give birth once every two to three years to only one calf.

Conservation measures:

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) implemented Ganges River Dolphin Conservation Action Plan 2010-2020.
- **Project Dolphin**