

**07– 11 – 2023**

**News:** Global Declaration for River Dolphins

## **Global Declaration for River Dolphins**

- Global Declaration for River Dolphins was **recently adopted by 11 countries in Bogota, Columbia to save the six surviving species of river dolphins from extinction.**
- **This landmark deal signifies a ray of hope in combating the severe decline of river dolphin populations, which have dwindled by a staggering 73% since the 1980s.**
- **The Global Declaration for River Dolphins aims to halt the decline of all river dolphin species and bolster the most vulnerable populations through concerted efforts.**
- **It outlines measures such as eradicating gillnets, reducing pollution, expanding research initiatives, and creating protected areas to safeguard the remaining river dolphin species.**
- **Countries that adopted the declaration include Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, and Venezuela.**
- **There was also a representative from the regional government in Indonesia that has responsibility for the Mahakam River.**

## Foundational Pillars

- The eight foundational pillars of the Global Declaration for River Dolphins comprise initiatives like establishing a network of protected areas, improving river dolphin site management, expanding research, and monitoring efforts, engaging local communities and Indigenous Peoples, eradicating unsustainable fishing practices, enhancing water quality and quantity, promoting World River Dolphin Day (24<sup>th</sup> October) to raise awareness, and augment resource allocation and partnerships.

## River Dolphins

- River dolphins are a group of freshwater cetaceans that inhabit various river systems across Asia and South America.
- The Six Surviving River Dolphin Species include: Amazon, Ganges, Indus, Irrawaddy, Tucuxi, and the Yangtze finless porpoise.
- The Chinese River dolphin was deemed 'probably extinct' in 2007.
- As per the IUCN Red list, Yangtze finless porpoise is classified as Critically Endangered.
- Amazon, Ganges, Indus, Irrawaddy and Tucuxi are labelled as Endangered.