

Regent Education and Research Foundation Group of Institutions

Daily Current Affairs Synopsis

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(Useful for UPSC/WBPSC/SSC Exams.)

Global Declaration for River Dolphins

Recently, **11 Asian and South American** countries signed a landmark deal in Bogota, Colombia to save the world's **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**.
- **About:**
 - 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 (24th October)** to raise awareness, and augment resource allocation and partnerships.

What are the Key Facts Associated with River Dolphins?

- **About:**

- 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** are classified as **Critically Endangered.**
 - **Amazon, Ganges, Indus, Irrawaddy and Tucuxi** are labeled as Endangered.

Adaptation Gap Report, 2023

As per the latest edition of **Adaptation Gap Report, 2023** released by **UN Environment Programme**, developing countries, together, **need at least USD 215 billion every year** this decade to carry out meaningful adaptation work. In 2021, **just about USD 21 billion** went to developing countries for adaptation projects, which was down about 15% from the previous years.

- This year's report focuses on **adaptation finance**, or the availability of money to carry out the adaptation projects.
 - **Adaptation Finance Gap:**
 - The adaptation finance gap – the difference between estimated adaptation financing needs and costs and finance flows - has grown over the past.
 - The adaptation gap is likely **10-18 times as great as current international adaptation finance flows** — **at least 50% higher than previous range estimates.**
 - The current adaptation finance gap is now estimated at **USD 194-366 billion per year.**

S-400 Missile and Project Kusha

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to strengthen its defence capabilities has deployed three **S-400 Triumf air defence missile squadrons** along the **borders with China and Pakistan.**

- India in 2018-19 signed a contract with **Russia for five S-400 missile squadrons.** Three have arrived, and the remaining two are delayed due to **Russia-Ukraine conflict.**
- In another development, the **Indian Defence Acquisition Council** recently cleared the procurement of the **Indian Long Range Surface Air Missile(LRSAM) system** under **Project Kusha.**

What is the S-400 Triumf Missiles System?

- **About:**

- The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, **surface-to-air missile (SAM)** system developed by **Russia**, capable of intercepting and destroying various aerial targets, such as aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles.
- The S-400 has a range of up to **400 km**, at an altitude of up to 30 km and can engage up to **36 targets simultaneously**, with four different types of missiles.
- It is the most dangerous operationally deployed **modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM)** in the world, considered much ahead of the US-developed **Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD)**.