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1. Kaziranga Corridor

What needs to be focused-

- What are wildlife corridors
- Significance of corridors
- Kaziranga National Park speciality

What needs to be known?

- **Wildlife Corridor**

→ **What is it?:** Wildlife or animal corridors are meant to ensure safe passage for animals between two isolated habitats.

→ **Significance of Wildlife Corridors**

- ★ Ensure connectivity by linking forests, which will also help in migration.
- ★ Enable exchange of genetic material.
- ★ Helps species to adapt to climate change.
- ★ Reduce human–wildlife conflict.

- **Kaziranga National Park (KNP)**

- **Location:** KNP is located between the Brahmaputra River and the Mikir Hills in Assam.
- **Status:** National Park, Tiger Reserve, Important Bird Area, and World Heritage Site.
- **Famous For:** Largest population of Indian one-horned rhinoceros.
- **Biodiversity:** Home to tigers, elephants, swamp deer, wild buffalo.

National Parks in Assam





2. Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD)

Prelims Perspective: What needs to be learned?

- Constitutional provisions related to water disputes
- Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 – key features
- Major Inter-State River Water Disputes in India

What needs to be known?

- Constitutional Provisions
 - **Article 262:** Parliament may provide for the adjudication of interstate river water disputes. Parliament may exclude the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and other courts
 - **Entry 17, State List:** Water supply, irrigation, canals, drainage (subject to Entry 56)
 - **Entry 56, Union List:** Regulation and development of inter-state rivers in public interest
- Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 - Key Features
 - ★ Enacted under Article 262
 - ★ Provides for setting up ad-hoc water dispute tribunals when negotiations fail.
 - ★ Tribunal award is final and binding on states and is outside original jurisdiction of Supreme Court.



3. Project Dolphin & Irrawaddy Dolphin

Prelims Perspective: What needs to be learned?

- What is Project Dolphin- Key species involved
- Status/sanctuaries and important facts
- Irrawaddy Dolphin — distribution & conservation status

What needs to be known?

- **Project Dolphin**
 - **What is it?:** It is a flagship conservation initiative to protect dolphin species, and conserve aquatic ecosystems
 - **Objectives of Project Dolphin**
 - ★ Conserve dolphin species — Ganges River, Indus River and marine dolphins.
 - ★ Protection and restoration of Dolphin habitat.
 - ★ Studies to understand populations, threats and ecology.
 - ★ Local community engagement.
 - ★ Incorporating modern technology for conservation activities.
- **Species Under Project Dolphin**
 - **Gangetic River Dolphin**
 - ★ Found in the Ganga–Brahmaputra River systems.
 - ★ Listed as **Endangered (IUCN)** and acts as an indicator species.
 - ★ Designated conservation zones like **Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar.**
 - **Indus River Dolphin**
 - ★ Found mainly in the Beas River in India.
 - **Irrawaddy Dolphin**
 - ★ Found in the Ayeyarwady, Mekong, Mahakam rivers and in India mainly in **Chilika Lake (Odisha).**

>> Kozhikode

>> Ernakulam

>> Thiruvananthapuram

★ Listed as **Endangered (IUCN)** due to habitat degradation and human pressures.

★ Protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

→ **Marine Dolphins**

★ Includes coastal/marine dolphin species, often part of the project's broader scope.

PYQ:

Other than poaching, what are the possible reasons for the decline in the population of Ganges River Dolphins? (2014)

1. Construction of dams and barrages on rivers
2. Increase in the population of crocodiles in rivers
3. Getting trapped in fishing nets accidentally
4. Use of synthetic fertilisers and other agricultural chemicals in crop-fields in the vicinity of rivers

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (c)



4. Press Council of India (PCI)

Prelims Perspective:

- What is the Press Council of India, its composition and powers.

What needs to be known?

- **Press Council of India (PCI)**

→ **What is it?:** PCI is a statutory (Indian Press Council Act, 1965), quasi-judicial body established to preserve the freedom of the press and maintain standards of journalism in India.

→ **Composition & Term**

- ★ It consists of 29 members (1 Chairman + 28 Members).
- ★ Chairman is conventionally a retired Supreme Court judge nominated by a committee comprising the Vice President (Rajya Sabha Chairman), Lok Sabha Speaker, and a member elected by the PCI.
- ★ The 28 other members include 13 working journalists, 6 newspaper owners/managers, 1 news agency representative, 5 MPs and 3 experts nominated by UGC, Bar Council, and Sahitya Academy.
- ★ The term of the Chairman and other members is 3 years.

→ **Powers:** Decisions are final and cannot be appealed in a court.

→ **Limitations**

- ★ Cannot impose fines or legal penalties on media organisations or journalists.
- ★ Does not directly regulate electronic/digital media and only advisory in power.