

“Operation Dolphin at Baldiya Hat Kishanganj” A Successful Rescue and Translocation Operation of National Aquatic Animal dolphin, (*Platinista gangetica gangetica*)



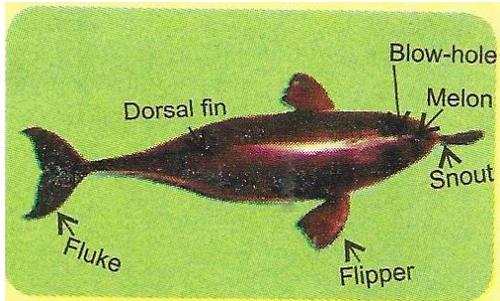
Twin stranded dolphin at Baldia Hat, Kishanganj

9th March 2013 is the historic day in wild-life conservation effort of Deptt. of Environment and Forests, Government of Bihar, as on this day a rescue and translocation operation of two stranded dolphins, ‘National Aquatic Animal of India, were successfully carried on by a dedicated team of Forest Department. It is worthwhile to mention that it is the first successful translocation of two dolphins in Bihar and in India, also. This operation was unique in nature as the two dolphins were captured from River Donk, a tributary of River Mahananda, at Baldia Hat in the district of Kishanganj and translocated to River Mahananda twenty kms away from the capture site, and the entire operation was completed within a time span of only four hours.

The operation was meticulously planned and Camped there for almost a week and made reconnaissance of the area, studied the problem, studied the books, identified the release site and set strategies for capturing and releasing the dolphin about 20 kms from away from the capture site.



On 1st March 2013 a news spread like a wild fire in the entire Kishanganj and



North Dinajpur District of West Bengal that two dolphins have been stranded in the river Donk in a stretch of 1 km of water and the dolphins are visible. Thousand of peoples started gathering there every day for watching the

movement/ activities of the dolphins, which was an unique sight for them . Initially, the people created a lot of chaos and disturbance by clapping, blowing whistles and making noises. People treated it like a dolphin tourism spot.

The Environment & forest department, Bihar immediately established a camp on the site along with his forest guards and also requisitioned extra Police force from the District administration, Kishanganj to control the crowd and safeguard the dolphins. The



Forest department started feeding the starving dolphins by releasing 10kg of



small fishes every day in the river. It was, ultimately decided to translocate these two dolphins from Donk river to Mahanada river for their safety, food, health and conservation. Dolphins were Translocated by 'Dry Method' to River Mahananda . As there was no any specific

set of instructions or guideline for the mode of dolphin Rescue and translocation operation in the literature, So Department created different logistics locally by his own imagination and



experience, The Environment & forest department, Bihar trained 25 fishermen for three days for safely picking up the dolphins (not catching) from the river. The West Bengal Forests department also supported this operation by providing animal capture nets and moral support to the team.

