

## Killer Whales

### Why in News?

*Australian authorities are euthanizing approximately 90 false killer whales that survived a mass stranding on a remote Tasmanian beach.*

- It is a **toothed whale** and the **largest member** of the oceanic dolphin family.
- It is also known as Orcas.
- **Scientific Name** - Orcinus orca.
- **Type** - Mammals.
- **Weight** - Up to 6 tons.
- **Appearance** - They are immediately recognizable by their distinctive black-and-white coloring.
- **Distribution** - Though they often frequent cold, coastal waters, orcas can be found from the Polar Regions to the Equator.
- Orcas are highly intelligent and able to coordinate hunting tactics.
- These are extremely fast swimmers and have been recorded at speeds of **up to 54kph.**
- Whales are **highly social mammals** and are well known for stranding in groups because they travel in large, close-knit communities which rely on constant communication.
- **Diet** - Carnivores.
- They use echolocation to communicate and hunt, making sounds that travel underwater until they encounter objects, then bounce back, revealing their location, size, and shape.
- **Conservation Status**
  - **IUCN** - Data Deficient.



### References

1. [BBC | Killer Whales](#)
2. [Times of India | Killer Whales](#)



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