



India's First Dolphin Research Centre

[Source: DTE](#)

India's inaugural **National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC)** marks a significant milestone in the conservation efforts for the endangered [Gangetic dolphin \(*Platanista gangetica*\)](#).

- Located strategically near the **Ganga river in Patna, Bihar**, the NDRC aims to be a hub for comprehensive research on various aspects of Gangetic dolphins, including behavior, survival skills, and causes of mortality.
 - Bihar is home to around half of the estimated 3,000 Gangetic dolphins in India.
- The Ganges river dolphin, discovered in 1801, historically inhabits the **Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh**.
 - Recent studies in the Ganga River Basin show their presence in the mainstream and tributaries like **Ghagra, Kosi, Gandak, Chambal, Rupnarayan, and Yamuna**.

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दार्शनिक
The Visionary

GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN

(*Platanista gangetica gangetica*)

National aquatic animal of India

Facts

- Can only live in freshwater; prefer deep water
- Essentially blind; hunts by emitting ultrasonic sound
- Can't breathe in water; must surface every 30-120 seconds for air
- Also called 'susu' because of sound they make while breathing

Habitat & Distribution

- Distributed in Ganges and Brahmaputra River basins of India, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Distribution range in India covers 7 states namely, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Protection Status

- IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- CITES:** Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I

Threats

- Habitat destruction
- Pollution
- Bycatch
- Climate Change
- Hunting

Conservation Efforts

- Project Dolphin (2021):** On lines of project Tiger
- National Dolphin Research Centre (2021):** India's and Asia's First; in Patna University (Bihar)
- Dedicated Dolphin Sanctuary:**
 - Vikramshila sanctuary (Bihar) – 1991
 - Hastinapur sanctuary (UP) – Proposed



Read more: [Gangetic River Dolphin](#)

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