



National Dolphin Research Centre

Source: DTE

The [National Dolphin Research Centre \(NDRC\)](#) in Patna has faced inactivity months after its inauguration, underscoring significant challenges and initiatives in conserving the [Gangetic River Dolphin](#).

- Despite its establishment, the center remains non-operational due to a lack of necessary equipment and skilled personnel.
- **NDRC** was inaugurated in 2024 and dedicated to researching and conserving the Gangetic River dolphin.
 - It is located strategically near the [Ganga River](#) and aims to facilitate studies on dolphin behaviour, habitat, and conservation threats.
- **Initiatives for Gangetic Dolphin Conservation:**
 - [Project Dolphin](#)
 - **Conservation Action Plan for the Gangetic Dolphin:** It was prepared by the [National Ganga River Basin Authority](#), detailing specific actions for habitat protection, community involvement, and mitigation of human-dolphin conflicts.
 - The plan includes conducting surveys to assess dolphin populations and threats while promoting awareness among local communities.
 - **Protection Status:**
 - [IUCN](#): Endangered
 - [Indian Wildlife \(Protection\) Act 1972](#): Schedule I
 - [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species \(CITES\)](#): Appendix I
 - [Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS\)](#): Appendix I

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



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Read more: [India's First Dolphin Research Centre](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/national-dolphin-research-centre)

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