



# Assembly Election Polls Concludes in Jharkhand | Jharkhand | 21 Nov 2024

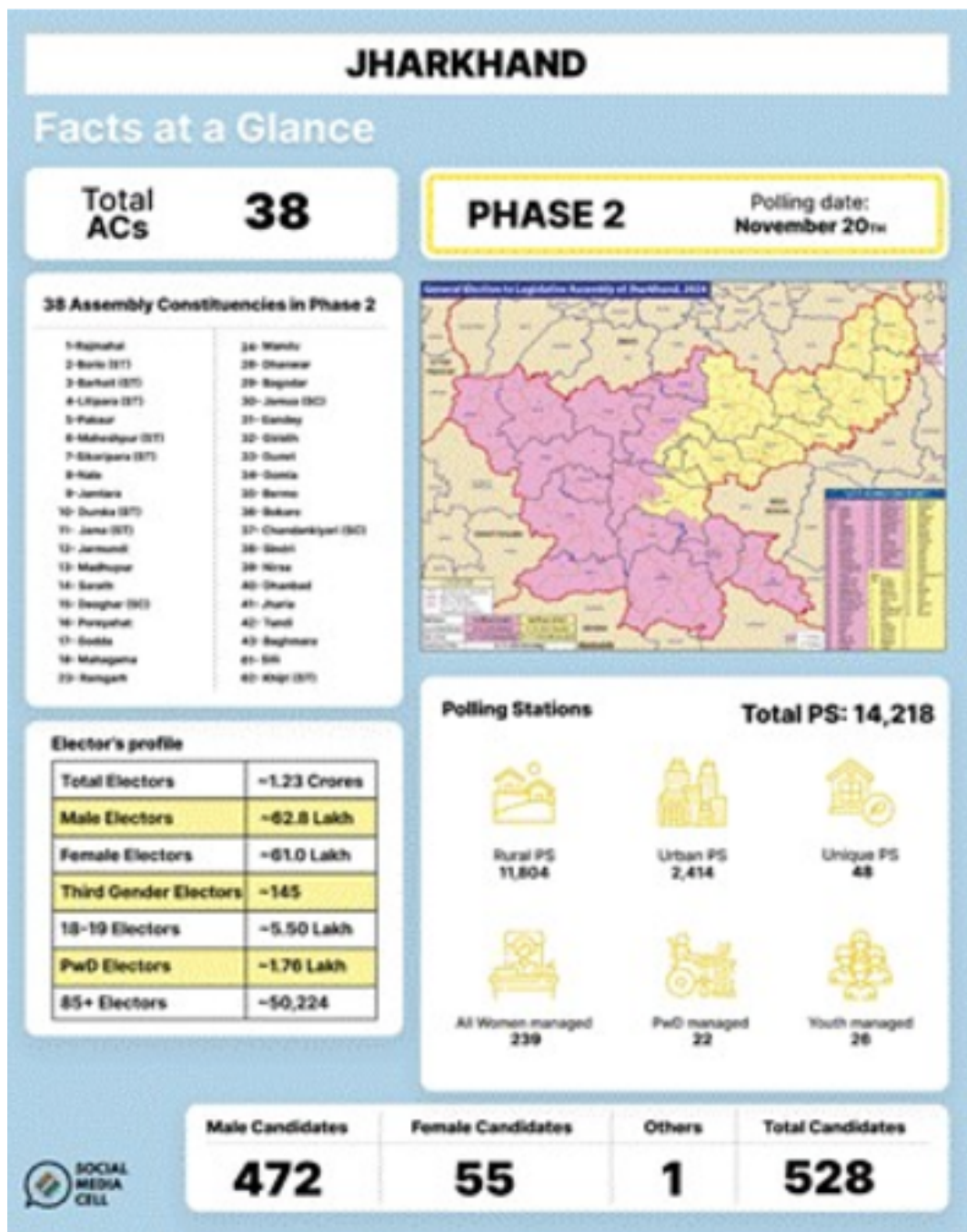
## Why in News?

[Assembly elections of 2024](#) concluded in **Jharkhand state**. The state recorded **67.59% voting**, surpassing 67.04% voting in the Assembly Elections of 2019.

## Key Points

- **Polling in Jharkhand:**
  - **Peaceful and Orderly Voting** began and progressed peacefully across **38 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) in 12 districts** of Jharkhand.
  - **Large voter turnout** characterized the polling atmosphere, with diverse groups, including first-time voters, women voters, tribal voters, and PwD voters, actively participating.
- **Focus on Tribal Voters and Unique Polling Stations:**
  - **Special efforts were made to boost participation among tribal voters**, including 100% enrollment of 1.78 lakh members from 8 [Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PVTGs\)](#).
  - **48 Unique Polling Stations** were decorated with **themes reflecting tribal culture**, creating a welcoming atmosphere for voters.
- **Accessibility and Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF):**
  - **Polling stations were equipped** with toilets, ramps, drinking water, and sheds, **ensuring voter comfort**.
  - **Facilities were provided** to make the voting process smooth and inclusive, such as benches, volunteers, and wheelchairs, etc.
- **Combatting Electoral Malpractices:**
  - **Vigilant approach was used** to ensure fairness, with seizures of money, narcotics, and other inducements.
  - **Coordination among law enforcement agencies** helped curb money and muscle power effectively.
- **Digital Facilitation and Monitoring:**
  - [Suvidha 2.0 App](#) facilitated campaign permissions, with 11,932 applications processed in Jharkhand.
  - [cVIGIL App](#) enabled voters to report [Model Code of Conduct \(MCC\)](#) violations. Jharkhand recorded part of the 24,992 complaints, resolved at a 99% resolution rate, with most resolved within 100 minutes.
- **Counting and Results:**
  - **Counting of votes** for Jharkhand's Assembly Elections is **scheduled for 23rd November 2024**.

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## Suvidha Portal

- It is a technological solution developed by the [Election Commission of India \(ECI\)](#) to ensure a level playing field upholding the **democratic principles** of free, fair, and transparent elections.
- The Portal aims to **streamline requests** for permissions and facilities from [political parties](#) and **candidates** during [elections](#), transparently **prioritising requests** based on the **First in First Out principle**.
- It caters to permissions for organising rallies, opening temporary party offices, door-to-door canvassing, video vans, helicopters, obtaining vehicle permits, and distributing pamphlets.

## cVIGIL App

- The **cVIGIL app** by the [Election Commission of India](#) has emerged as a powerful tool for citizens to report **election code violations**, particularly during the ongoing **General Elections 2024**.
- **Key Features:**

- **Register Complaints:** cVIGIL allows anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of [Model Code of Conduct \(MCC\)](#) that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till a day after the polls.
- **Anonymous Reporting:** Users can submit complaints anonymously, ensuring their personal details remain undisclosed.
- **Geotagging:** The app automatically adds [geotags](#) to reports when users use the camera feature, providing precise location information to field units.

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## Debris in Gurugram's Green Belt | Haryana | 21 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG)** faces backlash for dumping garbage and debris from the **Gurgaon-Faridabad highway** into the **ecologically sensitive green belt of Baliwas village** in the [Aravalli forest](#).

### Key Points

- **Importance of the Green Belt:**
  - The green belt is **vital for [groundwater](#) recharge, agriculture, recreation, and houses** the **revered Hill of Devta temple**, intensifying local opposition.
  - Environmentalists highlight the **area's role in preventing desertification and maintaining the balance** of the **Aravalli forest ecosystem**.
- **Concerns:**
  - Baliwas residents fear being trapped between the Bandhwari waste dump and the new dumping site.
  - Environmentalists caution that **continued dumping could lead to irreversible ecological damage**, affecting soil quality, biodiversity, and groundwater recharge.
- **Government and Administrative Response:**
  - [Haryana State Pollution Control Board \(HSPCB\)](#) plans to inspect the site, raising hopes for stricter enforcement.
  - The MCG Commissioner promised action, forming a dedicated team to assess the situation and recommending strict measures against violators to protect the green belt.

### Aravallis

- **About:**
  - The Aravalli Range extends from Gujarat to Delhi through Rajasthan, 692 km in length and varies between 10 to 120 km in width.
    - The range acts as a natural green wall, **with 80% located in Rajasthan and 20% in Haryana, Delhi, and Gujarat**.
  - The Aravalli mountains are divided into two main ranges **the Sambhar Sirohi Range and the Sambhar Khetri Range in Rajasthan**, where their extension is about 560 km.
  - It serves as an **ecotone** between the **Thar Desert and [the Gangetic Plain](#)**.
    - Ecotones are areas where **two or more ecosystems, biological communities, or biotic regions meet**.
  - **Gurusikhar (Rajasthan)**, the highest peak in the range, reaches an elevation of 1,722 meters.
- **Significance of Aravallis:**
  - The Aravallis **prevent the [Thar Desert](#) from encroaching** on the Indo-Gangetic plains,

- historically serving as a catchment for rivers and plains.
- The range **supports 300 native plant species, 120 bird species**, and exclusive animals like jackals and mongooses.
  - During **monsoons**, the Aravallis **direct monsoon clouds eastward**, benefiting sub-Himalayan rivers and North Indian plains. In winter, they **shield fertile valleys from cold westerly winds**.
  - The range **aids in groundwater replenishment** by absorbing rainwater, thus reviving groundwater levels.
  - The Aravallis act as the **“lungs” for Delhi-NCR**, mitigating some effects of the **region's severe air pollution**.
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## Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme 2024 | Haryana | 21 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

The Haryana government launched the **‘Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme 2024’** to recognize and reward employees for **innovative practices and exceptional efforts that enhance governance across the state**.

### Key Points

- **Objective of the Scheme:**
  - The scheme **aims to promote excellence in governance** by recognizing and rewarding employees for innovative practices and exceptional efforts that enhance governance across the state.
- **State-Level Awards:**
  - **Flagship Scheme Awards:**
    - Teams working on flagship projects will be rewarded with a trophy, an appreciation certificate signed by the Chief Secretary.
      - A cash prize of Rs 51,000, shared equally among team members.
    - Maximum of **six awards will be given** in this category.
  - **General State-Level Awards:**
    - Given to teams demonstrating **high performance in governance initiatives**.
    - A trophy and certificate of appreciation, added to recipients' service records.
      - Cash prizes:
        - Rs 51,000 for first prize.
        - Rs 31,000 for second prize.
        - Rs 21,000 for third prize.
      - Cash rewards will be equally distributed among team members.
  - **District-Level Awards:**
    - Presented by the Deputy Commissioner of each district.
    - Rewards included a trophy, an appreciation certificate signed by the Divisional Commissioner.
    - Cash prizes:
      - Rs 31,000 for first prize.
      - Rs 21,000 for second prize.
      - Rs 11,000 for third prize.
- **Good Governance Day:**
  - The awards align with **Good Governance Day**, celebrated annually on **25th December**.



## Good Governance

### ▪ About:

- **Governance** refers to the **processes, systems, and structures** through which organizations, societies, or groups are **directed, controlled, and managed**.
  - **Good governance** is defined as **a set of values through which a public institution conducts public affairs and manages public resources** in a way that respects human rights, the rule of law, and the needs of society.
- The **World Bank** defines good governance in terms of the **traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised**. This includes:
  - the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced
  - the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies
  - the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them.

### ▪ Basic Principles of Good Governance:



## Why in News?

**Dolphin conservation** in India faces challenges as [the National Dolphin Research Centre \(NDRC\)](#) in Bihar, remains **non-operational**, months after inauguration due to a **lack of advanced equipment and skilled manpower**.

## Key Points

- **Inauguration and Current State:**
  - The NDRC, **located near [the Ganga](#) in Patna**, was inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister on 4th March 2024.
  - Despite its opening, the centre remains non-functional, marked by neglect and locked glass doors.
- **Impact on Dolphin Conservation:**
  - The delay has hindered essential research on [Gangetic dolphins](#), India's national aquatic animal.
  - **RK Sinha, the "[Dolphin Man of India](#),"** who proposed the NDRC 15 years ago, expressed disappointment over the lack of progress.
- **Official Assurance:**
  - Bihar Forest and [Chief Wildlife Warden](#) assured that the NDRC would begin operations within the financial year 2024-25.
  - The **centre aims to conserve dolphins, study their behaviour and habitat, and train fishermen to safeguard dolphins** during fishing.
- **Strategic Location and Importance:**
  - The 4,400-square-metre facility is situated on Patna University campus near the Ganga, **allowing direct observation of dolphins in their natural habitat.**
- **Conservation Challenges:**
  - Bihar, **hosting half of India's 3,000 Gangetic dolphins, faces threats to habitats** due to activities like construction and pollution.
  - [The National Green Tribunal](#) recently highlighted the danger posed by bridge debris in Bhagalpur to the dolphin population.
- **Significance of Gangetic Dolphins:**
  - These **endangered dolphins, blind and reliant on echolocation**, are crucial to the river ecosystem.
    - Echolocation is a technique used by **bats, dolphins and other animals** to determine the **location of objects using reflected sound.**
  - They thrive in deep waters with minimal currents and are protected under [the Wildlife \(Protection\) Act 1972](#), and [International Union for the Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) guidelines.
  - 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](#).

# 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



## Rajgir to Host Men's Hockey Asia Cup | Bihar | 21 Nov 2024

Why in News?

According to the officials, the [Rajgir Sports Complex](#) will be hosting the [Men's Hockey Asia Cup in 2025](#). Scheduled from 27th August to 7th September, the event will also be a qualifying event for the [World Cup, 2026](#).

### Key Points

- Preparation for Hosting a Men's Event:**
  - Following the success of the **women's six-nation event**, Bihar is gearing up to host the prestigious **Asia Cup men's tournament**.
  - The Asia Cup, a qualifying event for the 2026 World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands, is expected to draw larger crowds and increased interest.

### The Men's Hockey Asia Cup

- It is an event held annually by the [Asian Hockey Federation](#) since 2011 with **India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, and China** participating in the inaugural tournament.
- The **Asian Hockey Federation** is the **governing body for hockey in Asia**.
- It has **33 member associations** and it is affiliated to the [International Hockey Federation \(FIH\)](#).
- The Asia Cup is an eight-team tournament, with the winner securing qualification for the 2026

