

## AGRICULTURE · C4S COURSES

# Hazaribagh as a Vulture Safe Habitat

28 September 2026

Source: New Indian Express

**Context** A **100-km radius** around **Hazaribagh, Jharkhand** has emerged as a thriving **safe habitat and natural breeding zone** for endangered vultures — supporting an estimated **400 to 450 birds**.

## Location

- **North-central Jharkhand**, on the **Chota Nagpur Plateau**
- Encompassing the **Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary, Barkatha block**, and the cliff terrains of **Mahavar Hill (Mahavar Pahad)**
- Jharkhand's **sole surviving wild stronghold** for critically endangered vultures

## Important Facts for Exams

- **Hazaribagh** — on the **Chota Nagpur Plateau**, north-central Jharkhand; **400–450 vultures** in a 100-km radius
- India's vulture population fell over **95 per cent** in three decades
- **Diclofenac** banned for veterinary use in **2006**; **aceclofenac and ketoprofen** banned in **2023**; **meloxicam** is the safe alternative
- Critically Endangered Indian species: **White-rumped, Indian (long-billed), Slender-billed** and **Red-headed** vultures
- **Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020–25**
- **Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres** at **Pinjore (Haryana), Rajabhatkhawa (West Bengal)** and **Rani (Assam)**
- **Vulture Safe Zone** — an area of about **100 km radius** verified free of toxic NSAIDs
- Related: the **Dehradun study** showing that relocating a carcass dump **2.4 km** from power lines eliminated **electrocution deaths**
- **Chota Nagpur Plateau** — a mineral-rich plateau across Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh

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