

## Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

*Prelims - Current events of National and International importance| Bio-diversity.*

### Why in News?

*Recently, the Odisha Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is set to become India's newest Tiger reserve.*

- Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is popularly known as **The Land of Bisons**.
- It was declared a **wildlife sanctuary in 1985**.
- **Location** - It is situated in the Bargarh district of Odisha.
- **Rivers and Dams** - The sanctuary's lifeline is the Mahanadi River, whose waters are harnessed by the Hirakud Dam.

*Hirakud Reservoir is a Wetland, Ramsar Site, and International Bird Area one of the largest man-made reservoirs and the longest dam in India.*

- **Vegetation** - It is a dry deciduous forest with varied flora that dominates the sanctuary area.
- **Flora** - Sal, Sisoo, Bandhan, Mahul, Dhaura, Karada, Harda, Ainla, Bahada, Domkurdu, etc.
- **Salia bamboo** is scattered throughout the sanctuary.
- **Fauna** - Tiger, Leopard, Indian Bison (Gaur), Sambar, Spotted Deer, Chousingha (Four-horned antelope), Sloth bear, Wild boar, Langur, Percupine.
- **Migratory birds** such as Great crested grebe, Brahminy duck, Pintail, Shoveller, Godwal, Tufted pochard and several other water ducks are seen during winter.
- **Historical significance** - The sanctuary uniquely integrates India's freedom struggle history with wildlife conservation.
- **Veer Surendra Sai** used these rugged terrains as his operational base

against British colonial rule, making the landscape as significant historically as it is ecologically.

- **Pilgrimage - The Bara Bakra pilgrimage site** inside the sanctuary continues to attract over 5,000 annual visitors during Sankranti.
- **Technology-enabled conservation** - The sanctuary is deploying advanced monitoring systems, including camera traps and AI-based wildlife tracking.
- **Dark sky tourism** - Debrigarh has emerged as India's foremost dark sky destination, with around 1,000 sq km of habitation-free landscape.

## Reference

[Deccan Herald| Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary.](#)

