

[www.vishnuias.com](http://www.vishnuias.com)



# Topic wise content



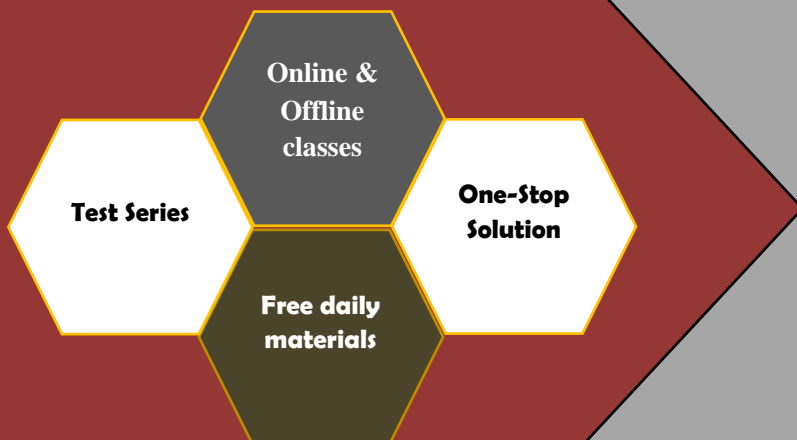
<https://t.me/vishnuiasmentor>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel>

## Similipal Biosphere Reserve: Odisha

Notes for civil services preparation



UPSC

General Studies

## Similipal Biosphere Reserve: Odisha

- A massive fire broke out in the **Similipal Biosphere Reserve** in Odisha. The core area of the biosphere was untouched by the fire, however the fire is threatening damage to its rich biodiversity.

### Key Points

#### About:

Similipal derives its name from ‘Simul’ (silk cotton) tree.

- It was formally designated a **tiger reserve in 1956** and brought under

#### Project Tiger in the year 1973.

- It was declared a **biosphere reserve** by the Government of India in June, 1994.
- It has been part of the **UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserve** since **2009**.
- It is part of the **Similipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Reserve** popularly known as **Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve**, which includes 3 protected areas i.e. Similipal Tiger Reserve, Hadagarh Wildlife sanctuary and Kuldiha wildlife

#### Location:

- It is situated in the northern part of Odisha’s Mayurbhanj Geographically, it lies in the eastern end of the eastern ghat.

**Coverage:**

- The biosphere spread over 4,374 km. has 845 sq. km. of core forest (tiger reserve), 2,129 sq km buffer area and 1,400 sq km of transition space.

**Vegetation:**

- Similipal has 1,076 flowering species and 96 species of It boasts of having tropical semi-evergreen forests, tropical moist deciduous forests, dry deciduous hill forests, high level sal forests and sprawling meadows.

**Tribes:**

- Two tribes, the **Erenga Kharias** and the **Mankirdias**, inhabit the reserve's forests and practise traditional agricultural activities (the collection of seeds and timber).

**Wildlife:**

o Similipal is home to a wide range of wild animals including tigers and **elephants**, besides 304 species of birds, 20 species of amphibians and 62 species of reptiles.

**Vulnerability to Forest Fires:**

- **Natural:** Natural causes such as lighting or even soaring temperatures can sometimes result in **forest fires**
- **Man Made Factors:** Instances of poaching and hunting wherein the poachers set a small patch of forest on fire to divert the wild animals, can lead to forest

## Mitigation Strategies:

- Forecasting fire-prone days and including community members to mitigate incidents of fire, creating fire lines, clearing sites of dried biomass, and crackdown on
- The forest fire lines which are strips kept clear of vegetation, could help break the forest into compartments to prevent fires from spreading.

## Other Major Protected Areas in Odisha

- **National Parks:**
  - **Bhitarkanika National Park:** It is home to the largest congregation of the endangered SaltWater Crocodile in the

## Wildlife Sanctuaries:

- **Badrama WLS:** It is characterized by the presence of Moist Sal
- **Chilika (Nalaban island) WLS:** Asia's largest and world's second- largest lagoon. Recently, direct sightings of school of Irrawaddy dolphins has been reported
- **Hadgarh WLS:** Salandi river passes through it which is home to mugger
- **Baisipalli WLS:** It is a sal dominated forest with a significant number of tigers, leopards, elephants, herbivores like Chousingha.
- **Kotagarh WLS:** It consists of dense deciduous forests with
- **Nandankanan WLS:** First in the world to breed White tiger and Melanistic
- **Lakhari Valley WLS:** It is a dwelling place of a large number of

- **Gahirmatha (Marine) WLS:** It is a mass nesting spot in Indian Ocean region and the only turtle sanctuary in Odisha. **The Olive Ridley turtles** travel across the South Pacific to breed on the coast of Gahirmatha.

