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FOREST BIRD SURVEYS

As part of

2nd ODISHA BIHANGA UTSAV

TThe Odisha Bihanga Utsav is a landmark initiative of the Wildlife Wing of the Odisha Forest Department to systematically document and conserve the State's bird diversity. As part of this initiative, bird surveys will be conducted across five ecologically significant protected areas: Similipal Tiger Reserve, Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary and Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary. Similipal Tiger Reserve, in Mayurbhanj district, is one of the largest contiguous forest tracts in eastern India. It lies within the Chhotanagpur Province of the Deccan Peninsular Biogeographic Zone, and its wide variation in altitude, climate and terrain, along with numerous perennial streams, brings together plant elements from the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Sub-Himalayan regions. Moist mixed deciduous forests dominate, interspersed with semi-evergreen patches and grasslands, and Similipal is also the largest watershed of northern Odisha. Satkosia Tiger Reserve lies along the Mahanadi gorge in central Odisha. It is a critical transition zone between the Eastern Ghats and the Central Indian landscape, and its mosaic of riverine habitats, riparian forests and deciduous forests supports rich aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, in Bargarh district, adjoins the Hirakud Reservoir. Its undulating hills, dry deciduous forests, grasslands and reservoir-edge habitats support both resident and migratory waterbirds, reflecting a close link between forest and wetland. Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, in Kalahandi district, represents the Eastern Ghats forests of southwestern Odisha, with rolling hills, deep valleys, perennial streams and waterfalls set among moist and dry deciduous forests. Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, is an important forest refuge within a rapidly urbanising landscape. Its hills, deciduous forests, scrublands and seasonal water bodies are home to Asian Elephants, Leopards and many resident and seasonal birds. Together, these five protected areas give a representative cross-section of Odisha's habitats. Surveys across them will produce valuable baseline data for monitoring birds, for ecological research and for long-term conservation planning in the State.



The Forest Bird Survey under Odisha Bihanga Utsav 2026-27 will offer birdwatchers, researchers and nature enthusiasts an opportunity to explore Odisha's forest bird diversity through guided surveys across selected protected areas. Each destination will host a three-day survey programme, with registration, participant selection and confirmation scheduled as per the designated dates. The initiative aims to promote citizen science, encourage bird documentation and strengthen understanding of Odisha's avian diversity.

Sl. No.	Destination	*Registration Link Active*	*Registration Closes*	Selected Participant List	Confirmation Deadline	Survey Dates
1	**Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary**	*25th Nov 2026*	*1st Dec 2026*	3rd Dec 2026	5th Dec 2026	11-13 December 2026
2	**Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary**	*1st Dec 2026*	*10th Dec 2026*	15th Dec 2026	25th Dec 2026	08-10 January 2027
3	**Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary**	*5th Dec 2026*	*15th Dec 2026*	20th Dec 2026	30th Dec 2026	15-17 January 2027
4	**Satkosia Tiger Reserve**	*10th Dec 2026*	*20th Dec 2026*	28th Dec 2026	5th Jan 2027	22-24 January 2027
5	**Similipal Tiger Reserve**	*1st Jan 2027*	*10th Jan 2027*	15th Jan 2027	25th Jan 2027	13-15 February 2027

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Destination	**Day 1** ***ARRIVAL-POST LUNCH,*** *Assembling, registration and briefing, followed by*	**Day 2** *Bird surveys in allotted areas.*	**Day 3** Briefing, closing ceremony and ***DEPARTURE-POST LUNCH***
1	**Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary**	*11th Dec 2026*	*12th Dec 2026*	13th Dec 2026
2	**Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary**	*8th Jan 2027*	*9th Jan 2027*	10th Jan 2027
3	**Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary**	*15th Jan 2027*	*16th Jan 2027*	17th Jan 2027
4	**Satkosia Tiger Reserve**	*22nd Jan 2027*	*23rd Jan 2027*	24th Jan 2027
5	**Similipal Tiger Reserve**	*13th Feb 2027*	*14th Feb 2027*	15th *Feb 2027*

REGISTRATION FEE APPLICABLE

(THE REGISTRATION FEE MAY VARY ACROSS DESTINATIONS DEPENDING ON THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED)

The registration fee includes:

- Entry to the respective Wildlife Sanctuary / Tiger Reserve.
- Accommodation for the three-day survey programme.
- Logistical support throughout the programme.
- Bird Festival Kit.
- Meals, including breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Note: Transportation to and from the respective survey destination is not included in the registration fee. Participants will have to make their own travel arrangements.



For More Details & Registration

https://wildlife.odisha.gov.in/odishabihangaustav/birdsurvey

For Assistance:

Gatikrishna Behera (Biologist)
97782 56873
Tuhinansu Kar (Biologist)
94375 91405

2nd DISHA BIHANGA UTSAV



ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION

- The minimum age for participation is 14 years. Participants below 18 years must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Participants must be physically fit and capable of walking approximately 10–15 km per day during field surveys.
- Basic knowledge of bird identification is essential.
- Participants must carry their own binoculars.
- Applicants should have a minimum of 1–2 years of birdwatching experience.
- Applicants must provide relevant details of their birding experience, previous survey participation and bird documentation, wherever applicable, in the registration form.
- Booking will be confirmed only after the final list of selected participants is published.
- The registration fee will be fully refunded to applicants who are not selected for participation.

DOs ✓	DON'Ts ✗
Abide by all rules and regulations of the Forest Department and organisers.	Do not wear brightly coloured clothes.
Keep your mobile device fully charged for recording observations on the eBird application.	Do not smoke or consume alcohol. Both are strictly prohibited.
Carry a field guide for correct identification of birds.	Do not leave the allotted survey tracks.
Carry basic medicines, as medical facilities may be limited.	Do not collect or remove anything from the forest.
Wear dull-coloured or camouflage clothing suitable for forest conditions.	Do not approach, disturb or attempt to feed wildlife.
Follow the instructions of accompanying forest officials and experts.	Do not disregard instructions issued by forest officials or experts.
Maintain a safe distance from wildlife.	Do not venture into restricted areas.
Keep track of time and return to the base camp at the pre-decided time.	Do not delay your return to the base camp.
Capture photographs of unidentified or rare birds wherever possible to support documentation.	Do not prioritise photography over accurate bird identification and survey work.