

Nawegaon National Park, Location, Flora & Fauna, Tiger Reserve, Lake

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Nawegaon National Park is a beautiful **natural area** located in the state of **Maharashtra, India**. It is known for its **rich greenery**, **peaceful environment**, and **diverse wildlife**. The park is an important part of **nature conservation** and provides a safe habitat for many **animals, birds, and plant species**. With its **forests, water bodies**, and **scenic landscapes**, it attracts **nature lovers** and **tourists** who want to experience **wildlife** and **natural beauty**. Overall, **Nawegaon National Park** plays an important role in protecting **biodiversity** and maintaining **ecological balance**.

Nawegaon National Park Location and Features

- Nawegaon National Park is situated in the **Gondia district of Maharashtra**, mainly in the **Arjuni Morgaon area**, which lies in the southern part of the district. It is a well-known natural destination in eastern Maharashtra.
- Nawegaon National Park is known for its **beautiful natural environment, dense forests, and rich wildlife**, making it one of the most attractive forest reserves in the Vidarbha region.

- The park spreads across an area of around **133 to 135 square kilometers**, including forests, open grasslands, and water bodies that support diverse life forms.
- One of the main highlights of the park is the **Navegaon Lake**, a large man-made lake covering about **11 sq. km**, which adds to the scenic beauty and attracts wildlife and birds.

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Nawegaon National Park Historical Background

- The region where the park is located has a **rich historical past**, as it was ruled by ancient dynasties like the **Mauryas, Satavahanas, Vakatakas, and Gond rulers**.
- Navegaon was officially declared a **National Park in the year 2000** with the aim of protecting its **biodiversity** and natural environment.
- Later, in **2013**, it became a part of the **Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve** under the **Project Tiger initiative**, which focuses on conserving tigers and their habitats.

Link with Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary

- Navegaon National Park is closely associated with the **Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary**, which is located between **Bhandara and Gondia districts**.
- Nagzira is around **120 km from Nagpur** and is considered an important conservation area in Central India due to its rich biodiversity.
- The name “Nagzira” comes from the words **‘Naag’ (snake)** and **‘zira’ (a perennial water source)**, referring to a water stream near a temple inside the forest.
- It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in **1970**, and later it was merged into the tiger reserve to strengthen wildlife conservation efforts.

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Nawegaon National Park Vegetation and Environment

- The park mainly consists of **Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests**, where trees shed their leaves during the dry season to conserve water.
- The forest includes trees like **teak, haldu, jamun, mahua, ain, tendu, and palas**, which are commonly found in this region.
- Apart from trees, the park also has **dense bamboo forests, grasslands, and aquatic vegetation** near the lake.
- The presence of **medicinal plants** makes the park ecologically important, as these plants have traditional healing uses.

Nawegaon National Park Wildlife (Animals)

- Navegaon National Park supports a **wide variety of animal species** due to its diverse habitats like forests, grasslands, and water sources.
- Major animals found in the park include **tigers, leopards, and panthers**, which are the top predators of the ecosystem.
- Herbivores such as **gaur (bison), sambar, chital, nilgai, and barking deer** are commonly seen grazing in the park.
- Other animals like **sloth bears, wild dogs, wolves, jackals, and hyenas** also inhabit this region.
- Smaller animals such as **jungle cats, civets, and langurs** are also present, adding to the park's biodiversity.

Nawegaon National Park Birdlife (Avifauna)

- The park is a **major destination for bird lovers**, as it includes the famous **Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary**.
- Nearly **60% of the bird species found in Maharashtra** can be seen in this park, making it very important for bird conservation.
- Birds such as **Scarlet Minivet, Paradise Flycatcher, and Kingfisher** are commonly spotted here.
- During the migration season, birds like **Greylag Goose, Northern Pintail, and Red-crested Pochard** visit the park in large numbers.
- The sight and sound of migratory birds around the lake create a lively and beautiful environment.

Nawegaon National Park Importance

- Navegaon National Park plays a very important role in **protecting wildlife and maintaining ecological balance** in the region.
- Being part of the **Central Indian Tiger Landscape**, it contributes significantly to tiger conservation.
- It is also an important place for **researchers, wildlife enthusiasts, and tourists**, helping people understand the value of biodiversity and conservation.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/nawegaon-national-park/>

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