

PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



Forest officials recently arrested four suspected poachers from the Baliguda forest division of the Kotgarh wildlife sanctuary in Kandhamal.

Kotgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

It is located in the Kandhamal district of Odisha.

It's classified as a moist deciduous forest in the Eastern Highlands.

Spanning an area of 399.5 sq.km., the sanctuary is surrounded by lush hills and dense forests.

The sanctuary is home to 52 tribal settlements, including Kutia Kondh and Desia Kondh.

Vegetation: The sanctuary's principal vegetation is dense, damp deciduous forests with meadows.

Flora:

Sal, Piasal, Sisoo, Kendu, Gamhar, Asan, Kusum, Harida, Bahada, Amala, Mango, Tamarind, Mahua, Jackfruit, Randhan, Kangada, Jamun, Salapo, Bheru, Arjun, Char, Dhaura, and Kochila are among the prevalent flora.

Many rare and endangered medicinal plants exist, including *Abutilon Indicum*, *Cissus quadrangularis*, *Crateva Magna*, *Cycas sphaerica*, etc.

Fauna:

Tigers, elephants, Gaur, Sambar deer, Spotted deer, Peafowl, Red jungle fowl, Blackbuck, Leopard, Sloth bear, Chital, and various bird and reptile species, including rare species like Forsten's cat snake (*Boiga forsteni*), can all be found in this sanctuary.

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The sanctuary's major attraction is the Chousingha, or four-horned antelope.

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