

U'khand's largest bird reserve to come up near Nainital

Dehradun: Uttarakhand will soon have its fourth bird conservation reserve, Naina Devi Himalayan Bird Conservation Reserve (NDHBCR). The three that already exist are at Asan, Jilmil and Pawalgarh. NDHBCR is set to be the largest of these, spread over 112 sq km, home to more than 200 species of birds. This area also has the finest oak forest in the state. Being close to Nainital, the reserve has a number of scenic forests with high potential to be developed as spots for eco-tourism.

DVS Khati, chief wildlife warden (CWLW) said, "The area is surrounded by renowned bird-watching sites like Kilbari and Pangot. Declaring it a conservation reserve will grant a boost to tourism-related activities, which will be undertaken under the supervision of an executive committee headed by chief conservator of forests of Kumon region. Members of the committee will be drawn from NGOs, local communities and forest officials. The area will stay open for scientific research."

Pangot, a village adjacent to the reserve, has the oldest bird-watching lodge in the state. Dhananjay Mohan, chief conservator of forests and bird specialist said, "The idea of making Naina Devi a conservation reserve was floated at a state wildlife board meeting in 2013. Divisional forest official of Nainital, Tejasvini Patil, the entered into consultation with villagers in the vicinity and submitted a report to the CWLW. That report was forwarded to the state government, which has now decided on declaring the area a conservation reserve."

Source

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