

## Saraswati Forest and Nature Trail for Ecotourism

Located in Haryana's Kaithal district, the Saraswati Conservation Reserve, also known as Seonsar Forest, is a prime example of successful biodiversity conservation. Covering a vast 11,003 acres (4,452.85 hectares), it holds the distinction of being the third-largest forest in the state. Officially designated as a Conservation Reserve on October 11, 2007, this area is a testament to the integrated approach of wildlife protection and ecological resource management.



The reserve is a crucial habitat for a diverse range of flora and fauna, serving as a sanctuary for species like hog deer, wild boars, nilgai, spotted deer, and various birds, including owls. Its rich plant life, featuring numerous trees, shrubs, and herbs, provides a thriving ecosystem for these animals. Beyond its ecological significance, the reserve holds historical and cultural value, as it is associated with the mythical Saraswati River. It serves not only as a natural refuge for wildlife but also as an important site for environmental education and research, attracting nature enthusiasts and researchers alike.

It is 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) away from Pehowa, 40 kilometres (25 mi) from Kurukshetra, 60 kilometres (37 mi) from Kaithal.



# Saraswati Conservation Reserve





This Reserve spread over 11,003-acre area, in Kaithal district, is Haryana's third-largest forest. It was originally a wildlife sanctuary since 1988, is a crucial habitat for a variety of animals, including the Hog Deer, and attracts numerous migratory birds.

## Saraswati Wetland Restoration

Saraswati Conservation Reserve is undergoing a major wetland restoration project to enhance its role as a premier bird habitat. Three new, irregularly shaped lakes, each spanning 25 acres, will be constructed at Helwa, Nauch, and Bichhian forests. These lakes will be fed by rainwater and a dedicated canal to ensure a perennial water supply. The wetlands will be designed with mounds for nesting, and their edges will be planted with native trees like *Acacia nilotica* and aquatic vegetation to provide optimal conditions for birds.



The initiative aims to attract over 70 species of migratory waterfowl, including the Northern Pintail and Common Teal, alongside the numerous resident birds like egrets and peacocks. The project will also include the development of watchtowers and sitting areas, making it an ideal destination for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts to observe and appreciate the reserve's rich avian biodiversity.

## Saraswati Plant and Biodiversity Conservation Vatika

The Saraswati Plant and Biodiversity Conservation Vatika has plans to introduce Navgrah, Rashi, and Nakshatra Vatika in its area for the benefits of its visitors. It is planned as a unique, immersive experience connecting celestial bodies with botany. They aim to provide educational insights into traditional Indian beliefs about the influence of specific plants on health and destiny. These gardens serve as living encyclopedias, highlighting the medicinal properties of various plants and fostering a deeper appreciation for biodiversity, culture, and holistic well-being. Some of the plants related to these are listed below.

### Nakshatra Vatika

#### **Strychnos nux-vomica**

Nakshatra Name : Ashwini  
Deity : Ashwini Kumar  
Star : 3



#### **Phyllanthus emblica**

Nakshatra Name : Bharani  
Deity : Yamraj  
Star : 3



#### **Ficus racemosa**

Nakshatra Name : Kritika  
Deity : Agni (Fire)  
Star : 6



#### **Syzygium cumini**

Nakshatra Name : Rohini  
Deity : Brahma  
Star : 5



### Rashi Vatika

#### **Rakta Chandan**

Mesh (Aries)



#### **Sapta parni**

Virshabh (Taurus)



#### **Aam**

Kanya (Virgo)



### Navgraha Vatika



**Rui (Milk weed)**  
Surya (Sun)



**Palash**  
Chandra (Moon)



**Apamarg**  
Budha (Mercury)



**Umbar (Cluster fig)**  
Shukra (Venus)



**Shami**  
Shani (Saturn)



**Khair (Cutch tree)**  
Mangal (Mars)



**Peepal**  
Bruhaspati/Guru (Jupiter)



**Durva**  
Rahu (Dragon's head)



**Darbha**  
Ketu (Dragon's tail)