

Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary

Source: TOI

In the first incident of frontline forest workers losing their lives in a <u>wildfire</u> this year, four forest department personnel lost their lives in a firefighting operation in **Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary** in Almora.

- The Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Kumaon Himalayas of Uttarakhand.
 - In 1988, the sanctuary was established to conserve the **rich biodiversity** of the region.
 - It boasts a remarkable **variety of flora** due to its diverse topography and altitudinal variation. The sanctuary is primarily covered with a dense forest of **oak and pine**.
 - The sanctuary has over **200 species of birds** including **Eurasian jay, koklass pheasant, monal pheasant,** and **Himalayan woodpecker**.
- Binsar was the erstwhile summer capital of the Chand Dynasty rulers, who ruled Kumaon from the 7th to 18th century AD.
- According to locals, Binsar was named after the Bineshwar Mahadev temple, a 16th-century temple dedicated to <u>Lord Shiva</u>.

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