



# drishti

## Irrawaddy Dolphins in the Chilika Lake

---

 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/irrawaddy-dolphins-in-the-chilika-lake](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/irrawaddy-dolphins-in-the-chilika-lake)

### Why in News

---

During the Dolphin Census in Chilika lake, **direct sighting of 146 Irrawaddy dolphins** has been reported.

The Census is being carried out using **Hydrophone monitoring technique**. A hydrophone is a microphone designed to be used underwater for recording or listening to underwater sound.

Irrawaddy dolphins



- Irrawaddy dolphins (*Orcaella brevirostris*) are found in coastal areas in **South and Southeast Asia**, and in three rivers: the **Irrawaddy (Myanmar)**, the **Mahakam (Indonesian Borneo)** and the **Mekong (China)**.
- They are listed as '**Critically Endangered**' as per the **IUCN Red List**.
- The total population of these **aquatic mammals** in the world is estimated to be less than 7,500.
  - More than 6,000 Irrawaddy dolphins have been reported from Bangladesh.
  - **Dolphin distribution in Chilika** is considered to be the **highest single lagoon population**.

### Chilika Lake

---

- Chilika is **Asia's largest and world's second-largest** lagoon.
- It lies on the east coast of India in the state of Odisha, separated from the mighty Bay of Bengal by a small strip of sand.
- It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds on the Indian sub-continent and is home to a number of threatened species of plants and animals.
- In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian **wetland of international importance** under the **Ramsar Convention**.
- The major attraction at Chilika is Irrawady dolphins which are often spotted off Satpada Island.
- The large **Nalabana Island (Forest of Reeds)** covering about 16 sq km in the lagoon area was declared a **bird sanctuary** in 1987.
- **Kalijai Temple** is located on an island in the Chilika Lake.

**Source: TH**