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CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Dudhwa Tiger Reserve". This topic has relevance in the Environment section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 3: Environment

Why in the news?

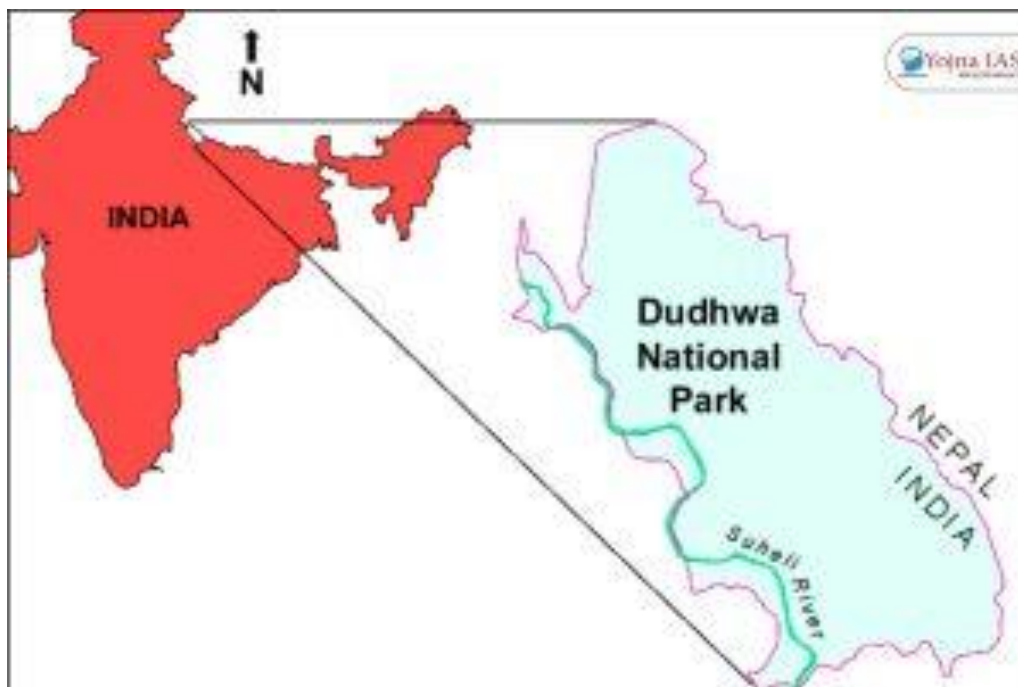
In response to the growing human-elephant conflict around the Katarniaghat wildlife sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, forest officials have introduced the 'gajamitra' initiative.

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, situated on the Indo-Nepal border within the Lakhimpur-Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, is a remarkable haven for wildlife and biodiversity. Established in 1988, it comprises Dudhwa National Park, along with two adjacent sanctuaries, Kishanpur and Katarniaghat. This reserve covers an extensive area of 1,284 square kilometers and is characterized by its unique Tarai-Bhabar habitat, nestled within the upper Gangetic Plains Biogeographic province.

About Dudhwa Tiger Reserve:

- **Geographic Location:** Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is strategically located along the India-Nepal border, offering a diverse range of habitats for various wildlife species.
- **Constituent Areas:** The reserve encompasses Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, creating a substantial protected area for flora and fauna.
- **Ecosystem Variety:** Dudhwa Tiger Reserve boasts a rich and diverse ecosystem, with the presence of several rivers and distinct habitats.
- **River Systems:** The reserve is blessed with the flow of significant rivers. The Sharda River meanders by Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, while the Geruwa River gracefully flows through Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. Within Dudhwa National Park, the Suheli and Mohana streams contribute to its unique ecosystem, eventually joining the Ghagra River as vital tributaries.
- **Flora:** The reserve is characterized by the North Indian Moist Deciduous type of vegetation. It is home to some of the finest Sal forests (*Shorea robusta*) in India, along with extensive tracts of moist grasslands. These lush green landscapes are integral to the region's ecological balance.
- **Fauna:** Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is renowned for its impressive array of rare and endangered species. The reserve provides a safe haven for tigers, leopards, leopard cats, sloth bears, one-horned rhinoceroses, hispid hares, elephants, black deer, swamp deer, and many other remarkable creatures. This diverse wildlife population contributes to the reserve's conservation significance and the overall biodiversity of the region.



SOURCE:

Dudhwa National Park to reopen on November 15; helicopter service in the offing (msn.com)

Q.1 Which of the following statements about Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is correct?

1. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is situated solely within the Lakhimpur-Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh.
2. The reserve includes only Dudhwa National Park, with no adjacent sanctuaries.
3. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is characterized by the Tarai-Bhabar habitat.

How many of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER: B

Q.2 Discuss the significance of tiger reserves in India for the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of the tiger population. Analyze the key challenges and measures needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of tiger reserves in the country.

Rishabh