



Buffer Mein Safar Yojana

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh Forest and Wildlife Department** has launched a new [ecotourism](#) initiative named '**Buffer Mein Safar Yojana**'.

Key Points

Buffer Mein Safar Yojana

- **Objectives of the Scheme:**
 - The primary goal of the scheme is to promote [sustainable and eco-friendly tourism](#) in the buffer zones of tiger reserves.
 - The initiative seeks to **empower local communities** by offering them training and [employment](#) opportunities within the [tourism](#) sector.
 - It also aims to strengthen [wildlife conservation](#) efforts by encouraging community-led protection of biodiversity.
- **Significance:**
 - The initiative is expected to significantly contribute to **Uttar Pradesh's goal** of becoming a **leading ecotourism destination** in India.
 - The integrated approach of combining **tourism, conservation, and local employment** may also serve as a **model for other states** seeking to balance ecological sustainability with economic growth.
- **Implementation Regions:**
 - **Key Tiger Reserves and Buffer Zones:**
 - The scheme is being implemented in major tiger reserve buffer zones such as [Dudhwa](#), [Pilibhit](#), and [Lakhimpur Kheri](#), which are known for their rich biodiversity and proximity to the [India-Nepal border](#).
 - Additional ecologically significant areas like [Sohagibarwa](#) and [Katarniaghat wildlife sanctuaries](#) have also been included under the scheme.
 - **Special Ecological Spot:**
 - **Semrai Lake**, an important stopover for [migratory birds](#), is being developed as a part of the ecotourism circuit.
 - This will provide birdwatchers with new opportunities to explore
- **Tourism Infrastructure Development:**
 - A **modern information centre** has been established at the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve** to enhance visitor engagement.
 - The centre will offer educational insights into the region's flora and fauna, along with detailed information about conservation efforts.

Dudhwa National Park

- It is located in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, near the Indo-Nepal border.
- It was **established in 1977 as a National Park** (Wildlife Sanctuary since 1958).
- **Wildlife & Ecosystem:**
 - Home to [Bengal tigers](#), [leopards](#), [elephants](#), [sloth bears](#), and **450+ bird species**

- Features a diverse ecosystem like **grasslands, swamps, and dense forests**
- **Conservation & Ecotourism:**
 - Known for **habitat restoration** and **reintroduction** of endangered species like the **barasingha**
 - Promotes [eco-tourism](#) to support local communities and preserve the environment

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

- In September 2008, it was declared as the **45th Tiger Reserve of India** under the [Project Tiger initiative](#).
- **Geography:**
 - The **northern boundary** of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve lies along the **Indo-Nepal border**, providing a natural international frontier.
 - The **southern boundary** is defined by the **Sharda** and **Khakra rivers**, which contribute to the region's rich biodiversity and water resources.
- **Ecological Significance:**
 - Represents a prime example of the **Terai ecosystem**, known for its **open grasslands, sal forests, water bodies, and rich biodiversity**
 - Identified by the [Wildlife Institute of India](#) for its unique **ecological and behavioral tiger adaptations** specific to the Terai region
- **Flora and Fauna:** Key wildlife includes **tigers, swamp deer, Bengal florican, hog deer, leopards**, and a rich prey base (cheetal, sambar, wild boar, blue bull, etc.)

Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in **Uttar Pradesh's Terai region**, **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary** spans around **400 sq. km** and lies along the **Ghaghara River**.
- It was established in **1975** and designated a **Tiger Reserve in 2008**, it is a key part of the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**.
- **Biodiversity:**
 - Home to **Bengal tigers, Indian elephants, leopards, sloth bears**, and the **endangered Gangetic dolphin**.
 - Rich prey base includes **hog deer, swamp deer**, and more.
 - It is home to over **350 bird species**, including **Indian skimmer, osprey, great hornbill, and kingfishers**.
 - The sanctuary features **dense sal forests**, along with [teak](#), [jamun](#), and **medicinal plants**.