



# Dudhwa Tiger Reserve Boasts Butterfly Diversity

## Why in News?

Known for its large [tiger population](#), the [Dudhwa Tiger Reserve \(DTR\)](#), Uttar Pradesh, now boasts **180 species of butterflies**, signaling a healthier ecosystem and enhanced conservation efforts.

## Key Points

- **Rise in Butterfly Species:**
  - A recent survey by the **University of Lucknow** recorded over 110 butterfly species in DTR, up from the earlier known count of just 45.
  - **Migratory and Rare Species:**
    - **Migratory butterflies from Uttarakhand** contribute to the growing diversity in Uttar Pradesh.
    - Rare and notable species identified include [Common Mormon](#), Common Mine, Common Lime, Tawny Coaster, Gaudy Baron (rare), Striped Tiger, Common Tiger (both sexes), Grey Count (rare), Commander.
  - **Significance:**
    - Butterflies, known as **bio-indicators**, are highly sensitive to climate change and thrive only in ecologically sound environments.
    - This sharp increase **signals a healthier and more balanced ecosystem**.
- **About Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR):**
  - **Background:**
    - Conservationist Billy Arjan Singh played a key role in securing the **National Park status for Dudhwa in 1977**.
    - It was later designated a **Tiger Reserve in 1987**.
    - Conservationist Billy Arjan Singh played a key role in securing the **National Park status for Dudhwa in January 1977**.
  - **Composition:**
    - The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) includes:
      - Dudhwa National Park
      - Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary
      - [Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary](#)
    - Buffer zones from North Kheri, South Kheri, and Shahjahanpur forest divisions.
  - **Flora and Fauna:**
    - The region represents a **Tarai-Bhabar ecosystem** of the [Upper Gangetic plains](#).
    - The vegetation is primarily North Indian **Moist Deciduous Forest**.
    - The reserve is known for its rich biodiversity, home to a wide variety of flora and fauna including the [Bengal tiger](#), [Indian rhinoceros](#), [swamp deer](#), [leopard](#) and several species of birds.
  - **Biodiversity and Conservation Status:**
    - Dudhwa National Park, covering an area of 490.3 sq km, is **home to 135 tigers, out of a total of 205 tigers in Uttar Pradesh**, marking a significant increase from 82 tigers in 2018.
    - In the [2022 All-India Tiger Census](#), Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) was **ranked fourth in India** for its tiger population.

**Note:**

- In 2015, **Maharashtra became the first state in India to designate the "Blue Mormon" (*Papilio polymnestor*) as its state butterfly.**
- This butterfly is the **second largest in India**, only behind the Southern Birdwing.



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