



Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in News?

Recently, the **carcass of a male elephant** aged around 45-50 years was found in the dense forests of **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary** near the India-Nepal border in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- **Cause of death:**
 - According to the officials the elephant may have **died due to a fight between two adult elephants**, as footprints and broken trees were found at the spot.
- **Recent wildlife deaths:**
 - Before this incident, a 12-year-old **male tiger** and a 7-year-old **male leopard** had died in the sanctuary.
 - These incidents are causing serious concerns about **the safety of wildlife**.

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Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:**
 - **It is located in the Upper Ganga Plain** in the Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, which naturally sustains a rich and diverse **ecosystem**.
 - It is spread over an area of 400.6 square km.
- **Protection :**
 - In 1987, it was brought under the ambit of '**Project Tiger**' and together with **Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Dudhwa National Park**, it forms the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**. **It was established in 1975.**
 - **Species like Chital, deer, wild boar, tiger, elephant and leopard** are also found in the sanctuary.
 - It is home to many endangered species including the **gharial**, **tiger**, **rhinoceros**, **Gangetic dolphin**, **swamp deer**, **hispid hare**, **Bengal florican**, **white-backed** and **long-billed vultures**.

▪ **Ecological structure :**

- The area is covered with **mixed deciduous forests** , comprising sal and teak forests, lush grasslands, numerous swamps and wetlands.
- **The Girwa River flows** through this area , which balances the ecosystem.

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