

## Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS)

### Why in News?

*The carcass of a male elephant aged around 45-50 years was found recently in the dense forests of the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS).*

- KWS is a protected area in the Upper Gangetic plain of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Established under the 'Project Tiger' initiative in 1987.
- Together with the Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and the Dudhwa National Park it forms the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**. It was established in 1975.
- The Katarniaghat Forest provides strategic connectivity between tiger habitats of Dudhwa and Kishanpur in India and the Bardia National Park in Nepal.
- **River** - Girwa.
- **Forest** - Mixed deciduous forests.
- **Vegetation** - Its fragile **Terai ecosystem** comprises a mosaic of sal and teak forests, lush grasslands, numerous swamps and wetlands.

### Did you know?

*The only place where gharial seen in its natural habitat in the world is the Girwa River.*

- **Faunas** - It is home to a number of endangered species including gharial, tiger, rhino, Gangetic dolphin, swamp deer, hispid hare, Bengal florican, and the white-backed and long-billed vultures.
- The sanctuary also features species such as chital, hog deer, wild boar, tigers, elephants, and leopards.
- **Recently spotted Herpetofaunas** - Banded krait, the Burmese rock python, the yellow speckled wolf-snake and the paradise flying snake, a rare red coral kukri snake.

### Reference

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