

UP launches eco-tourism season with new destinations

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The eco-tourism season in the state officially began on Wednesday. This year's season introduces new destinations, including Maheshpur Eco-Tourism (Mohammadi) in the South Kheri Forest Division of Lakhimpur and the Bhira Tourism Circuit in the Buffer Division, both now open for exploration. To improve visitor convenience, the government has removed the Tuesday holiday at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, which will now be open seven days a week. Nature guides have also been appointed to assist and educate tourists, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience. Thanks to expanded facilities and the safe environment fostered by the Yogi administration, the popularity of eco-tourism destinations such as Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Amangarh Tiger Reserve, and Ranipur Tiger Reserve continues to grow. On November 8, Forest and Environment Minister Dr. Arun Kumar Saxena will officially inaugurate this year's tourism season from Katarniaghat in Bahraich, inviting nature enthusiasts to experience Uttar Pradesh's rich wildlife and scenic beauty. Dr. Saxena, Minister of State for Forest and Environment, shared that many tourists are drawn to Uttar Pradesh because of its growing tourism

Visitor growth in Uttar Pradesh's tiger reserves

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

2022-23: 41,952 visitors (41,815 Indian, 137 foreign)

2023-24: 64,753 visitors (64,401 Indian, 352 foreign)

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

2022-23: 23,579 visitors (23,525 Indian, 54 foreign)

2023-24: 54,567 visitors (54,378 Indian, 189 foreign)

Amangarh Tiger Reserve

2022-23: 3,069 visitors (3,066 Indian, 3 foreign)

2023-24: 4,090 visitors (Indian)

Ranipur Tiger Reserve

2022-23: 4,180 visitors (Indian)

2023-24: 13,743 visitors (Indian)

This data highlights a significant increase in both Indian and foreign tourist visits to the region's tiger reserves.

potential." This year, the Yogi government has decided not to raise the tourism fee while also expanding visitor facilities. The weekly holiday on Tuesdays at Dudhwa has been removed, allowing visitors to experience nature every day of the week," he said. Additionally, 30 hospitality workers have been specially trained to support tourism, receiving instruction in housekeeping and cooking from the Indian Institute of Hotel Management. With the help of the Eco-Tourism Board, nature guides have also been trained at Dudhwa, Katarniaghat, Pilibhit, and Ranipur, with guidance from trainers at The Nature School in Bangalore. These efforts aim to ensure that tourist visits are both enjoyable and well-supported. The eco-tourism event will be held across vari-

ous eco-tourism sites in Uttar Pradesh to encourage people to experience and enjoy the state's natural beauty. As per the Yogi government's directive, state ministers and public representatives will also participate. The event will take place in key locations, including Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Amangarh, and Ranipur Tiger Reserves, as well as Katarniaghat, Wildlife Bihar, Sohelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary in Nawabganj, Sandi Bird Sanctuary in Hardoi, Lakh Bird Sanctuary in Kannauj, Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary in Lalitpur, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary in Chandauli, Okhla Bird Sanctuary in Gautam Buddha Nagar, and Rapdi Eco-Tourism Center in Firozabad, among others.