

UP boosts eco-tourism focuses on developing Dudhwa on Int'l forest day

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Marking International Forest Day (March 21), the Uttar Pradesh Government has intensified efforts to boost eco-tourism in the state, with a major push towards developing Dudhwa National Park as a world-class tourism destination.

An initial tranche of Rs 8.79 crore has been released for key projects, including eco-tourism development of the Interpretation Centre at Dudhwa, infrastructure enhancement in the Maheshpur Forest Range, and installation of signage along major highways connecting Delhi-NCR and Lucknow to the park.

UP Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh stated

that the International Forest Day 2026 theme, 'Forests and Economy', highlights the importance of linking forest ecosystems with livelihoods, tourism and local economies.

He noted that under the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh Eco-Tourism Development Board is continuously advancing innovative initiatives that simultaneously strengthen environmental conservation and accelerate tourism growth.

As part of the development plan, the Interpretation Centre at Dudhwa National Park in Palia, Lakhimpur Kheri, will undergo a comprehensive eco-tourism upgrade.

The project, approved at a cost of approximately Rs 4.49 crore, has already received its

first instalment of Rs 3.36 crore.

The redevelopment will include a grand thematic entrance gate reflecting the identity of Dudhwa, along with upgraded visitor facilities such as a reception area, nature interpretation centre, canteen, multipurpose auditorium and library.

A dedicated selfie point inspired by the Tharu tribal community and its cultural landscape will also be developed, offering visitors an immersive cultural experience.

In parallel, the Maheshpur Forest Range in Lakhimpur Kheri is being developed as a key eco-tourism site. The project, with an approved cost of around Rs 2.39 crore, has received an initial release of Rs 1.78 crore.



Planned interventions include enhanced visitor amenities such as drinking water facilities, shaded seating arrangements beneath trees, gazebos and

rainwater harvesting systems. The area will also feature interlocking pathways, 3D animal installations, themed selfie points, benches,

LED-equipped street poles and solar street lighting, significantly improving both aesthetics and functionality.

To further improve accessibility, signages systems will be installed along highways connecting Delhi-NCR and Lucknow to Dudhwa National Park.

Against an approved cost of approximately Rs 4.88 crore, Rs 3.65 crore has already been released. These directional signboards are expected to ease travel for visitors, particularly those coming from outside the state, by providing clear and reliable navigation support.

Jaiveer Singh emphasised that the ongoing infrastructure upgrades at Dudhwa and Maheshpur, along with improved connectivity through signage, will significantly enhance the overall tourist experience.