

Long-snouted vine snake

Prelims - Bio-diversity.

Mains (GS III) - Conservation.

Why in News?

A rare long-snouted vine snake has been rediscovered in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh.

- It is a species of long-snouted ***arboreal and diurnal*** snake.
- **Scientific Name** - *Ahaetulla longirostris*.
 - It is a member of the *A. fusca* clade and as a sister the species to *A. laudankia*.
- Previously, *Ahaetulla longirostris* had only been recorded once in Bihar and Odisha in 2024.
- **Appearance** - It can be bright green or orange brown. They typically have orange bellies.
- **Habitat** - These snakes live in forests as well as human-dominated areas like cities.
- **Distribution** - Commonly found in Southeast Asia.
- **Size** - Can reach a length of 4-feet.
- **Characteristics** - It has horizontal, keyhole-shaped pupils, which enhances their binocular vision, aiding them in hunting and navigating their arboreal environment.
- It is mildly poisonous, not very dangerous for humans.
- It is ovoviviparous, meaning it gives birth to live young after incubating eggs inside the female's body.
- **Distinction** - The new species differs from its congeners in bearing an elongate rostral appendage, green or ochre dorsum, orange-brown belly, and moderately keeled vertebral dorsal scale row.



Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, a protected area in Uttar Pradesh's Terai region.
- It encompasses Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Established in** - 1988.
- **Rivers**
 - The Sharda River flows by the Kishanpur WL Sanctuary,
 - The Geruwa River flows through the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary and
 - The Suheli and Mohana streams flow in the Dudhwa National Park, all of which are tributaries of the Ghagra River.
- The reserve is home to some of the last *remaining oxbow lakes*, along with marshy grasslands, dry riverine grasslands, and dense, moist deciduous sal woodlands.
- It is a biodiversity hotspot, where various flora and fauna are interconnected through food chains and food webs across different niches.
- Katarniaghat now has the *highest number of tigers* in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

Reference

[The Hindu | Rare long-snouted vine snake](#)

