MOEFCC

Final eco-sensitive zone set around Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

S.O. 6300(E) of November 19, 2026 notifies a 1,349.02 sq km zone in Uttar Pradesh where commercial mining and new polluting industries are prohibited.

IN A 1,349.02 SQ KM eco-sensitive zone around Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh, new and existing commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units are prohibited with immediate effect, and no new polluting industry may be set up and no existing one expanded. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) made the zone final by notification S.O. 6300(E), dated November 19, 2026, which also bars new commercial hotels, resorts and commercial construction within one kilometer of the reserve's boundary.

KEY FACTS

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Notification S.O. 6300(E)

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In a 1,349.02 sq km eco-sensitive zone around Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh, new and existing commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units are prohibited with immediate effect, and no new polluting industry may be set up and no existing one expanded. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) made the zone final by notification S.O. 6300(E), dated November 19, 2026, which also bars new commercial hotels, resorts and commercial construction within one kilometer of the reserve's boundary.

The notification is published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 6060, dated November 19, 2026 (CG-DL-E-20112026-278099). It is made under section 3(1), 3(2)(v), 3(2)(xiv) and 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, read with rule 5(3) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, and signed by Ved Prakash Mishra, Joint Secretary, under F.No. 25/1/2023-ESZ. It follows draft S.O. 844(E) of February 16, 2026.

The zone is a uniform one kilometer around the boundary of the Tiger Reserve (Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary) and also covers the whole buffer area, whatever its distance from the protected area. The reserve covers 2,201.7748 sq km (core 1,093.79 sq km, buffer 1,107.9848 sq km) in Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur districts. Annexure-IV lists 178 villages inside the zone.

Eight activities are prohibited: commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing (except for the domestic needs of bona fide local residents), polluting industries, major hydroelectric projects, hazardous substances, discharge of untreated effluents, new saw mills, brick kilns and commercial use of firewood. Only non-polluting industries under the Central Pollution Control Board's classification of February 2016 are allowed, and the notification says pollution prevention technologies and noise barriers should be installed by existing industries. Twenty-two activities are regulated, among them hotels and resorts, construction, small non-polluting industries, tree felling, towers and cables, night traffic for commercial purposes, large commercial livestock and poultry farms run by firms and companies, and commercial extraction of surface and ground water.

Beyond one kilometer, new hotels and resorts are allowed only in areas designated for eco-tourism in the Tourism Master Plan, and other construction is regulated by the Zonal Master Plan. Until that plan is approved, "no new hotel, resort or commercial establishment construction shall be permitted within Eco-Sensitive Zone area". The State Government has two years from publication to prepare the Zonal Master Plan.

A Monitoring Committee chaired by the Divisional Commissioner, Lucknow, with the Field Director, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve as Member Secretary, scrutinizes activities in the zone that need prior environmental clearance under S.O. 1533(E) of September 14, 2006, and refers them to MoEFCC or the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority. Each of the four districts gets a

sub-committee headed by its District Magistrate. The Member Secretary, the Collector or the Deputy Conservator of Forests can file a complaint under section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 against anyone who contravenes the notification.

Issued by	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Document	Notification S.O. 6300(E)
Dated	November 19, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 6060, November 19, 2026 (CG-DL-E-20112026-278099)
Legal basis	Section 3(1), 3(2)(v), 3(2)(xiv) and 3(3), Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; rule 5(3), Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
Draft	S.O. 844(E), February 16, 2026
Applies to	One kilometer around Dudhwa Tiger Reserve plus its whole buffer area, Uttar Pradesh
Zone area	1,349.02 sq km
Districts	Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur
Villages in the zone	178 (Annexure-IV)
Activities	8 prohibited, 22 regulated, 11 promoted
Zonal Master Plan	By the State Government, within two years of publication
Monitoring Committee	Chaired by the Divisional Commissioner, Lucknow; Member Secretary the Field Director, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve; a sub-committee in each district under the District Magistrate

Prohibited activities, and regulated activities that bear on business (paragraph 4)

S. No.	Activity	Category	What the notification says
1	Commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units	Prohibited	All new and existing (minor and major minerals), stone quarrying and crushing units prohibited with immediate effect, except for the domestic needs of bona fide local residents
2	Setting of industries causing pollution (water, air, soil, noise, etc.)	Prohibited	No new polluting industries and no expansion of existing ones; existing industries should install pollution prevention technologies and noise barriers
3	Establishment of major hydroelectric project	Prohibited	Prohibited

4	Use or production or processing of any hazardous substances	Prohibited	Prohibited
5	Discharge of untreated effluents in natural water bodies or land area	Prohibited	Prohibited
6	Setting of new saw mills	Prohibited	No new saw mills and no expansion of existing ones
7	Setting up of brick kilns	Prohibited	Prohibited
8	Commercial use of firewood	Prohibited	Prohibited
9	Commercial establishment of hotels and resorts	Regulated	None new within one kilometer of the protected area's boundary or up to the zone's extent, whichever is nearer, except small temporary structures for eco-tourism; beyond that, in line with the Tourism Master Plan
10	Construction activities	Regulated	No new commercial construction within one kilometer of the boundary or up to the zone's extent, whichever is nearer; beyond one kilometer, as per the Zonal Master Plan
11	Small scale non-polluting industries	Regulated	Non-polluting industries under the CPCB classification of February 2016, and non-hazardous small-scale, service, agriculture, floriculture, horticulture or agro-based industry using indigenous materials from the zone, permitted by the competent authority
14	Electrical and communication towers, cables and other infrastructure	Regulated	Under applicable law; underground cabling may be promoted
19	Movement of vehicular traffic at night	Regulated	For commercial purpose, under applicable laws
20	Large-scale commercial livestock and poultry farms by firms, corporates and companies	Regulated	As per applicable laws, except for meeting local needs
21	Discharge of treated waste water or effluents	Regulated	To be kept out of water bodies; recycle and reuse; otherwise as per applicable laws
22	Commercial extraction of surface and ground water	Regulated	Under applicable law

The notification (PDF, 4.0 MB)

Source: Gazette of India, Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 6060, November 19, 2026, CG-DL-E-20112026-278099.

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