



Poaching Incident at Kuldiha WLS

- A **poacher was arrested** after a **gunfire exchange** with forest guards in **Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Balasore district, Odisha**.
 - Highlights ongoing **threats to wildlife conservation** in ecologically sensitive areas.
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Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary - Key Facts

- **Location:** Balasore district, **Odisha**; part of **Eastern Ghats**.
- **Area:** **272 sq.km**, under **Chota Nagpur Plateau** region.

CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE

- Part of the **Similipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Reserve**.
- Functions as a crucial **elephant corridor**.
- **Ecological connectivity** with **Simlipal Tiger Reserve** via **Nato** and **Sukhupada** hill ranges.

WATER SYSTEMS

- Drained by **Kuldiha stream** and its **tributaries**—important for ecological and hydrological balance.

VEGETATION

- Mix of **Peninsular Sal forests** and **moist mixed deciduous forests**.
- Contiguous forest with **Nilgiri (N)** and **Mayurbhanj (W)** forests.



FLORA

- Major species:
 - **Sal** (*Shorea robusta*)
 - **Jamun** (*Syzygium cumini*)
 - **Piyasal** (*Pterocarpus marsupium*)
 - **Bahera** (*Terminalia bellirica*)
 - **Mango, Simul** (*Bombax ceiba*)

FAUNA

- Mammals: **Elephants, leopards, gaurs, wild cats, giant squirrels, long-tailed monkeys**
- Birds: **Peafowl, hill mynas, hornbills**