Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Conservation*

Why in News?

Recently, an adult male tiger was found dead in Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR), marking the 27th tiger death in the reserve since 2012.

- **Location –** Pilibhit district, Uttar Pradesh, Lies along the *Indo–Nepal border.*
- It is ***part of the Terai Arc Landscape in the upper Gangetic Plain.***
- **Established in –** 2008.
- **Under –** Section 38V of the ***Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.***
- **Approved by –** *National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)*, statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) responsible for tiger conservation in India.
- It was designated as ***India's 46th Tiger Reserve.***

  Once declared, the state cannot de-notify a tiger reserve without the approval of the NTCA and the National Board for Wildlife.

- **Rivers & Water Bodies –** The ***river Gomti originates from the reserve***, which is also the catchment of several others, like Sharda, Chuka, and Mala Khannot.
- **Vegetation & Flora –** The habitat is characterised by the *North Indian moist deciduous type, having the sal forests*, tall grasslands and swamps, maintained by periodic flooding from rivers.
- It is unique because it is one of the few ***"alluvial" grasslands*** in the world, similar to the Kaziranga ecosystem.
- **Fauna –** Tiger, leopard, fishing cat, swamp deer, spotted deer, hog deer, sambar, sloth bear, Bengal florican, gharial, etc.
- **Corridor Connectivity –** Directly linking *Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary* to the southeast and *Shuklaphanta National Park (Nepal)* via the Lagga-

Bagga corridor to the northeast.

- It also connects the Terai forests to Uttarakhand's Nandaur and Corbett landscapes, ensuring a continuous path for tigers, elephants, and rhinos across the Indo-Nepal border.
- **Special Significance -** One of the best examples of Terai ecosystem in India.
- Won the ***TX2 Award (2020)*** for doubling its tiger population

References

1. ToI | Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
2. UP Gov | Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

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