

'Sugarcane Tigers' in Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Recently, over 10 <u>tigers</u> have mysteriously disappeared from the sugarcane fields of Pilibhit, raising fears of poaching or migration.

Key Points

'Sugarcane Tigers':

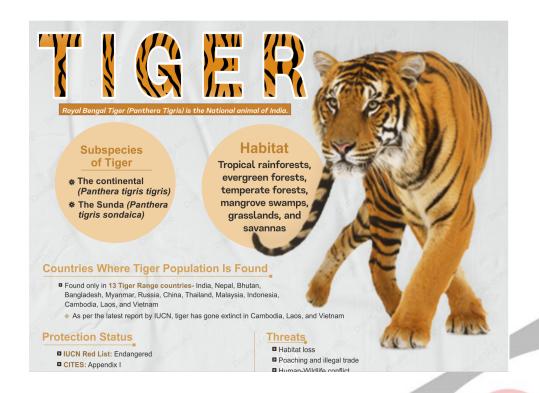
- 'Sugarcane tigers' is a term used for tigers that inhabit sugarcane fields instead of forest areas.
- These fields offer thick cover and prey, creating a habitat similar to forests.
- Pilibhit, in Uttar Pradesh, is known for such tigers, as sugarcane fields offer shelter due to the shrinking forest cover and human encroachments in tiger habitats.

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve :

- It is located in Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It was notified as a <u>Tiger Reserve</u> in 2014.
 - In 2020, it bagged <u>international award TX2</u> for doubling up the number of tigers in the past four years.
- It forms part of <u>Terai Arc Landscape in the upper Gangetic Plain.</u>
- The northern edge of the reserve lies along the Indo-Nepal border while the southern boundary is marked by the river Sharada and Khakra.

Flora and Fauna:

- It is home to a habitat for over 127 animals, 326 bird species and 2,100 flowering plants.
- Wild animals include tiger, <u>swamp deer</u>, <u>bengal florican</u>, <u>leopard</u>, etc.
- It has high sal forests, plantations and grasslands with several water bodies.



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