



Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Recently, a **probe has been ordered** after a viral video surfaced, showing a fleet of vehicles allegedly belonging to a minister in Uttar Pradesh passing through the **core area** of the [Pilibhit Tiger Reserve](#). This raised concerns about the [breach of forest regulations](#).

Key Points

- As per forest department regulations, **private vehicles are strictly barred** from entering the core area, allowing **access only to forest department vehicles or those authorized for [safari tours](#)**.
- **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve:**
 - It is located in **Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh**.
 - It was notified as a [Tiger Reserve](#) in 2014.
 - In 2020, it bagged [international award TX2](#) for doubling up the number of tigers in the past four years.
 - It forms part of [Terai Arc Landscape in the upper Gangetic Plain](#).
 - 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**, [swamp deer](#), [bengal florican](#), [leopard](#), etc.
 - It has high [sal forests](#), plantations and grasslands with several water bodies.

Tiger Reserves

- A protected area designated for the **conservation of the striped big cats (tigers)** is referred to as **Tiger Reserve**. However, a tiger reserve may also be a **national park** or **wildlife sanctuary**.
 - **For Example:** The [Sariska Tiger Reserve](#) is also a national park. It is so because the place was originally created as a **national park and later dedicated to tiger conservation**.
- Tiger Reserves are notified by State Governments as per provisions of **Section 38V of the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#)** on advice of the [National Tiger Conservation Authority](#).

TX2 Award

- It goes to one site that has **achieved remarkable and measurable increase in its tiger population since 2010**.

