



Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

The [Pilibhit Tiger Reserve \(PTR\)](#) is set to become a new sanctuary for **rhinos** coming from **Nepal**, where efforts are in full swing to establish a permanent habitat for them.

Key Points

- The **Lagga-Bhagga area** of **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve** is adjacent to **the Shukla Phanta Sanctuary** of Nepal, due to which Nepalese rhinoceroses often visit here.
- The area has **rich grasslands, adequate water sources** and **uninterrupted wildlife corridors**, making it an ideal environment for a stable population of rhinos. Currently, there is no recorded population of rhinos in the reserve.
 - Under '**Project Rhino**', **rhinoceroses** will be translocated from Assam and Nepal.
- **Importance and Benefits**
 - The project will preserve **the dwindling rhino population as well as strengthen the wildlife ecosystem**.
 - Tourism will be promoted, which will **improve the economic condition** of local communities.
 - Having **protected and demarcated areas** will reduce the problem of rhinos straying into **agricultural lands**, thereby **preventing conflict between farmers and wildlife**.
- **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve:**
 - It is located in Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh. It was notified as [a Tiger Reserve in the year 2014](#).
 - In the year 2020, it won [the international award TX2](#) for doubling the number of tigers in the last four years.
 - It is part of [the Terai Arc landscape in the Upper Gangetic Plain](#).
 - The Gomti River originates from this reserve, which is also the catchment area of several other rivers like **Sharda, Chuka and Mala Khannot**.
 - It is home to myriad wild animals, including the endangered **tiger, swamp deer, Bengal florican, hog deer, leopard**, etc.

Project Rhino

- **Project Rhino is an important conservation initiative** in India aimed at saving the dwindling population of **one-horned rhinoceros**.
- It began in **the 1980s**, when the threat of extinction to rhinos was seriously recognised.
- It evolved into a **multi-faceted program**, with key strategies including **habitat conservation, community engagement, law enforcement**, and **scientific research**.

