

Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Conservation

Why in News?

Translocated elephant 'Radhakrishnan' found dead recently in Tirunelveli's Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

- The Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) is located in *Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu.*
- Established in 1976.
- Registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975.
- It was declared as the <u>"First Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu"</u> and the 17th Tiger Reserve of India.
- KMTR consists of two adjacent sanctuaries namely Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Mundanthurai Tiger Sanctuary in Tirunelveli District and
 - Part of Veerapuli and Kilamalai Reserve Forests in Kanyakumari District.
- Fauna The reserve is part of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.
 - Animals- The reserve is home to Bengal tigers, leopards, sambar,
 Indian pangolin, elephants, gaur, and mouse deer.
 - $_{\circ}$ $\boldsymbol{Reptiles}$ Species include the King Cobra, python, and pit viper.
 - Birds Great Indian Hornbill, Great Pied Hornbill, and Broad-tailed Grassbird.
- **Vegetation type** This region has got vegetation types which gradually changes from dry thorn forest to dry deciduous.
- **Significance** The reserve is also known as the "River Sanctuary" because 13 rivers originate from it, providing drinking water and water for agriculture to several districts.

Reference

The Hindu | Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

