Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)

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

Why in News?

Sterilisation of stray dogs undertaken in areas around Tadoba tiger reserve, recently.

- **Location** - Chandrapur district, Maharashtra.
- **Area** - ~1,727 km² (core + buffer zones).
- It is one of ***Maharashtra's oldest and largest tiger reserves***, known for its high density of wild tigers.
- **Establishment & Composition**- While the Tadoba National Park was established in 1955, it was later merged with the Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary (created in 1986) to form the unified Tiger Reserve in 1995.
- **Etymology**
  - **Tadoba -** Derived from the tribal deity "Taru" or "Tadoba," a village chief who, according to local Gond legend, was killed in a battle with a tiger.
  - A shrine dedicated to him exists on the banks of Tadoba Lake.
  - **Andhari -** Named after the Andhari River, which meanders through the forest.
- **Flora -** Dry deciduous forests dominated by teak, bamboo, and bamboo associates.
- **Fauna -**
  - **Big cats**- Bengal tiger, leopard.
  - **Herbivores-** Indian bison (gaur), chital, sambar, wild boar
  - **Birds-** Malabar pied hornbill, Crested Serpent Eagle, etc.
  - **Reptiles-** Indian cobra, monitor lizard
- **Rivers & Water Bodies -** Tadoba and Andhari rivers, several small streams aiding wildlife survival.
- **Wildlife Corridors -** The reserve maintains vital corridor linkages with other major habitats in Maharashtra, specifically the Nagzira-Navegaon

and Pench Tiger Reserves.

Reference

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