

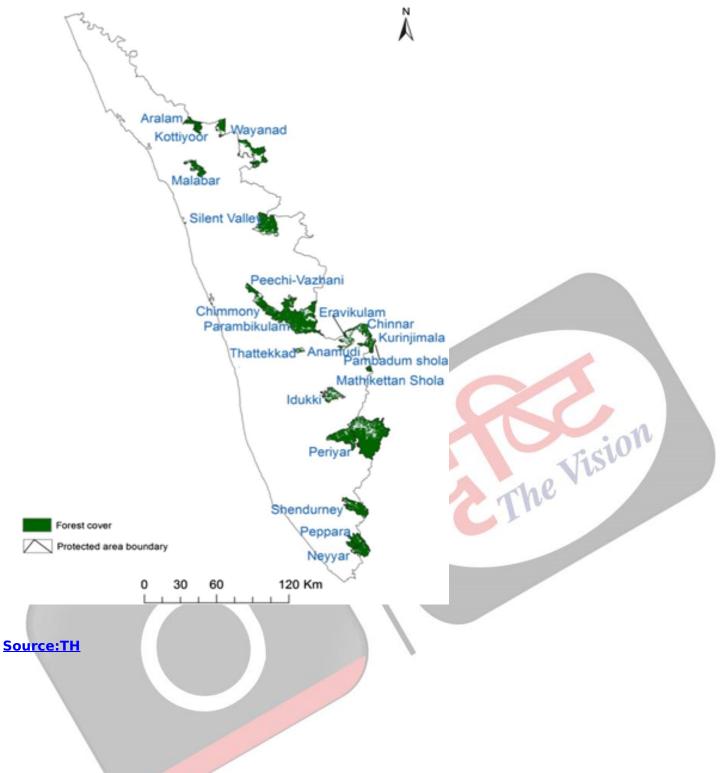
## **Periyar Tiger Reserve**

## Why in News

For the first time in the country, the **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Kerala** has taken up training of a <u>tiger</u> cub to equip it to naturally hunt in the forest environment.

## **Key Points**

- Location:
  - It falls in the districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta in Kerala (saddled in the southern region of Western Ghats).
- Formation:
  - Declared a Sanctuary during 1950 and declared as Tiger Reserve during 1978. It gets its name from the River Periyar which has its origin deep inside the reserve.
- Drainage:
  - The major rivers through the reserve are Mullayar and Periyar.
- Flora:
  - The sanctuary comprises tropical evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous forests and grasslands.
  - About **1966 species of flowering plants** grow in the sanctuary.
    - Of this about 516 are endemic to the Western Ghats.
  - The sanctuary is a repository of medicinal plants numbering to about 300.
    - Some are endemic to the region like Syzygium periyarensis (a tree), Habenaria periyarensis (an orchid) and Mucuna pruriense thekkadiensis (a climber) etc.
- Fauna:
  - Mammals: Tiger, Elephant, Lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri Tahr etc.
  - **Birds:** Darters, Cormorants, Kingfishers, the great Malabar Hornbill and racket-tailed Drongos.
  - **Reptiles:** Monitor Lizards, Python, King Cobra etc.
- Tribals:
  - There are six tribal communities nestled inside the reserve such as Mannans,
  - Paliyans, Malayarayans, Mala Pandarams, Uralis and Ulladans.
- Protected Areas in Kerala:



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