



Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR)

Why in News?

The **Standing Committee of the [National Board for Wildlife \(SC-NBWL\)](#)**, chaired by the Union Environment Minister, has approved the proposal to redraw the boundaries of the **[Sariska Tiger Reserve's \(STR\) Critical Tiger Habitat \(CTH\)](#)**, with the **[Supreme Court](#)**'s final nod awaited.

Key Points

▪ About the Proposal:

- The Supreme Court is suo motu examining several issues related to the STR, including the rationalisation of its boundaries. Its **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)** has recommended changes to address human disturbances such as village relocations and cattle grazing.
- **Proposed Changes:** The rationalisation will result in the CTH expanding from 881.11 sq km to 924.49 sq km, while the buffer zone will reduce from 245.72 sq km to 203.2 sq km, balancing conservation needs with developmental pressures.
- **Ecological and Legal Context:** CTH is protected under the **[Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#)** and must be kept free of human interference.
 - The re-demarcation may **benefit over 50 mining operations** shut down due to proximity to Tiger habitat.

▪ Sariska Tiger Reserve:

- The Sariska Tiger Reserve, located in Rajasthan's Alwar district within the **Aravalli hills**, was declared a **wildlife sanctuary in 1955** and became a tiger reserve in 1978 under **[Project Tiger](#)**.
- Known for its rich history, it houses the **Kankarwadi Fort**, where Aurangzeb imprisoned Dara Shikoh, and the **Pandupole Hanuman temple** linked to the Pandavas.
- The landscape is marked by rocky terrain, grasslands, scrub-thorn forests, and semi-deciduous woodlands. Vegetation includes **dhok, salar, kadaya, ber, gugal, and bamboo**.
- The reserve supports diverse fauna including **[Royal Bengal tigers](#), [leopards](#), sambhar, nilgai, wild boars, and hyenas**.
- Sariska Tiger Reserve also surrounds sites like **[Jai Samand Lake](#)** and the **[Siliserh Lake](#)**.



National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- **About:** NBWL is a **statutory body** constituted under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** (WPA, 1972). It is the apex body on wildlife conservation and development.
- **Composition:** The **NBWL** is a **47-member committee** headed by the **Prime Minister**, who serves as the **ex-officio Chairperson**, while the **Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** serves as the **Vice-Chairperson**.
 - Its members include:
 - **Officials involved in wildlife conservation**
 - The **Chief of Army Staff, Defence Secretary**, and Expenditure Secretary.
 - **Ten eminent conservationists, ecologists, and environmentalists** nominated by the central government.
- **Functions:** It is **mandated** to promote **conservation and development of wildlife and forest**.
- **Role in Tiger Reserves:** It ensures that **no tiger reserve is diverted to unsustainable use** without its approval, with advice from the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.