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## Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary | Haryana | 26 Apr 2024

### Why in News?

[The Supreme Court](#) stayed construction of four proposed dams inside [Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Haryana's **Yamunanagar district**.

### Key Points

- A petition was filed challenging the construction of four dams **Chikan, Kansli, Khillanwala and Ambawali** within **Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary** as it will have a negative impact on the flora and the fauna in the area.
- The [National Board for Wildlife](#) has granted permission to construct dams inside the wildlife sanctuary without taking cognisance of the report of [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#).
- WII has categorically stated in its report namely '**Feasibility Study of Proposed Small Dams in Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana**' that the proposed dams are under protected area boundary of Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary and as such **would significantly affect the terrestrial as well as aquatic biodiversity** of the protected area.
- Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary notified on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1996, is located on the [Siwalik foothills](#). It is contiguous to [Rajaji National Park \(Uttarakhand\)](#) and **Simbalbara National Park (Himachal Pradesh)**.
  - The whole area is **full of biodiversity**, having dense **Sal forests, Khair forests and patches of grass lands**, which support a variety of plants and animal species.
  - **Royal tigers and mighty elephants** visit this place from the Rajaji National Park. Other animals found there include Monitor Lizard, Grey-hooded Warbler, [King Cobra](#), **Crested Serpent Eagle**, Python, Chital, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, Sambar, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, [Barking Deer](#), **Ghoral**, **Red-billed Blue Magpie** and [Leopard](#).

### National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- It serves as an **apex body** for the **review of all wildlife-related matters** and for the **approval of projects** in and around **national parks and sanctuaries**.
- The NBWL is **chaired by the Prime Minister** and is responsible for promotion of **conservation and development of wildlife and forests**.
- The **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the Vice-Chairperson** of the board.
- The **board is 'advisory' in nature** and can only advise the Government on policy making for conservation of wildlife.

### Wildlife Institute of India

- It is an **autonomous institution** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
  - It was **established in 1982**.
  - It is based in **Dehradun**, Uttarakhand.
  - It offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management.
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