



# Sariska Tiger Reserve

[Source: TH](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme Court of India clarified that protected areas include not only **national parks and wildlife sanctuaries** but also critical tiger habitats, i.e., tiger reserves.

- This is in the context of its earlier 2023 order that mining within a **national park, wildlife sanctuary**, and within an **area of 1 km** from their boundary shall not be permissible.
- The case in question pertains to the **buffer zone** created to protect the **Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary** in Rajasthan.

## What are the Key Facts About the Sariska Tiger Reserve?

- **About:**
  - Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in **Aravali hills** and forms a part of the Alwar District of Rajasthan.
  - It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was declared a **tiger reserve** later in 1978, making it a part of India's **Project Tiger**.
  - It encompasses ruined temples, forts, pavilions and a palace.
    - **Kankarwadi Fort** is located in the centre of the reserve. It is said that **Mughal emperor Aurangzeb** had **imprisoned his brother Dara Shikoh** at this fort in the struggle for succession to the throne.
    - It also houses a famous **temple of lord Hanuman at Pandupole** related to Pandavas.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
  - It is characterised by **rocky landscapes, arid scrub-thorn forests, grasslands**, cliffs, and **semi-deciduous forests**.
  - It is dominated by **dhok trees**, salar, kadaya, gol, ber, banyan, gugal, bamboo, kair, etc.
  - It also supports a **diverse array of other animals** such as Royal Bengal Tiger, leopards, sambhar, chital, nilgai, four-horned antelope, wild boar, hyenas, and jungle cats.

## What are the other Protected Areas of Rajasthan?

- **Desert National Park**, Jaisalmer
- **Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur**
- **Ranthambore National Park**
- **Sajjargarh Wildlife Sanctuary**, Udaipur
- **National Chambal Sanctuary** (on the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh).
- **Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary** (4th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan).



## What are Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)?

- **About:**
  - The [National Wildlife Action Plan \(2002-2016\)](#) stipulated that state governments should declare land falling **within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries** as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) under the [Environmental \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#).
- **Activities Around ESZs:**
  - **Prohibited Activities:** Commercial mining, sawmills, industries causing pollution, major [hydroelectric projects \(HEP\)](#), commercial use of wood.
  - **Regulated Activities:** Cutting of trees, the establishment of resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, widening of roads.
  - **Permitted Activities:** Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources.
- **Significance of ESZs:**
  - ESZs **act as buffer zones** around protected areas. They **regulate activities** around these **core areas**, minimising the negative impacts of development and human intervention.
  - ESZs **help in in-situ conservation**. Example, the conservation of the [One-horned Rhino](#) of [Kaziranga National Park](#), Assam.
  - ESZs help to **maintain wildlife corridors** and reduce instances of [man-animal conflict](#), where wild animals enter human settlements in search of food and water.

- Many ESZs encompass fragile ecosystems like wetlands, mangroves, and **reefs** which are vital for maintaining biodiversity. By regulating activities around these areas, ESZs help to preserve their health and ecological functions.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### **Prelims:**

**Q. Consider the following pairs: (2014)**

1. Dampa Tiger Reserve : Mizoram
2. Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary: Sikkim
3. Saramati Peak : Nagaland

**Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (c)**

**Q. In which one of the following States is Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary located? (2018)**

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Nagaland

**Ans: (a)**

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### **Mains**

**Q.** “The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court.” Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. **(2022)**