

Excluding Settlements From Periyar Tiger Reserve

Source: TH

Recently, a team has been constituted by the <u>National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)</u> to inspect **Thattekad Bird Sanctuary** and the **Angel Valley and Pamba Valley settlements of <u>Periyar Tiger Reserve</u>.**

- Angel Valley and Pamba Valley Settlements (Periyar Tiger Reserve):
 - Located in Kerala, near the Mookkenpetty causeway and Kanamala bridge, these settlements arose under the 'Grow More Food' initiative of 1947-48 (after World War II) for ex-servicemen and their descendants.
 - The Periyar Tiger Reserve is renowned for its biodiversity, including <u>Bengal Tigers</u>, <u>Indian Elephants</u>, and diverse flora and was recognized in 2022 as <u>India's</u> bestmanaged tiger reserve.
 - Residents face hardships due to wildlife incursions and forest regulations, prompting protests and demands for de-notification of 5.02 sq km of inhabited areas.
- Thattekad Bird Sanctuary:
 - Situated near Kothamangalam on the <u>Periyar River</u> and is home to 280+ bird species.
 - Established in 1983, it is named after Dr. Salim Ali (India's renowned ornithologist and bird conservationist), who deemed it the richest bird habitat in peninsular India.
 - Proposed changes include **excluding 897.25 ha** of inhabited land and **adding 1,016.94 ha** of forest from the **Munnar Division**.

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