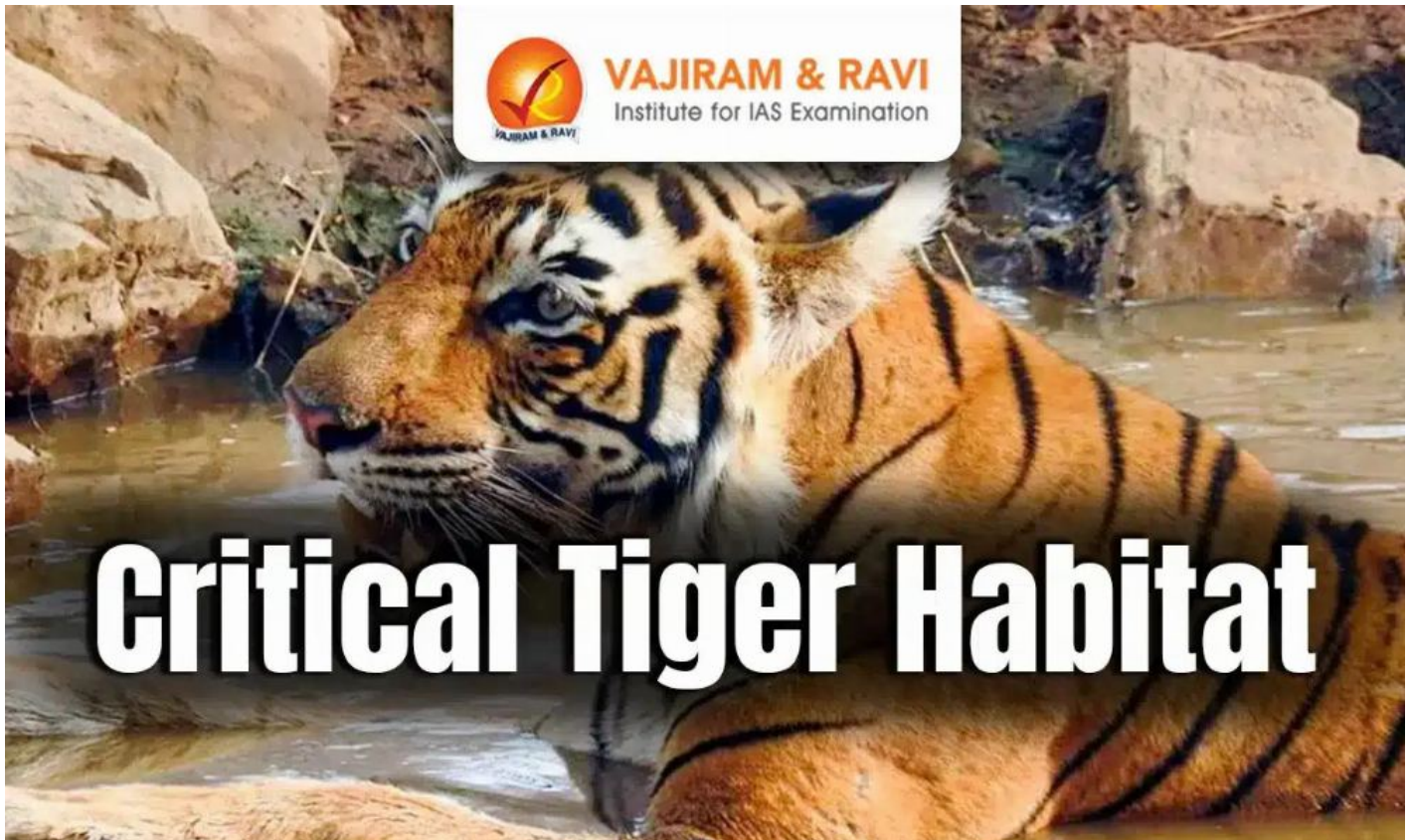


Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)

April 28, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Critical Tiger Habitat Latest News

The Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH) of Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) is likely to expand by approximately 4,500 hectares following a rationalisation exercise mandated by the Supreme Court of India's Central Empowered Committee (CEC).

About Critical Tiger Habitat

- **Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)**, also known as **core areas of tiger reserves**, are **identified under the Wild Life Protection Act (WLPA), 1972**.
- These are **based on scientific evidence** that "such areas are required to be **kept as inviolate** for the purpose of tiger conservation, **without affecting the rights of the Scheduled Tribes** or such **other forest dwellers**".
- The **notification** of CTH is **done by the state government in consultation with the expert committee** constituted for the purpose.

- **Inviolate Status:** These areas are kept inviolate (**free from human activities**) for the purpose of tiger conservation.
- The **forests peripheral to CTH** are **notified as buffer areas**, which act as a transition between CTH and non-tiger reserves.

Key Facts about Central Empowered Committee

- It was **set up in 2002** (reconstituted in 2008) **by the Supreme Court**.
- It served as a **watchdog for issues pertaining to environmental conservation** and compliance.
- **In 2023, the Supreme Court transferred the CEC, to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.**
- According to the Union Environment Ministry's notification, the central empowered committee will now be **institutionalised as a permanent statutory** body, moving away from its earlier ad hoc status.
- **Composition of the new CEC**
 - It will have a **chairman** with **experience of 25 years in the field of environment, forests and wildlife or proven administrative experience** of not less than **25 years in the central or state governments**.
 - He will be **nominated by the central government** for a **tenure of three years**.
 - The **age limit** for the Chairperson is set at **66 years**, and the rank must not be below that of an Additional Secretary.
 - The **member secretary** will be a **full-time serving officer of the government** not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General of forests or director in the Government of India.
 - This person is required to **have special knowledge** in the field of environment, forests, or wildlife, and **experience of at least 12 years**.
 - The member secretary too, will be **appointed by the Centre**.
 - The **three expert members** will be **one each from** the fields of the **environment, forests, and wildlife** with experience of at least 20 years.
 - They will also be **nominated by the Centre** for a tenure of three years.
 - **One notable change** in the new central empowered committee structure is the **exclusion of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)**, which were previously part of the committee.
- The **primary responsibilities** of the CEC include:
 - **Monitoring compliance** with environmental laws and regulations.
 - Providing **expert recommendationsto the government and judiciary** on environmental issues.
 - **Investigating complaints and grievances** related to environmental violations.
 - **Conducting site visits and inspections** to assess environmental damage and suggest remedial measures.
 - **Reporting to the Supreme Court** and **other relevant authorities** on matters related to environmental conservation.

Critical Tiger Habitat FAQs

Q1. Under which Act are Critical Tiger Habitats (CTH) identified?

Ans. Wild Life Protection Act, 1972

Q2. Who declares critical tiger habitats?

Ans. The notification of CTH is done by the state government in consultation with the expert committee constituted for the purpose.

Q3. What is meant by the “inviolable” status of a Critical Tiger Habitat?

Ans. It is kept free from human activities for tiger conservation.

Source: **TOI**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/critical-tiger-habitat/>

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