



Jairam Ramesh in Sariska on Tuesday.

OINAM ANAND

## Another male tiger shifted to Sariska

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SARISKA, JULY 20

In an operation that was personally monitored by Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, a male tiger was on Tuesday translocated to Sariska from Ranthambhore National Park in a bid to boost the tiger breeding programme initiated there two years ago.

The six-year-old tiger was taken in a canter truck from Ranthambhore to the Sariska reserve.

Both the Central and Rajasthan governments have been on backfoot on the Sariska issue. Three tigers (a male and two females) have been moved there, but not a single cub has been born for the past

two years. It was later found that these were siblings, as a result of which their mating failed to produce any offspring. So Tuesday's exercise of moving an adult tiger from Ranthambhore to Sariska was a snap second decision, amidst what Ramesh called "opposition".

This time genetic analysis was done by the wildlife department to choose two tigers for translocation. "To avoid controversy, this is for the first time we decided on the genetic analysis of the tigers and hope it (the translocation) will give the desired result," Ramesh said.

Another tigress will be translocated to Sariska in the next couple of weeks, he said. **WITH PTI INPUTS**