

Tiger cubs at zoo grow up on cow, goat milk

Syed Rizwanullah | TNN

Aurangabad: The Aurangabad zoo achieved the feat of enhancing the dwindling population of tigers in the country, but the four tiger cubs born here in March would have suffered had the zoo authorities not decided to feed them on cow and goat milk as well as vitamin B supplements.

Aziz Shaikh

The four tiger cubs, one male and three females, were born to Dipti and Gudu — who are among the two pairs of tigers



Two tiger cubs being fed by AMC zoo staff

and tigresses brought to the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation-run zoo from Chandigarh in 2005. The animals were then between three to four years of age.

"Since the stronger cub manages to drink most of Dipti's milk, the other three are left hungry and have to be fed on cow or goat's milk," said B S Naikwade, the AMC zoo director. Dipti gave birth to the first cub in the evening of March 6, while the three other cubs were born in the morning of March 8.

The four cubs are a good addition to the dwindling yellow tiger population in India, which was recorded at 1,411 a few months ago. Naikwade said, "When it's time for feeding the cubs here, they are separated from the mother and fed cow or goat milk twice a day. They have also started licking beef that is being fed to their mother and within six months the cubs will start eating beef."

"A five-member team — comprising live stock supervisors Sanjay Nandan and Shaikh Shahed as well as labourers Zia, Somnath and Zaheer — take care of the tigers at the zoo, where the number of yellow tigers has increased to eight, after Dipti gave birth to the four cubs," he said.