

Cash scheme for big cats

Sariska Sanctuary Gets Tiger Conservation Foundation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Now, delay in sanction of money for the two tiger sanctuaries in the state will not be a problem. After the Ranthambore National Park, a Tiger Conservation Foundation (TCF) has been formed for Sariska too.

The two separate tiger foundations will now be entitled to receive all monetary grants from the Centre and individuals for spending in the two sanctuaries.

The state government has set up the two foundations to ensure better conservation of big cats. Recently, Sariska saw relocation of two tigers from Ranthambore to take the total number of cats to five.

Ram Lal Jat, the forest minister said, "The Sariska Tiger Conservation Foundation has been set up to conserve biodiversity and strengthening the



infrastructure to protect wildlife in the sanctuary. This would also ensure adequate protective measures for felines."

Jat is the chairman of the two foundations, while the field directors of each sanctu-

ary are member secretaries. The foundation will also have respective MLAs from the area besides about four other members from the public domain and from the staff of the department.

Establishing a TCF is mandatory under the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2006 in each tiger reserve. The move was brought after tigers were poached in Sariska.

Sariska is also planning to revive its earlier plan of regulating the flow of tourists to the temple, Pandupole, inside the sanctuary. To restrict visitors from using private vehicles that cause pollution and disturbance in the habitat, the state government has floated tenders for purchasing buses to ferry people from Sariska to Pandupole temple at regular intervals.

The project will be under scrutiny for some days before it is finalised. Currently, 100 home guards and 55 ex-military men are on duty across the park to ensure security of the flora and fauna, including the recently relocated endangered tigers.