

2 more tiger parks in Maha

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Sept. 13: Union environment and forests minister Jairam Ramesh on Monday said two more tiger reserves have been proposed in Maharashtra — at Nazgira-Navegaon and Bor in Vidarbha region.

Mr Ramesh, interacting with reporters during his visit to Maharashtra on Monday, said there are four tiger reserves in Maharashtra — Melghat, Pench, Tadoba-Andhari and Sahyadri — three of which are in Vidarbha region. The proposed reserves would also be in Vidarbha region.

The proposal is to create tiger reserves within Nazgira Wildlife Sanctuary and Bore Wildlife Sanctuary near Wardha. Nazgira has 34 species of mammals, 166 species of

birds, 36 species of reptiles and four species of amphibians. Tigers, panthers, bisons, sambars, nilgai, chital, wild boars, sloth bears and wild dogs are seen at Nazgira. The Bor Wildlife Sanctuary fauna includes tigers, panthers, nilgai, chital, sambars, peacocks, barking deer, chinkaras, monkeys, wild boars, bears and wild dogs.

The minister congratulated CM Ashok Chavan and Maharashtra forest minister Patangrao Kadam for notifying the mandatory buffer zone around the tiger reserves. He said five of the eight proposed development projects in the vicinity of the Sahyadri Tiger Project and the Tadoba Tiger Project would be given conditional clearance. Mr Ramesh also spoke about other environment-related issues in the state.