

## Forest minister to convene meet on tiger

**BANGALORE, DHNS:** Forest Minister C H Vijayashankar has said that he would be convening a meeting of top officials of the forest department to discuss conditions regarding various zoos, on September 27.

The Minister was speaking to media persons on Friday after a visit to Bannerghatta. He held a meeting with the zoo officers for a couple of hours to take stock of the situation in the wake of tigers falling seriously ill due to infection. The minister directed officers to keep the zoo premises clean and provide quality food to the animals.

M N Jayakumar, head of Zoo Authority in the State said that of the 16 sick tigers, 11 are adult and five are cubs. While one - Minchu - is very critical, the rest are improving.

The officer said, "We have created ICU like wards for the tigers which are under treatment. Unfortunately, the bacteria have developed resistant to many antibiotics. But one particular antibiotic - Imipenem - is moderately sensitive. So, we are administering this particular drug", he said.

Asked whether there were sufficient funds to meet the medical requirements, Jayakumar replied in the positive.