

State Signs Pact for Conservation of Tigers

Kerala has become the second state in the country to sign an agreement with the Centre for the conservation of big cats in its Periyar tiger reserve. The agreement aimed at strengthening tiger conservation initiatives at its Periyar tiger reserve spread over 777 square kilometres, which is abode to around 35 striped cats.

Rajasthan is the first state to sign such an agreement and Tamil Nadu is likely to follow the suit soon.

The agreement is a move to boost tiger conservation as it make the three parties -- Environment Ministry on behalf of the Centre, state government and the tiger reserve -- accountable for their actions in protection of the big cats which are on the verge of extinction due to various reasons.

"The pact clearly defines the role of the Centre of releasing fund within a certain time period while the state government will have to ensure that the fund is utilised for the management of the park.

The tiger reserves will also be held accountable for fund utilisation and its management, while the state governments are expected to take steps for restoring the identified corridor linkages with the tiger reserve.