

# Buffer zones okayed to shield K'taka tiger parks from mining

*ST-11/WS/cm11*  
**Bangalore:** After long four years, buffer zones in tiger reserves of Karnataka will soon become a reality. According to the forest department, a 300 sq km buffer around Bandipur and a 400 sq km buffer around Anshi-Dandell reserves have got an in-principle nod from the Centre.

The notification of buffer zones is very significant as it will lead to protection of the reserves from intensive projects like mining. "Those which got in-principle approval will be notified in a month or so. In Nagarahole, we're facing some problems and the buffer zone may take some more time to be determined. This notification will not just have a bearing on people living in the zone, but have a major impact on human-animal conflict. If a tiger strays, it will not hit the boundary straightaway," principle chief conservator of forests, B K Singh said.

A buffer is like a thin layer of protection on all sides of the reserve. It is not inviolate like core area and human habitation won't be relocated. Those living in this zone will



be given alternative livelihood options to reduce dependence on core forest produce. "These zones will be protected from major changes in land use. Unlike the core area, which is exclusive, the buffer zone will be inclusive but importance will be given to protection of wildlife," National Tiger Conservation Authority, member secretary, Rajesh Gopal said.

**Jayashree Nandi**

## ON THE ANVIL

● Total area of Bandipur tiger reserve is **950 sqkm**; additional **300 sqkm** being added on

Karnataka side as buffer zone

● Total area of Anshi-Dandell tiger reserve is **800 sqkm**; additional **400 sqkm** being added as buffer area

● Nagarahole

buffer zone yet to be determined; notification for Bhadra tiger reserve with Centre

● No large, intensive development projects allowed in zone