

Need to consider tigers as our natural capital: PM Modi

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The conservation of tiger or nature is not a drag on development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while addressing the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation on Tuesday. He insisted that both can happen in a mutually complementary manner emphasising on the need to reorient the strategy.

Modi said poaching of tigers can be checked when the Governments at the highest level come together to check the menace. "There is a need to consider tigers as our natural capital and to define conservation as a means to achieve development, rather than considering it to be anti-growth. He emphasised the need to "smartly" integrate the tiger and wildlife safeguards in various infrastruc-

tures at the landscape level. He called for the need to involve business groups through corporate social responsibility for various initiatives towards Tiger conservation.

He released a joint report on "Status of Tigers in the Sunderban Landscape — India and Bangladesh" on the occasion. He also presented awards in various categories for Tiger conservation to representatives from Tiger Reserves. While Periyar Tiger Reserve bagged the award for anti poaching practices, Satpura was recognized for bringing about village relocation and resettlement effectively and voluntarily. Others to win awards include Kaziranga (for conservation of species other than tigers), Karha (for Active Management) and Parambikulam (for Community Participation in Eco-Tourism).



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi with Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, and Minister of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan, Yeshey Dorji, presents award to Kaziranga tiger reserve during the inauguration of the Third Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in New Delhi on Tuesday