

NGO asks legislators to 'adopt' tigers

HT Correspondent
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THE JUNGLEES, a non-government organisation for wildlife conservation, has urged the 294 legislators in the State to "adopt" a tiger each. The call comes in the wake of the recent killings of tigers in the Sunderbans.

"We want to launch a sustained campaign in the Assembly to ensure that such incidents are not repeated. The law should be made more stringent and applied accordingly," The Jungles secretary said Raja Chatterjee said.

Chatterjee said political intervention was necessary for the survival of the tigers. "The gruesome killing of two tigers on July 30 and October 2 indicate that the poachers have adopted a new method for killing.

"Not all the villagers were involved in the killings. The poachers took advantage of the situation and provoked some of the villagers into killing the tigers," he said. The members of The Jungles say that poachers have killed 14 tigers in the last year and a half.

The NGO has asked the Forest Department to increase its vigil in the forests, train the guards and arm them with better equipment.

Earlier, The Jungles did a signature campaign among schoolchildren in Kolkata. Encouraged by the good response it wants to take the students on a conducted tour of Sunderbans in winter. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Manoj Nandi has also been approached for the formalities.