

An award for the people

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Three village communities in Rajasthan are awarded for their conservation efforts

The three villages of Hamirpur, Haripura and Bhaonta-Kolyala, situated near the Sariska Tiger Reserve in the Alwar district of Rajasthan have been given Rs 1 lakh each for their efforts to conserve water and protect forests and wildlife in their area for the past 15 years. The award has been instituted by Tarun Bharat Sangh (tbs), a non-governmental organisation based in Alwar, and Winrock International. The ambassador of Sweden, John Nordenfeldt, gave the awards recently at Sariska.

The people of Hrapura have been awarded for their efforts to conserve the tiger in the Sariska Project Tiger. The people of Hamirpur have been awarded for their innovative efforts in constituting the river basin parliament, Arvari Sansad.

Representatives from the villages said they plan to utilise the award money in the community. "Haripura village is planning to utilise the money for forest and wildlife conservation inside Sariska after holding consultations with forest authorities," said Prabhu Gujjar, a resident of the village. On the other hand, Hamirpur will use the money for constructing a building to house the Arvari parliament, according to Rudhmal Meena, secretary of the village gram sabha. The twin villages of Bhaonta-Kolyala are planning to spend the money on consolidating the activities of conservation.

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