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Plea to preserve tiger habitats

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Telecom company Aircel today hosted a panel discussion "Tiger as the Metaphor for all Nature" where it was felt that "the best tiger habitat is the human heart". Participating in the discussion, Bittu Sahgal, Editor, Sanctuary Asia, came out strongly in support of preserving the natural habitat of the tiger and felt that expanding the Protected Area Network and providing the necessary space and isolation for tigers and other wildlife and beefing up the protective mechanisms to care for forests, rivers, coasts, wetlands and grasslands is the shrewdest possible financial investment for India. "Mountains, seas and forests have shaped our very destiny. Protecting this heritage should be the very purpose of our lives.

The best tiger habitat is the human heart. If we create space for tigers here, everything else will follow," Sahgal said. Sharing her views on wildlife tourism, Poonam Dhanwatey, Founder Trustee, Tiger Research And Conservation Trust (TRACT) said, "The way forward is to usher in the concept of Community Reserves where tigers and other wild species of plants and animals become a source of income and not a cause for the depletion of people's wealth." Dr Anish Andheria, president, Wildlife Conservation Trust, said "all that the tiger and other wildlife ask from us is to reduce disturbances in their forest homes and allow them safe passage through ours. An aware and self-sufficient community is the cornerstone of future conservation models. Unless the natural resources of a country are not safeguarded, the country will not prosper."