

# Tigress killed in MP's Bandhavgarh reserve

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DC | BHOPAL

**May 20:** While the tiger population is dwindling at an alarming rate and protecting them has become a huge challenge — even in the ‘protected areas’, the death of a three-year old tigress in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday morning raises several questions — the most burning of them is whether or not the tigress was fatally hit by a vehicle carrying tourists.

According to initial reports, some tourists had spotted the tigress moving aggressively towards a vehicle near a water hole at Jhurjhura on the Tala-Jhurjhura track on Wednesday morning. This was promptly reported at the Park entrance.

When a team of forest department staff rushed



The injured tigress moments before her death. — DC

there, the tigress was in an aggressive mood and charged at their vehicle. The driver immediately put the vehicle in reverse, but while doing so, the vehicle hit a “macchan” (makeshift observation post), which fell, injuring the tigress. The actual cause of injury would be known only after the postmortem, he added.

When a senior police officer in-charge of law and

order in that area was contacted, he said that the tigress was seen limping in the morning.

The state chief wildlife warden, Mr R.S. Negi, said on Thursday afternoon that the post mortem had been delayed as the veterinary expert, who was to be sent to Bandhavgarh from Jabalpur had left for Gwalior for some other work.