

MP Forest Minister orders CID probe

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State Forest Minister Sartaj Singh on Tuesday ordered a CID probe into the death of the Bandhavgarh tigress. The Minister stated that the Department had concluded its inquiry and now it was up to the police to further investigate the matter. Meanwhile, NTCA Member Secretary Rajesh Gopal returned to New Delhi after completing his probe at Bandhavgarh on Tuesday.

The State Forest Minister while talking to The Pioneer informed that the Forest Department had concluded its inquiry and now it was the job of the police, as it has some special powers to conduct investigation in such cases. Singh however declined to comment on what was the concrete result of the departmental inquiry and claimed that still a lot was required to be done in the matter.

On being asked about the locals demand for a CBI probe into the matter, Singh stated

that as the CBI probe would be a lengthy process, he had decided to go in for a CID probe. Earlier the Department had got the forensic tests done on vehicles, suspected of hitting the tigress and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Dharmendra Shukla had also conducted a probe into the tigress death.

Meanwhile, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Member Secretary Rajesh Gopal, who had descended on Bandhavgarh on Monday, held discussions with local tourist guides, drivers and resort owners on Tuesday. The locals discussed several issues with the visiting NTCA officers and also demanded a CBI probe into the matter.

Volunteer group Jansabha members also requested Gopal to ensure that the orphaned cubs of the tigress were not kept inside any enclosure and instead be kept inside any area of the park, which is secure from predators.