

Bandhavgarh tigress death case still unsolved, vehicle yet to be traced

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The Forest Department is yet to find the vehicle, which hit a tigress resulting in her death in Bandhavgarh National Park premises in Madhya Pradesh two days ago. Park Deputy Director KS Alawa informed that a forensic team examined several tourist vehicles on Friday.

State PCCF (Wildlife) RS Negi said that the forensic samples received from the vehicles would be tested at CCMB Hyderabad or Veterinary College Jabalpur. He however declined to have more details on the incident.

Meanwhile, the death of the tigress inside the park took a new turn on Friday, as Congress Janpad president Umaria Gyanwati Singh alleged that the vehicle which hit the tigress, belonged to the son of



a State Minister. She has also demanded a CBI inquiry in the incident. Speculations are also making rounds that a forest official's vehicle was involved in the accident of the big cat.

However, PWD Minister and in-charge Minister for Umaria Nagendra Singh's son Shyamendra Singh, in a statement on Friday rejected the allegations stating that he has not been to Bandhavgarh National Park for four months and has termed the reports of his involvement in the incident as baseless and wrong.

Gyanwati Singh, while talking to *The Pioneer* over tele-

phone on Friday informed that she had received the information of the tigress' death from a senior party leader in New Delhi.

Singh further added that she went to the park immediately, but she was allowed to enter only after half-an-hour. She claimed that even mediapersons were allowed entry after a while and claimed that the tigress had died after being hit by a vehicle but the park staff tried to give a new twist to the incident, by putting the dead tigress inside the water source.

The Janpad president further added that a forest guard was also made to go in water in the presence of forest and police officials but water barely reached his knees, then how come a tigress could drown in water as earlier claimed by the forest staff, she argued.

Singh categorically alleged

that the park had tried to hush up the matter, as Minister Nagendra Singh's son was involved in the incident.

"Agar koi gharib ka beta hota to usko turant jail me daal dete," she said. She dragged park security under scanner by alleging that a vehicle entered inside the park before them without making any official entry in the register. She even claimed that according to her, police have been involved in tigress' death at the park for the first time and also demanded for a CBI inquiry into the matter.

However, speculations were also making rounds that a forest official's vehicle was also seen at the spot, where tigress was seen before death. Locals claimed that forest official's vehicle was showing damage and the damage was also visible on trees and a ladder at the site.