

5-yr-old tiger has Rajasthan forest officials on toes

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About 150 forest guards and officers are extensively combing the forests in Rajkheda area of Dhaulpur district to bring back a five-year-old tiger, named Mohan, which had strayed from Ranthambore National Park about a fortnight back.

The teams of guards are organising *hakkas* (sound beats to lure the tiger out) and bursting crackers to get the tiger back into the Ranthambore territory.

The tiger, which about two years ago had also roamed away from the park, first strayed in the near-by Karauli area. On Sunday, he was spotted in Ghuraiakhera forest. On Saturday evening, the tiger was spotted at a *nullah* near Kathiyara village. The teams burst crackers to scare it. But the tiger failed to come out of the thick forest.

"As this area is hardly 50 kms from Uttar Pradesh, we are making every possible effort to stop it to moving in that direction," says a forest official K Bhati, who is leading the search teams.

District Collectors, other than providing logistics, are also accompanying the forest officials.

A team of wildlife experts equipped with tranquilisers and a huge cage has already reached there. They have the plan to bring back the tiger in the cage after tranquilising it.

Only last week, there was panic among the forest officials in Sariska Tiger Reserve, where two more tigers were shifted from Ranthambore, when they found that they were not getting any signals from the radio collar fitted on one of the tigers.

After combing the area for two days, they located the tiger in a *nullah* at a far end of the forest. Later, the big cat on its own moved back to the core area of the forest.