

Camera clicks tiger, tigress roaming in Pilibhit forests

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Lucknow: The presence of two big cats, a tiger and a tigress has been recorded in the web camera, at Deoria range of Pilibhit. The team, comprising experts from WTI and WWF, which is trying to unravel the mystery behind the man-killing tigers is still to work out which one of the two big cats is killing and preying on humans.

FOREST DEPT YET TO IDENTIFY MAN-KILLER

The camera feed on August 13 showed a sub-adult tiger. The team members are of the opinion that tiger may be the culprit behind attacks. The tigress, who was also recorded in the camera feed, moving in the same compartment, Pasgawan, where human killings had taken place, was not seen near the bodies.

The tigress, therefore, may not be the one who killed humans. However, it is still too early to say anything on this.

When contacted, V K Singh, divisional forest officer, Pilibhit, said all killings were accidental. "There was no sign of aggression on part of the tiger; there has been considerable time gap between human killings," he said.

The men were killed because they were

alone and had gone inside forest. A meeting of team of experts was held on Wednesday to plan ahead. No more human killings have taken place in the area after August 7.

The man-killing tiger of Pilibhit has killed six humans, including a woman, so far.

The last human killing was reported from compartment number 7 of Deoria range on August 7. The body was found lying about 3 km from Pasgawan. It is this compartment where presence of big cats has been noticed as all killings have taken within 2 to 4 km distance from here.

The precautionary measures which were put in place are still there. The patrolling in the area is going on. The villagers are being prohibited from entering the forest. "So far at least 100 villagers have complained to the DM that we are restraining them from entering forest," said divisional forest officer.

The villagers are dependent on forest for their livelihood.

According to forest officials, it is a young tiger which is trying to establish its territory in Deoria range. The range, so far, was not a territory to tigers though it has dense forest patches. However, grasslands in the area are not good. The range also has a poor prey base. It has wild boars and blue bulls but is devoid of cheetals and sambars.