

First phase of tiger census at KNP from December 20

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CORRESPONDENT

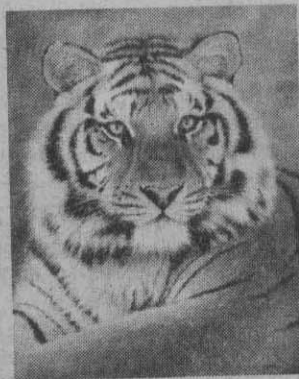
JORHAT, Dec 17 – The first phase of tiger census at Kaziranga National Park is going to start on December 20. In this phase the 'sign survey' will be carried out to identify the locations where the tigers generally dwell.

When contacted, Surajit Dutta, Director, Kaziranga National Park said to this correspondent, "Just after the first phase of sign survey, the next phase 'camera trapping of tigers' will be carried out.

"Thereafter, from the analysis of the photographs the actual number of tigers will be

found out."

Earlier in Kaziranga, tiger census was carried out with



the help of the pug mark records of the tigers. But this time the census will be done

with the help of latest camera trapping technology. The cameras used for this purpose have sensors that trigger the camera to take pictures automatically whenever animals come within range in front of the lens. They are usually attached to a tree.

Dutta further said that the census will produce more authentic and accurate information about the big cats in the Kaziranga National Park than the earlier ones. The number of such cameras needed for the survey will also be determined just after the completion of the first phase of the census, the sign survey.