

# Tiger electrocuted by poachers in Pench

LT NEWS SERVICE

NAGPUR, APR 13: A full grown tiger was killed by unidentified poachers with the help of an electric trap at Kumbababa beat (compartment number 20) near Karmajiri rest house in the Pench Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh), about 120 km from here, on April 5.

Fearing inquiry by higher authorities about the callousness on the part of the officials concerned of Madhya Pradesh forest department in this regard, all possible efforts were being made to hush up the incident.

The poachers managed to escape, leaving the carcass on the spot which was later burnt by the forest officials after conducting a formal post-mortem. No arrest was made so far in this connection.

This was informed by Mr Raja Chatterjee, president of 'The Jungles,' a well known non-governmental organisation (NGO) of the country dedicated to wildlife conservation.

Speaking to journalists, Mr Chatterjee said he along with five members of 'The Jungles' namely Mr Arindrum Chakravarty, Mr Sunil Pramanik, Mr Gagan Ghalot, Raja

Chakravarty (Calcutta) and Mr Uday Patel (Jabalpur) visited the Pench Tiger Reserve, MP on April 10 on an ecology-excursion tour.

He said after they reached the main gate of the Pench National Park at 11 pm, they were informed by a beat officer that a tiger was killed by electrocution by poachers on April 5. Next morning, he said, they gathered all details of the incident from the sub-divisional officer (SDO), Mr Jagdish Chandra and range officer (RO), Mr Akilesh Agrawal.

Mr Chatterjee said the official duo also confirmed that the big cat was killed by poachers with an electric trap just 2 kilometres away from the Karmajiri forest rest house.

Informing about the trap, Mr Chatterjee said the poachers had managed to hook up the GI wire from the 1100 KV high tension line and had pegged it

up on wooden poles to about 300 metres inside the forest. However, he said, the SDO was of the view that this particular arrangement was to trap deers.

He said after the carcass of the tiger was located on April 6 afternoon by a beat officer, he immediately informed the range officer Mr Agrawal. The range officer brought the incident to the notice of the field director of Pench Tiger Reserve, Mr S K Chauhan. On April 7, Mr Chatterjee said, the carcass was burnt after

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