

'Maneater' may be near Corbett

Seema Sharma | TNN

Dehradun: A suspected maneater, which has been stalking Uttar Pradesh's forests, could be around Corbett Tiger Reserve.

Officials say since the animal last preyed on a 35-year-old man in Bijnor district, about 2km from CTR, there were chances that it might have entered the tiger reserve by now. The UP and Uttarakhand forest departments are involved in tracing the animal.

"Precautionary measures such as intensive patrolling around vulnerable spots at water bodies, grass land and villages close to CTR are being taken. However, it is difficult to predict the precise location of the tiger as it can always cross territories through various routes," chief wildlife warden S S Sharma, who held talks with CTR and UP forest department officials, told TOI.

Forest officials are also not sure yet whether the maneater is a tiger or tigress. Moradabad forest conservator Kamlesh Kumar said they were looking at clues. "Steps such as examination of pug marks, scat analysis and motion-sensor camera traps are being taken in both states. If the samples which were taken

Probe into mass deer deaths

Central Zoo Authority has started its investigation at Bilaspur's Kanhan Pendaro Zoo where 22 spotted deer were found dead under mysterious circumstances.

The CZA team has visited the zoo, spoken to the officials and collected samples for investigation. Team member A K Sharma, principal of Indian Veterinary Institute, Bareilly, ruled out the possibility of post-mortem of animals, saying they had been buried about 20 days ago.

The deer deaths have cropped up in the Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha. TNN

in UP match those collected in CTR, then the presence of the same tiger in the area can be confirmed. Teams have been kept ready on both sides to trap the tiger or tranquillize it. But if it can't be controlled, it will have to be shot."

The first victim of the maneater was found on December 29 last year in a sugarcane field in Sambhal. Three others were allegedly killed in Moradabad on agrarian land and two more in the reserve forest area in Bijnor.