

SUPPRESSED FACTS

The report prepared by Panna's intelligence cell shows the forest department either did not register cases of poaching or watered them down

ILLUSTRATIONS: KANNO GUHAHAKURTA/CSE

CHANDRANAGAR RANGE

2004-05 A tiger was poached
ACTION TAKEN: A tiger skin was seized from poachers. Sub-divisional officer of Khajuraho prepared the panchnama and seizure memo, but the case was not registered
INVESTIGATION REPORT: R Sreenivasa Murthy's team recovered the original seizure memo which mentions Chirinjia Fathahi and Manoj Singh Parihar of Satna as poachers. Beat in-charge took ₹40,000 from the poachers and let them off

2005 A tiger was poached using metal traps
ACTION TAKEN: The then assistant conservator of forests (ACF) of Ken Ghariyal sanctuary L L Uikey seized the metal trap and took soil samples from the spot. He submitted the metal trap to the then range officer R K Jaiswal. The case was not registered
INVESTIGATION REPORT: Murthy's team seized two unaccounted metal trap from the range office and registered the offence in January this year. Murthy concluded there were omissions at the forest Guard to ACF level

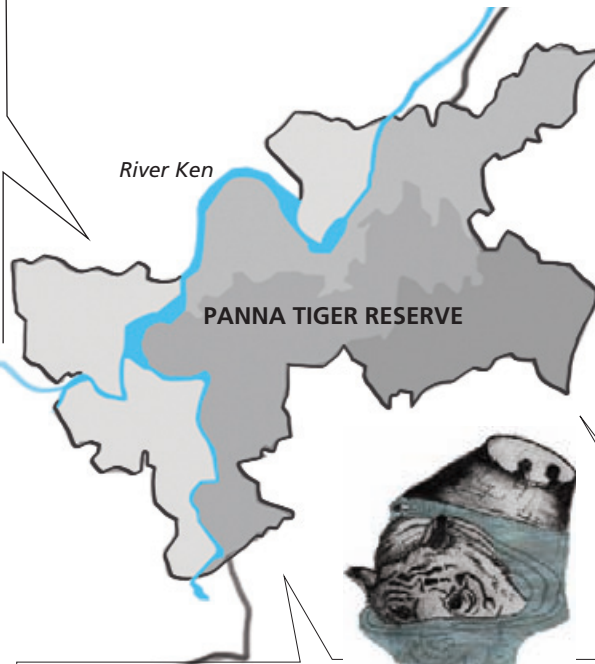
CHANDRANAGAR RANGE

2007 The flying squad range officer found a suspicious SUV with search lights on inside the park on May 17. After firing from both sides, the occupants escaped. There were empty firearms in the vehicle and blood on its rear gate.



ACTION TAKEN: Hair and blood samples collected. The case was sent to the division officer. Within two days the vehicle was released to one Babbu Singh, reportedly a relative of former MLA Vir Vikram Singh.
INVESTIGATION REPORT: The samples were never tested. Range officer R K Jaiswal told

Murthy in a written explanation that he met field director and deputy director on May 18 who directed the staff to release the vehicle as there was no evidence of poaching. His statement did not match with the daily diary reports of field director and deputy director. Both the officials were out of Panna on May 18



MADLA RANGE

2001 Four uniformed forest staff cremated a tiger that died of unknown reasons
ACTION TAKEN: No case was registered
INVESTIGATION REPORT: Murthy's team seized unidentified bones and burnt leftovers on the spot in February 2010. The forest staff from guard to range officer were involved in destroying the evidence

PANNA RANGE

2006 A tiger cub died in Hinauta range due to poisoning of a sambar kill. Later its mother was killed in a similar manner in Panna range.
ACTION TAKEN: Cases were registered
INVESTIGATION REPORT: Cases pending before court

HINAUTA RANGE

2002 A radio collared tiger was poached using nooses
ACTION TAKEN: Timely reporting was not done by the radio collar monitoring team. Case registered five days later
INVESTIGATION REPORT: The accused were acquitted by local court. Forest staff made no appeal in higher courts

2003 A tiger found dead in an open well
ACTION TAKEN: Park administration closed the case considering it a natural death without investigation
INVESTIGATION REPORT: A research scholar reported the case, not the frontline staff. Foresters just a km away from the well could not hear the tiger's roars

