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Jhargram officials expert in handling elephants, not big cats

## Loitering tigress, jumbo plight

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Calcutta/Jamshedpur: Jhargram, a zone disturbed by human-elephant conflict, is now worried about a fresh threat — a tigress.

Foresters in Jhargram have deployed three separate teams equipped with tranquillisers, cages, and an ambulance along the Jharkhand border amid reports of movement of tigress Zeenat, who came out of Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve last week.

Zeenat, who was translocated last month from Maharashtra to the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) of Odisha to improve its genetic diversity and was released into the wild in the tiger reserve on November 24, crossed into the forests of neighbouring Odisha's Jharkhand district of Jharkhand after leaving Similipal. The current loca-

tion of the tigress, who has a radio collar around her neck, is in Chakulia forest in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum, barely 10km from the Bengal border in Jambuni and Belpahari, which falls under the Jhargram forest division.

\* Sources said three teams, comprising around 25 foresters — particularly those who are experienced in tracking wild animals like elephants — have been deployed to detain the loitering big cat if it enters Bengal.

Jhargram divisional forest officer Umar Imam said: "The animal (tigress) has not entered our jurisdiction so far. However, we have taken all possible measures and deployed teams of efficient foresters near the border to act promptly if it comes towards Bengal."

Despite the foresters saying they were confident to cage the tigress if it came towards Bengal, many insiders claimed that the entry of a tiger in a region like Jhargram



Forest officials trace the location of Zeenat at Chakulia forest on Friday. Picture by Bhola Prasad

in Bengal would be crucial for multiple reasons.

First, the foresters in Jhargram, a known vulnerable Jungle Mahal pocket, facing crisis with human and elephant conflicts, have expertise in handling the pachyderms, not tigers. As of Saturday, 12 elephants are roaming in different ranges of Jhargram forest divisions.

"With limited human

resources to handle the elephants, it is challenging for the department to deploy additional foresters to keep surveillance on the tigress. Although the big cat is not very close to Jhargram, if it enters Bengal it would be a tough task for the foresters to handle a dozen elephants and a tigress," said a forest official who once served in Jhargram.

"It is always a tough task to tranquillise a tiger, compared to an elephant. The job becomes even more difficult if the deployed foresters are not used to tranquillising a tiger," he added.

A 40-member team of foresters comprising officials from Jharkhand and Odisha unsuccessfully attempted to tranquillise the tigress on Thursday morning and the officers are worried because of the "elusive" nature of the tigress, which led the government to issue a prohibitory section, preventing the villag-

ers from coming out of their dwelling units after dusk.

The team had laid a bait of buffalo calves (three) for the tigress at Chhabandi forest and on Thursday dawn it came towards the calves and also killed one of the calves. But then fled away without eating the prey as if she had got inkling of humans tracking her.

"The team tried to shoot tranquillisers but it missed the target," a forester said.

"The tigress has moved out of the reserve in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district and entered the Chakulia forest range of Jharkhand, 30km from Odisha borders and 80km from Jamshedpur," said Jamshedpur divisional forest officer Saba Alam Ansari.

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**Bribery slur on Odisha IAS officer**

SUBHASHISH MOHANTY

Bhubaneswar: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has summoned a senior IAS officer in connection with a

## Concern over stunted children in Assam

UMANAND JAISWAL

Guwahati: Assam has the highest number of stunted children in the Northeast

among children based on the WHO growth charts.

Tripara, on the other hand, leads the eight north-eastern states with the highest

the resources allocated to the states with high percentage of stunted children.

In its response, the ministry said that the challenges of malnutrition are being

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**Ph.D. Admission Notification**

**Research Entrance Test (RET)**  
29<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Sunday at 2:00 PM

Seacom Skills University Research Entrance Test (SSU-RET) for admission in the Ph.D. Degree Program for the Academic Session 2024-25 will be held on 29-12-2024, Sunday, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Seacom Skills University, Kendradangal, Bolpur, Birbhum, West Bengal through OFF-LINE mode.

**SUBJECTS :** Basic and Applied Sciences, Life Sciences, Arts & Humanities, Law, Engineering, Pharmacy, Commerce & Management, Library and Information Science, Art & Culture, Agriculture and others.

Interested candidates are requested to report to the University Campus on that date at 1:00 PM along with a Photo ID (Aadhar Card / Voter Card) proof and a recent passport size photograph.

**NB : NET Qualified Candidates Will Directly Appear in the Viva-Voice Round**

**Intended Candidates may contact for details :**  
7890502451 | 9836295315 | 8016288460

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New Delhi-110023,  
Tel: +91 11 26788950, www.nhidcl.com  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Dated: 13.12.2024

**ORDER**

1. Whereas, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India under Section 05 of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) has entrusted vide notification number S.O. 2209 (E) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020, the stretch from kilometer 173.200 to kilometer 204.000 of Ralacherla to Badarpur Section of National Highway No. 44 (New NH 06) in the State of Assam to the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "Authority");

2. And Whereas, the Highway Administration for the above said National Highway is satisfied that a Major Bridge over Barak river situated at km 200.854 (in District: Cachar, Assam) addressing 359.80 meters (approximately known as the "Glamron Bridge at Badarpur") is unsafe for heavy commercial traffic;

3. Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 35 of the Control of National Highways (Land & Traffic) Act, 2002 the Highway Administration under "POWER TO RESTRICT THE USE OF VEHICLES" restricts use of Heavy Commercial Vehicles of certain types and allows

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