

Poachers out...

poaching syndicate. They stressed subjecting Nawab to a CBI inquiry on the basis of seizures from his house in 2007 and claiming that Nawab was absconding since then.

The forest officers however failed to establish his direct linkage with poachers like Sansarchand. Insiders claim he was closely associated with Shabbir Ali of Satna - who was arrested in 1997 with 11 leopard skins. Shabbir was charged along with Mohammad Yakub of Delhi - said to be suppliers of Sansarchand and Perna Tinley. The duo was named as key accused in case no 77/97 at Satna CJM court. Officials said they killed leopards in protected areas of Corbett, Bandhavgarh and Ranthambhore.

Nawab had not been linked to any poaching case till 2007. Wildlife activists claim the name Nawab Ali has been coined to divert attention and make process of ordering the CBI inquiry linger on. Ironically, when a decision on CBI inquiry into Panna tigers was to be taken, forest department sent a fresh letter to home department saying that court's consent may be required to give Nawab Ali's case to CBI as the trial in 2007 case was on. The matter thus was lingered on until Dinesh Shrivastav, government counsel and public prosecutor in Nawab Ali case from Satna wrote that there was no need to seek permission from the court for a parallel investigation in the case as CBI was an independent agency. He also cleared that under section 311 of CrPC any agency can reinvestigate or produce substantial evidence against the accused during the trial. Even after getting a green signal for giving Nawab Ali's case to CBI, the state government decided to constitute a three member committee involving police and forest officers to probe the matter.

(Report written under the aegis of CSE media fellowship)

'Power struggle'...

filed a complaint with Registrar, Firms & Society against MPCA's functionaries. Interestingly, Registrar of Firms & Society had sought the details of the meetings of MPCA's managing committees of last four years. Sources said that MPCA election this time would be more political in nature as compared to last election in which Vijayvergiya lost to Scindia by 74 votes. "This time Kailashji would not leave any stone unturned to win the election. He might even take help from senior leaders of the party", said a member of IDCA on condition of anonymity. Yeshwant Club, whose 90 % members are also members of MPCA and considered to be Scindia supporters, will definitely play vital role in the election. While Scindia is trying to maintain

his margin of votes, Vijayvergiya, sources said, is likely to use his 'ministerial power' to get their favours. Many IDCA members feel that MPCA's function on Saturday for naming a dressing room after former India captain Rahul Dravid at Holkar Stadium is a well-planned strategy of Scindia camp to get together its members. MPCA CEO Rohit Pandit however said that it was purely a cricket event. "We have invited all members. It is up to them (opposite camp) as how they look at it", he said.

PM man...

department, a ministry official said. "Cosmetic changes, if any, are done at the department's end. It is then sent to the advisor's office, which then forwards it to the PMO."

Singh began micromanaging the finance ministry as soon as Pranab Mukherjee resigned on Tuesday. A source said Singh wants to reprise his 1991 finance minister's role when he pulled back the Indian economy from the brink.

Distancing himself from Thursday's draft guidelines, issued by the finance ministry, on General Anti Avoidance Rules (GAAR) under section 101 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, Singh made it clear to ministry officials that guidelines would be finalised only after going through the feedback of various stakeholders.

A PMO release said the prime minister was still to see the GAAR guidelines. "He will go through the feedback before approving it. Once he is through, it will be finalised."

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) immediately followed it up by giving out a circular inviting suggestions and comments on the draft guidelines. The board reports to the finance ministry's revenue department.

GAAR is a part of the Direct Tax Code bill, which aims to replace the current Income Tax Act, 1961. It was tabled in Parliament in August 2010. Some provisions of the tax code makes any arrangement, such as the Vodafone deal, to avoid paying taxes unacceptable.

Vodafone had created an entity in Mauritius before taking over Hutchinson-Essar in India to avoid paying taxes. The income tax department had slapped the telecom major with a tax liability of nearly Rs12,000 crore. The Supreme Court struck it down though. When the Supreme Court struck it down, Mukherjee - as the finance minister - circumvented the court order by introducing a new clause in the finance bill. The clause would allow the government to tax Vodafone and other firms with similar charges against them with a retrospective effect.

Potential institutional investors were left aghast. Singh, said a source, is keen to reverse it because it might bring back investors.