



Reg. No. : S/E-261

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AIFO/2026/21

Date: 21/07/2026

To,

The Director General of Forests,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh,
New Delhi

Subject: Request for urgent national guidelines, inquiry, and safety measures for protection of forest officers in view of the martyrdom of Late Shri Vikas Desai, Range Forest Officer

Respected Sir,

With immense shock and profound grief, the All India Forest Officers Federation conveys its deepest condolences on the untimely demise of Late Shri Vikas Desai, Range Forest Officer (9th Batch FRO), Tapi Range, Vyara Forest Division, Gujarat who made the supreme sacrifice while discharging his official duties against the illegal transportation of khair timber from Gujarat to Maharashtra.

This tragic incident has once again brought to light the grave dangers faced by forest officers and frontline staff while combating timber smuggling, wildlife crime, and other forest offences. Forest officials are often required to act against organised and dangerous criminal networks without adequate protection, operational support, intelligence backup, or emergency response arrangements.

In view of the above, we respectfully request your good office to kindly take immediate cognizance of this matter and issue strict national guidelines and directions to all State Forest Departments for the safety and protection of forest officers and frontline staff. We further request that a high-level inquiry be instituted into this incident to examine the circumstances leading to the martyrdom of Shri Vikas Desai and to identify the systemic gaps in enforcement, intelligence sharing, communication, escort support, and field protection.

We also request that the following measures be considered on priority:

1. Standard operating procedures for interception of smugglers and illegal transport vehicles.
2. Mandatory coordination with police and other enforcement agencies during high-risk operations.

Email : aifofhq@gmail.com

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3. Provision of arms, communication devices, GPS-enabled tracking, body protection, and emergency response support wherever required.
4. Legal and administrative protection for officers acting in good faith in the discharge of official duties.
5. Immediate compensation, martyr status, and all due benefits to the family of the deceased officer.
6. A national-level review of forest offence enforcement protocols to prevent recurrence of such tragic incidents.

The sacrifice of Late Shri Vikas Desai must not go in vain. It is imperative that concrete institutional safeguards are put in place so that forest officers can perform their duties fearlessly and effectively in the service of forest conservation and the nation.

We therefore earnestly request your immediate intervention and necessary directions in this regard.

With respectful regards,

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Saurabh Vashisth
Dy. General Secretary

All India Forest Officers Federation

Copy to:

1. Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife) for information.
2. PCCF(HoFF), Gujarat, for information and necessary action, please.