

Fwd: Prayer

OA-207/2024/EZ

SR

Sh. RAJA CHATTERJEE Registrar <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>

Wed, 21 Aug 2024 9:21:32 AM +0530

To "Judicial Section" <ngtjudicial-kolkata@gov.in>

==== Forwarded message =====

From: <haripriyapatel@gmail.com>

To: "Sh. RAJA CHATTERJEE Registrar" <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>

Date: Tue, 20 Aug 2024 20:19:13 +0530

Subject: Prayer

==== Forwarded message =====

To

The Honorable Chairman
National Green Tribunal
Eastern Zone Branch , Kolkata

Honorable Sir,

I would like to bring into Honorable Tribunal notice to the article "**Three jumbos die in Odisha in 24 hours, electrocution cases rise**" published in the newspaper the new Indian Express' on 19/08/2024 (copy enclosed as Annexure-I). The article mentioned that one elephant calf died after being hit by a goods train, another died of septicemia, while one more got electrocuted in different parts of Odisha as within 24 Hours mentioned below.

- 1) A five-year-old male elephant calf was killed after being hit by a goods train on the Rourkela-Bimlagarh line near Roxy of Barsuan range under the Bonai Forest Division (BFD) in Sundargarh district in the wee-hours of Sunday i.e. on 18-08-2024.
- 2) A female elephant, aged around seven years died in Tamra Forest in Gurundia block on the night of August 15 due to diseases.
- 3) An adult female elephant was electrocuted to death in a forest in Charadapasi village under Naktideul range of Rairakhol division in Sambalpur

district on Sunday.

Quoting from forest minister the newspaper **the times of India on 4-Oct-2023 (copy enclosed as Annexure-II)** highlighted that as many as 698 elephants died in the state of Odisha in eight years since 2015-16. According to the data, the annual elephant mortality rate comes to be 87. Quoting from the forest minister the newspaper the times of India also mentioned that in 2010-11, elephant population in the state of Odisha was 1,886 but in the 2017 census, it came down to 1,976.

These articles highlighted the grim realities wild elephants in Odisha face on account of the alarming rise in the number of unnatural elephant deaths, primarily due to electrocution & train hits which could have been avoided had the concerned authority taken precautionary measures in these matters.

The successive and repeated incidents of the death of Elephants in the State of Odisha in different areas due to electrocution or train hit or other unnatural reasons is a matter of serious concern. This article reflects that incidents take place due to lack of diligence on part of authorities concerned. There would be no gain saying that elephants and other wild animals have the right to care and safety inside the sanctuary or outside and forest and other authorities bear a statutory duty on this count.

Therefore, I pray the honorable tribunal to take cognizance of the frequent unnatural death of the elephants and issue necessary instructions to the concerned authorities such as electric department & railway department to take necessary measures to avoid such unnatural death of elephants and other suitable measures as deemed fit.


With Regards

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Annexture-I.pdf

243.5 KB • 



Annexture-II.pdf

72.1 KB • 

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

698 elephants died in state in 8 years: Min tells House

TNN | Oct 4, 2023, 09:04 AM IST



Bhubaneswar: As many as 698 elephants died in the state in eight years since 2015-16, forest minister Pradip Amat told the assembly on Tuesday. Another 48 leopards and seven Royal Bengal Tigers were also died in the same period, the minister said.

According to the data, the annual elephant mortality rate comes to 87 since 2015-16, which is alarming, experts said. The deaths have been caused due to disease, electrocution, train hits, road accidents, poaching and poisoning, the forest minister said in a written reply.

In another reply, Amat said in 2010-11, elephant population in the state was 1,886 but in the 2017 census, it came down to 1,976. As per the 2017 census, the state has highest number of elephants in Simlipal Tiger Reserve (330) followed by 169 in Dhenkanal and 115 in Athgarh forest divisions.

In the last census, no elephant was found in Bargarh, Bhadrak, Chilika, city (Cuttack-Bhubaneswar), Jeypore, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Jharsuguda, and Sunabeda divisions, the minister's reply revealed.

Since 2017, the state hasn't conducted an elephant census, which should be done every two years.

In August, the state hosted the 19th steering committee meeting of Project Elephant on the occasion of World Elephant Day which was chaired by Union forest minister Bhupender Yadav. In the meeting, a report revealed that Odisha is one of the important habitats of elephants in the east-central landscape which also comprises Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. While the east-central landscape together has an elephant population of 3,000, Odisha alone, according to the 2017 census, has 1976.

We also published the following articles recently

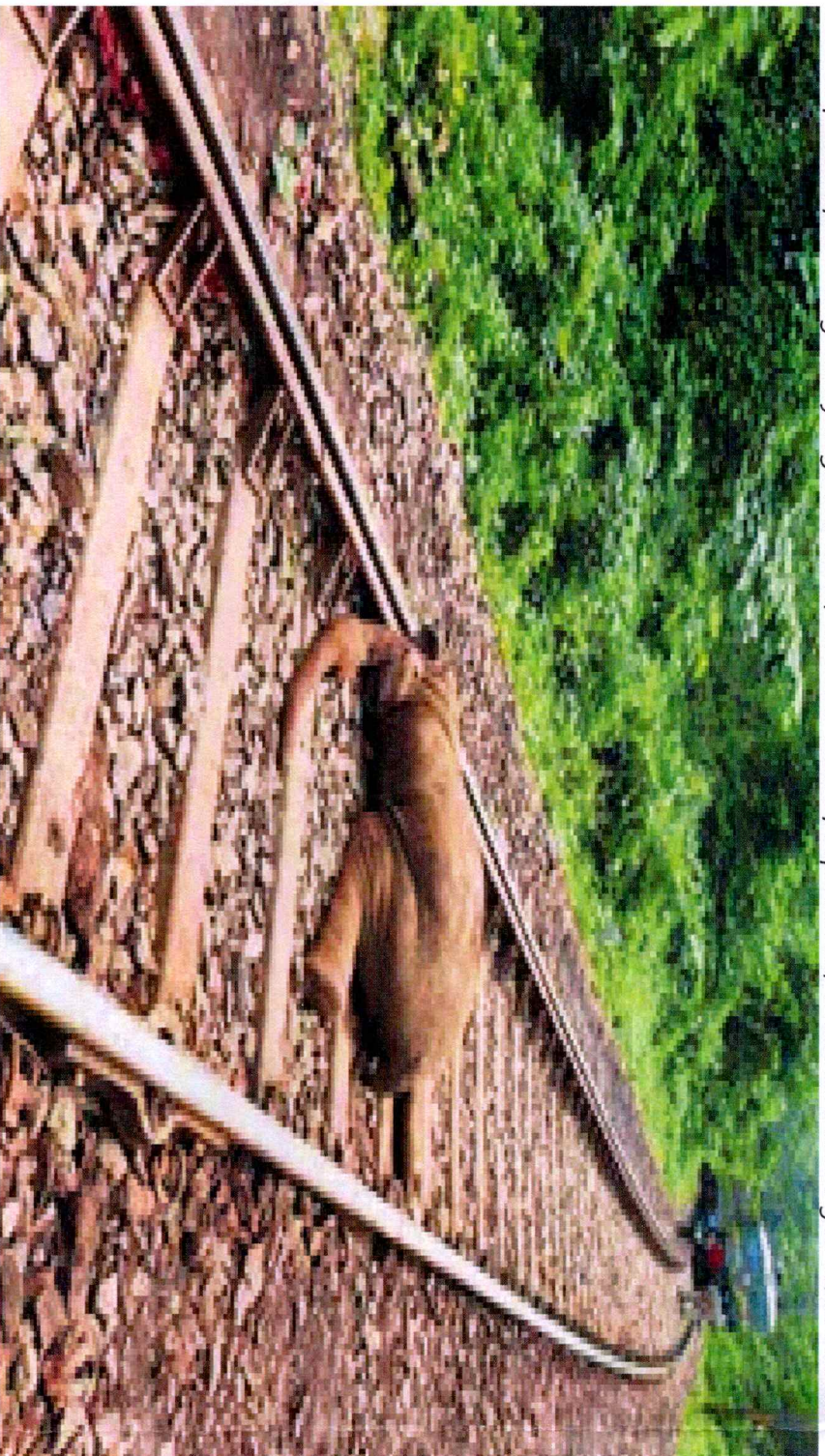
New elephant camp at Chadivaya | The state government of Coimbatore has allocated 8 crore to convert the temporary elephant camp at Chadivaya into a permanent one. The camp, spanning over 20 hectares, has been functioning since 2012 and is considered an ideal location due to its facilities. Nine elephants from the Elephant Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre will be shifted to the new camp, which can accommodate 20 elephants in total. The government plans to construct 18 sheds and provide drinking water, shower bath facilities, and CCTV surveillance. The project is expected to begin in December 2023. [104119377](#)

Forest dept deploys drone to drive wild elephants away in Mandya | The forest department in Mandya successfully drove a herd of wild elephants away from the city and back into the wild. The elephants had caused panic among residents as they were dangerously close to a national highway. Experts from Bengaluru were called in to assist, using a thermal drone for night surveillance. The herd eventually crossed over to another region, relieving authorities. People have been advised not to disturb the elephants during the operation. In other news, protests continue over the release of Cauvery water and a car accident in Mandya resulted in the deaths of four individuals. [104145923](#)

Odisha

Three jumbos die in Odisha in 24 hours, electrocution cases rise

One calf died after being hit by a goods train, another died of septicemia, while one more got electrocuted



The carcass of the calf on the rail track

Express News Service

Updated on: 19 Aug 2024, 9:32 am · 2 min read

ROURKELA/ SAMBALPUR. A five-year-old male elephant calf was killed after being hit by a goods train on the Rourkela-Bimlagarh line near Roxy of Barsuan range under the Bonai Forest Division (BFD) in Sundargarh district in the wee-hours of Sunday.

After the death of the baby elephant, the other elephants in the herd waited near the body for over five hours. The herd left the spot for around 9 am, only after forest authorities made loud noises.

Bonai divisional forest officer (DFO) Lalit Patra informed as per information provided by the local authorities of the South Eastern Railway (SER) the goods train moving towards Karampada hit the calf around 3.30 am leading to its death on the tracks. The train line is mostly



used for transportation of minerals from the Koida Mining Circle in Sundargarh.

The DFO said there were nine elephants in the herd including two calves and one juvenile, adding caution order was given in advance to the SER authorities about movement of elephants. "An inquiry has been initiated to know the circumstances of the collision and if speed limit or other safety protocols were violated by the loco driver. A notice would also be issued to the concerned authorities of SER to cooperate in the investigation providing details about movement of the train including the train's speed during the mishap," he said.

The carcass was buried after autopsy by a veterinary team.

In another incident, a female elephant, aged around seven years died in Tamra forest in Gurundia block on the night of August 15. The DFO said after getting information about the elephant suffering from some ailments, a veterinary team provided necessary treatment, but the pachyderm died in the night. "The veterinary team concluded the elephant might have died of pneumonia, anemia, dehydration, weakness and septicemia due to a wound on the inner side of a front leg," he added.

In Sambalpur district, an adult female elephant was electrocuted to death in a forest in Charadapasi village under Naktideul range of Rairakhol division on Sunday.

The incident took place when the elephant aged around 15 years, came in contact with an 11 KV wire hanging low in the forest. On being informed, forest officials from Rairakhol rushed to the spot, seized the carcass and sent it for autopsy.

Rairakhol DFO Arvind Mohanty said, "The elephant got electrocuted after its trunk came in contact with the cables. We will further inquire into the matter. The Electricity department has also been asked to conduct a probe into the incident." Reportedly, the wire was hanging low for the last few days due to ongoing cable replacement work in the area. Whether the Electricity department was informed about it is still unknown. On the other hand, locals have alleged negligence and lack of monitoring by the Forest department and the Discom for the incident.

On July 4, a pregnant elephant aged around 15-17 years died due to electrocution after coming in contact with an electric trap laid for hunting wild boars at a farm in Jhankarbahali village under Sadar forest range in the district. Prior to that, on June 17 in a similar incident, a tusker had died of electrocution after coming in contact with a live wire after it strayed into Basiapada village under Tujumura forest range.