

OA-13/2026/EZ

न्यायिक अनुभाग Judicial Section < judicial-ngt@gov.in >

Thu, 15 Jan 2026 3:27:24 PM +0530

To "Sh Deepto Ghosh Registrar"<registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>,"National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata"<ngtjudicial-kolkata@gov.in>

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward a copy of the Order

Dated: 08/01/2026 passed in Original Application No. 675/2025 Newspaper Report Titled "Rajdhani Express Derails After Hitting Elephant Herd In Assam 7 Jumbos Dead Over 9 Trains Cancelled". For your kind perusal & necessary action.

It is also intimated have that, henceforth no pleadings/ report/ documents etc in pending case will be accepted except through E-filing module of NGT.

Pleadings/ report/ documents, etc. filed through E-mail will not be taken on record, unless otherwise directed.

भवदीय / Regards 🌸

परामर्शदाता (न्यायिक) / Consultant (Judicial) 🌸

राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण / National Green Tribunal 🌸

प्रधान न्यायपीठ / Principal Bench 🌸

नई दिल्ली / New Delhi - 110001 🌸

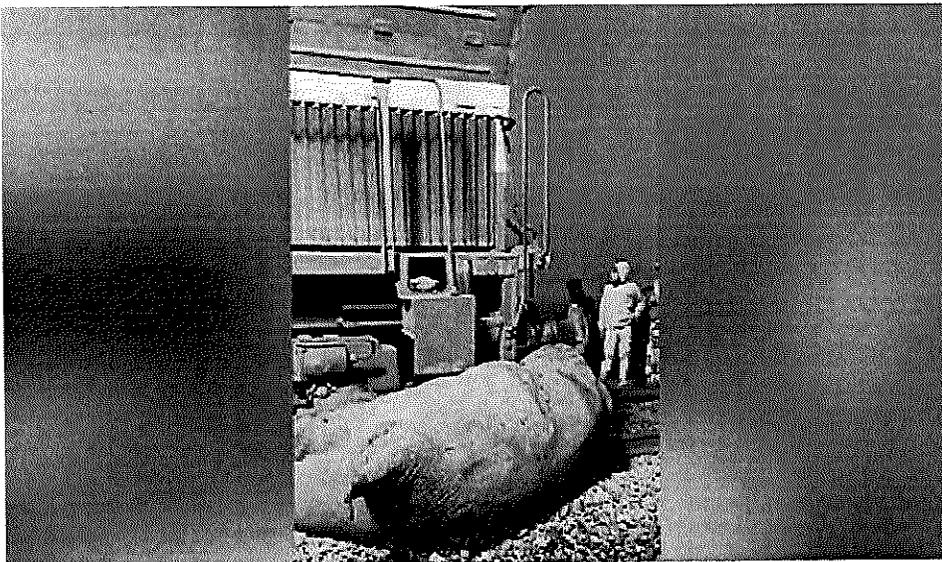
2 Attachment(s)

"Rajdhani Express Derails Afte...
163 KB

OA NO 675 of 2025 Suo Motu ...
182.6 KB

Rajdhani Express derails after hitting elephant herd in Assam, 7 jumbos dead; over 9 trains cancelled

In view of the derailment, over 9 trains have been cancelled on the route, informed the N.F. Railway. As many as 12 trains on the route have been regulated.



The down Sairang–New Delhi Rajdhani Express derailed after the train collided with a herd of elephants on the Jamunamukh–Kampur section under the Lunding Division of N.F. Railway. (Photo | Special Arrangement)

Rajesh Kumar Thakur, Express News Service

Updated on:

20 Dec 2025, 3:55 pm

3 min read

GUWAHATI: The down Sairang–New Delhi Rajdhani Express engine and five coaches derailed early on Saturday morning after the train collided with a herd of elephants on the Jamunamukh–Kampur section under the Lumding Division of N.F. Railway.

However, no casualties of passengers have been reported so far, and officials from N.F. Railway rushed to the site, which is about 126 km from Guwahati. A source said that seven elephants died after being knocked down by the train on the section.

Confirming the incident, N.F. Railway said in a statement that accident relief trains, along with officials from the divisional headquarters, have reached the site. Helpline numbers have already been activated at Guwahati railway station: 0361-2731621 / 2731622 / 2731623.

Senior railway officers, including the General Manager of N.F. Railway and the Divisional Railway Manager of Lumding, have also rushed to the site.

“The passengers of the affected coaches were temporarily accommodated in the vacant berths available in other coaches. After the affected coaches were detached, the train left the site for Guwahati,” the NFR said in a statement.

The derailed train left the site for Guwahati at 06.11 am. Once the train reaches Guwahati, additional coaches will be added to accommodate passengers from the affected coaches, after which the train will resume its onward journey. The restoration works have been completed, an official said.

“The incident took place at a location which is not a designated elephant corridor. The loco pilot on observing the herd of elephants applied emergency brakes. However, elephants dashed with the train,” the statement further stated.

The loco pilot, on spotting the herd of elephants, applied emergency brakes. However, the elephants collided with the train. Trains scheduled to pass through the section are being diverted through the UP line, and restoration work is underway.

One of the dead elephants was pregnant, locals said. The condition of the injured calf, barely a few days old and rushed to the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation near the Kaziranga National Park, was stated to be critical.

Assam’s Forest and Environment Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said the loss of these majestic animals was a matter of grave concern. He further stated that two senior officials of the department have been directed to report the matter to senior-most officials of Indian Railways to prevent such incidents in the future.

Dulu Borah of the non-profit organisation Hati Bondhu (Friends of Elephants), said the incident could have been averted had there been an early warning system.

“This may not be a notified area, but the movement of elephants is common here. The lack of coordination between the forest department and the railways led to the incident,” Borah said.

He urged authorities to install a thermal camera-based early warning system along the stretch. “If we have this system and there is monitoring as well as coordination, we won’t have these unfortunate incidents,” he further said.

This is not the first such incident in Assam. There have been several incidents where elephants died after being hit by trains.

In the last few years, more than 81 elephants have died in the country after being hit by trains.

Advertisement

In view of the derailment, over 9 trains have been cancelled on the route, informed the N.F. Railway. As many as 12 trains on the route have been regulated.

Cancelled trains:

1. Train No. 15927 (Rangiya – New Tinsukia) Express
2. Train No. 12067 (Guwahati – Jorhat Town) Jan Shatabdi Express
3. Train No. 15888 (Guwahati - Badarpur) Vistadome Express
4. Train No. 15928 (New Tinsukia – Rangiya) Express
5. Train No. 15666 (Mariani – Guwahati) Express
6. Train No. 55602 (Lumding – Guwahati) Passenger
7. Train No. 12068 (Jorhat Town-Guwahati) Jan Shatabdi Express
8. Train No. 15887(Badarpur-Guwahati) Vistadome Express
9. Train No. 55601(Guwahati-Lumding) Passenger
10. Train No. 15769 (Alipurduar-Mariani) will be short terminated at Digaru and will remain cancelled between Digaru and Mariani.
11. Train No. 15770 (Mariani -Alipurduar) will be short originated from Digaru and will remain cancelled between Mariani and Digaru.

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3. Since the matter seemed to attract the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, one of us (Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM) recommended taking of suo motu cognizance thereof by this Tribunal for issuance of appropriate directions and on approval by the Hon'ble Chairperson, the present original application has been registered and listed before the Bench.

4. Prima Facie the facts and circumstances emerging from the news item raise substantial questions relating to environment arising out of the implementation of the enactments specified in Schedule I to the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

5. In view of the above, we implead the following as respondents no. 1 to 5 in the matter:-

- i. State of Assam through its Special Chief Secretary,
Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department
Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006
- ii. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C)
Ministry of Environment and Forest, Climate Change
Regional Office (NEZ) Law-U-Sib, Lumbatngen,
Near MTC Workshop, Shillong
- iii. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Government of Assam, Aranya Bhawan,
Panjabari, Guwahati-37
- iv. Central Pollution Control Board through its
Member Secretary
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032
- v. Assam State Pollution Control Board through its
Member Secretary
Head Office, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21

6. The Registry is directed to prepare and attach memo of parties with title of the case as “National Green Tribunal on its own motion through its Registrar vs. State of Assam and others” and to issue notices to the respondents requiring them to file their replies/responses by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing.

7. Even though the suo motu application has been listed before this Bench with approval and assignment under order of Hon’ble Chairperson, but in view of the fact that the place of accrual of cause of action lies within jurisdiction of the Eastern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Kolkata, we are of the considered view that it will be appropriate if the application is heard by the Eastern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Kolkata.

8. Accordingly, the Registry is directed to list the matter before the Eastern Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Kolkata on 28.01.2026 after obtaining orders from Hon’ble the Chairperson for transfer of the case, if so required.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

January 05, 2026
Original Application No. 675/2025
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