



महाराष्ट्र वन विभाग

प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (वन बल प्रमुख), महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांचे कार्यालय
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State
वन भवन, रामगिरी रोड, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपूर Van Bhavan, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440001
प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (वन्यजीव) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
व मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक, महाराष्ट्र राज्य & Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State



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Sub: Ban on movement of elephants in Municipal Corporations
No. Desk-23(4)/ C.N.32 (2013)/3209 dated 08/12/2014

ORDER

It has been brought to our notice that elephants are often brought within the limits of notified Municipal Corporations in the Maharashtra State, and used for the purposes of entertainment and rallies. Notified Municipal Corporations are densely populated urban areas and have high level of vehicular disturbances and noise. Elephants in such conditions of cities under Municipal Corporations are likely to get agitated and threat to human life as well as serious risk to public safety.

Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is a wild animal included in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Section 42 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for the certificate of ownership and requires ensuring that the owners have adequate facilities for housing, maintenance and upkeep for the elephants. The Guidelines issued by the Project Elephant (Government of India) vide No.9-5/2003/PE dated 08.01.2008 include ban on entry of captive elephants, as and when required, in the municipal limits under Section 40(2) of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

After due considerations pertaining to movement of elephants on foot within limits of Municipal Corporations, and in exercise of powers granted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Chief Wild Life Warden, Maharashtra State hereby issues the following order:

ORDER

There shall be no movement of any elephant on foot within any Municipal Corporation of Maharashtra State without specific permission of the Chief Conservator of Forests in charge of the area. This order shall not be applicable in cases of movement of any elephant within enclosed spaces in a recognized zoo or enclosed premises of the owner recognized by concerned Chief Conservator of Forests for the purpose.

Further, owners of the elephants shall ensure that any elephant is not brought in close proximity of any person who is not trained to handle elephants in captivity.

This order shall be effective from 15 December 2014.



Signed


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
& Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State

To:

- 1). The Chief Conservators of Forests (Territorial) (All)
- 2). The Deputy Conservators of Forests (Territorial) (All)

Copy Submitted/ Forwarded:

- 1). The Inspector General of Forests (Project Elephant), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi
- 2). The Principal Secretary (Forests) Revenue & Forest Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai 400032
- 3). The Additional Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (Wildlife) (All)
- 4). The Divisional Commissioners, Revenue Division, Konkan/ Pune/ Nashik/ Aurangabad/ Amravati/ Nagpur
- 5). The Municipal Commissioners, Municipal Corporations (All)
- 6). The Commissioners of Police (All)
- 7). The Inspector General of Police having jurisdictions over the Municipal Corporations (All)
- 8). The Chief Conservators of Forests (Wildlife) (All)
- 9). The Deputy Conservators of Forests (Wildlife) (All)


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
& Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State



प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (वन बल प्रमुख), महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांचे कार्यालय
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प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (वन्यजीव)
व मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक, महाराष्ट्र राज्य

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
& Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State



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Sub: Ban on movement of elephants in urban areas other
than municipal corporations in Maharashtra

No.Desk-23(4)/ C.N.32 (2013)/3239 dated 09.12.2014

To:

The Chief Conservators of Forests (Territorial) (All)

Ref: The Chief Wildlife Warden's order No.Desk-23(4)/C.N.32 (2013)/3209 dated 08.12.2014

(2) The Chief Wildlife Warden's Notification No.Desk-23(4)/C.N.494/1603 dated 26.7.2013

(3) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) West, Mumbai's
circular dated 28.10.2013 sent along with letter No.D-4/WL/560 dated 28.10.2013

It has been brought to our notice that elephants are often brought within the limits of urban areas of the State, and used for the purposes of entertainment and rallies. Densely populated urban areas of notified municipal bodies have high level of noise and vehicular disturbances. Many parts of the urban areas have crowded narrow streets. Elephants in such urban conditions are likely to agitate, and cause serious risk to human life and public safety.


Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is a wild animal included in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Section 42 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for the certificates of ownership and requires ensuring that the owners have adequate facilities for housing, maintenance and upkeep for the elephants. The Project Elephant, Government of India's Guidelines issued vide No.9-5/2003/PE dated 08.01.2008 includes banning entry of captive elephants in the Municipal limits under Section 40(2) of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 as and when required.

The Chief Wildlife Warden has banned movement of elephants on foot within limits of municipal corporations vide his order dated 08.12.2014. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) West, vide his circular dated 28.10.2013, had issued circular to ban entry of captive elephants in city limits of Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane. In the context of above, following instructions are issued, which should be scrupulously followed.

- (1). The Chief Conservators of Forests (Territorial) are directed to review conditions of elephant movement in urban areas other than municipal corporations under their jurisdictions, and issue appropriate orders regarding ban on entry of captive elephants in urban areas in their jurisdictions. The Chief Conservator of Forests and other authorized officers are advised to discourage movement of captive elephants on foot in crowded places of the urban areas unless there is a


compelling reason to do so. Further, owners of the elephants shall ensure that the elephant is not brought in close proximity of any person who is not trained to handle elephants in captivity. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial) and few other officers have been delegated related powers vide notification dated 26.7.2013.

- (2). Local forest officers should regularly monitor upkeep, housing and maintenance of captive elephants in their jurisdiction. Although forest officers are not empowered to take action under the animal welfare regulations, any case of cruelty to elephants should be immediately brought in the notice of concerned Police Station and statutory bodies of the Government of India such as the Animal Welfare Board of India. Legal action under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (such as measures regarding certificate of ownership and/or prosecution) by the competent authority should be initiated in cases of concerned Police Station reporting a prima facie case of cruelty to a captive elephant. Local officers should take necessary action and give appropriate advice or guidance to any person reporting maltreatment of captive elephants with focus on welfare of elephants.
- (3). The Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial) should organize training and awareness generation programs for Assistant Conservators of Forests, Range Forest Officers and other field officers on issues related to monitoring of captive wild animals in their areas. The concerned officers of other relevant departments should also be invited in such training programs.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
& Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State

Copy Submitted/ Forwarded to:

- 1). The Inspector General of Forests (Project Elephant), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi
- 2). The Principal Secretary (Forests) Revenue & Forest Dept., Mantralaya, Mumbai
- 3). The Director General of Police, Maharashtra State, Fort, Mumbai 400001
- 4). The Additional Principal Chief Conservators of Forests (Wildlife) (All)
- 5). The Divisional Commissioners, Revenue Divisions (All)
- 6). The Municipal Commissioners, Municipal Corporations (All)
- 7). The Commissioners of Police (All)
- 8). The Inspector General of Police (All)
- 9). The Chief Conservators of Forests (Wildlife) (All)


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
& Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State