

MOST URGENT

Sh. Arvinder Singh IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife
Warden
Bihar Forest Department
Technology Bhawan, 4th Floor.
Vishweshariya Bhawan Campus
Beli Road, Patna – 800015

18 October 2024

Via e-mail and post: cwlwbihar@rediffmail.com; pccf-br@nic.in
arvinderifs@gmail.com

Re: Urgent request for the rehabilitation of distressed elephant who turned violent, killed a person, endangered children, and damaged properly

Dear Shri Singh:

I am writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and our more than 2 million members and supporters regarding the recent disturbing incident in Saran, Bihar in which an elephant brought for a religious procession on 12th October 2024 became upset while being forced to carry people, including two children, on the back. The disturbed elephant caused destruction for several hours in a crowded area, during which several vehicles were damaged and a 40-year-old man was killed. Elephants are known to lash out after becoming frustrated by the cruelty of captivity like chaining and weapon use. Media reports state that this elephant was kept tied to a tree after the rampage (**Annexure 1**).

We understand that a preliminary offence report (POR) has been filed by the Bihar Forest department. We urge you to seize the elephant and take the animal into government custody. To prevent further psychological distress to the animal and physical harm to others, we kindly request you to exercise your authority under Section 39(4) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (as amended to date) which directs the state government to ensure that wild animals are housed and cared for by a recognized zoo or rescue centre as they cannot be released to their natural habitat. We appeal that you urgently rehabilitate this elephant at a sanctuary where the animal can heal from the injuries sustained in the rampage as well as the trauma of captivity and live without weapons and chains.

Elephants are highly intelligent and social animals, and captivity denies them the vital activities and interactions that are important to their health and happiness, such as foraging for food, moving around (which aids in the prevention of foot and leg problems), taking dust baths, swimming,

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA Australia
- PETA Foundation (UK)
- PETA France
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA US

Registered Office:
F-110, 1st Floor, Jagdamba Tower
Plot No 13, Community Centre
Preet Vihar, New Delhi
110 092

CIN: U74899DL2000NPL103217

and – most importantly – socialising with their families and other elephants in accordance with their nature.

The Bihar Forest Department is duty-bound to ensure the health and safety of captive elephants, their mahouts, and other humans around them. PETA India, therefore, requests the Bihar Forest Department to ensure elephants are not used for processions or joy rides and order the immediate rehabilitation of the elephant who caused the death of a person while used for processions and joy rides in Bihar. We suggest you consider Radhe Krishna Temple Elephant Welfare Trust in Gujarat, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Karnataka, or Wildlife SOS in Uttar Pradesh. These sanctuaries do not chain elephants or use weapons against them, and they are all equipped with experts in rehabilitating disturbed elephants by providing them lifetime care and protection.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be contacted on 9910397382 or at KhushbooG@petaindia.org.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Khushboo Gupta
Director of Advocacy Projects
PETA India

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/elephant-loses-control-dussehra-fair-bihar-saran-damages-cars-video-surfaces-2616034-2024-10-13>

Watch: Elephant loses control during Dussehra fair in Bihar, damages cars

The elephant caused havoc in the market area for nearly two hours before it was tied to a tree to bring it under control by a mahout.

An elephant lost control during a Dussehra fair in Bihar's Saran on Saturday. The enraged elephant created havoc in the market area for nearly two hours and damaged several cars in the process. A person was also injured in the incident, sources said.

A video of the incident also surfaced online, showing the animal walking in the market area with three people on its back. The video shows the animal ramming into several cars and damaging them.

Police officials reached the area after learning about the incident but were unable to control the elephant. In the video, people in the market area were seen recording videos of the elephant as it damaged vehicles.

The animal was brought under control with the help of a mahout after he guided the enraged elephant to a secluded garden. The elephant was tied to a tree and was brought under control.

Forest department officials also reached the spot after the elephant was taken to the secluded garden.

(with inputs from Alok Kumar Jaiswal)

Published By: Nakul Ahuja

Published On: Oct 13, 2024