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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 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

