



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্ব দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 21st November, 2025

E.No. 637266/20.- In view to mitigate the increasing Human Elephant Conflict in the State of Assam, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following Guidelines to mitigate the negative interaction between Humans and Elephants in the State to ensure a long term coexistence by balancing conservation efforts with human development.

1. Short title and commencement: a. These Guidelines may be called ‘**The Gaja Mitra Scheme Guidelines**’.

b. These Guidelines shall come into force with immediate effect.

2. Definitions :

In these Guidelines, unless there is anything repugnant to the subject or context-

a. ‘**Government**’ means Government of Assam.

b. ‘**Department**’ means Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Assam.

c. ‘**Gaja Mitra**’ refers to those volunteers selected and the teams formed as per the provisions of this Guidelines.

3. Objective of the Guidelines: The objective of the Gaja Mitra Guidelines is to establish a framework to minimize the impact of Human Elephant Conflict in the Districts where the conflicts is high. The focus of this Guidelines shall be to :
- a. Form the Gaja Mitra teams in adequate numbers in the High conflict Districts.
 - b. Enrich the elephant movement areas to enhance carrying capacity and securing the habitats.
 - c. Ensure the elephant movement routes to be free and unobstructed, preventing panic-driven encounters.
 - d. Deploy modern technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) based camera traps for real time alerts/monitoring.
 - e. Create a real-time information networks on elephant movements and facilitate rapid response.
 - f. Advance paddy procurement provision in elephant foraging areas.
 - g. Education and awareness for the local communities on safe practices during elephant presence.
 - h. Strengthen community ownership and responsibility in conservation efforts.
4. Stakeholders : Department along with the affected villagers, local communities, Civil Administration, Revenue and Disaster Management, Police Administration, Deptt. of Agriculture, Deptt. of Horticulture etc. and Non Governmental Organization (NGO)s.
5. Formation of Gaja Mitra Team : Each Gaja Mitra teams shall consist of eight (8) members of local volunteers, selected by Department through community consensus with the aim to constitute a trained and responsive volunteer group in each Human Elephant Conflict villages to aid in Human Elephant Conflict mitigation.
- Criteria for selection of members into the Gaja Mitra terms shall be based on the following, but not being exclusive :
- a. Locals known for active involvement in mitigating human-wildlife conflict in collaboration with the Department.

b. Residency within the affected villages.

c. Having a good mental health, physical health and mobility.

d. Community acceptance and credibility of the individual.

e. Motivated volunteers and individuals affiliated with local organizations/bodies.

f. Willingness to serve purely on a voluntary basis for local action as per the framework of the Department.

6. Remuneration of the teams :

a. Lump sum amount of Rs. 500 per head per month shall be provisioned to defray tea and refreshment cost of the Gaja Mitra members.

b. Each of the Gaja Mitra team shall be provided logistic support like the torch, megaphone, field, dress, shoes, crackers etc.

c. Any death of Gaja Mitras during elephant depredation shall be treated as on duty and ex-gratia of 5 lakhs shall be given to the next of kin of the Gaja Mitra.

7. Other strategies and action plan : (a) Erection of Solar fencing:

To erect temporary single strand solar powered fencing in order to guide the elephants away from the human habitation and by not blocking their traditional paths.

The solar powered fencing shall be of units of maximum 4Km each and placed strategically to mitigate Human elephant conflict as per the field scenario.

(b) Erection of watch towers/tongi :

For the convenience of the affected villagers and the the Gaja Mitra teams, watch towers/ tongi shall be erected in the strategic locations to reduce the damage of crops and to monitor the movement of the elephants.

These watch towers shall assist in acquiring and disseminating information regarding movement of elephant herds and act as early warning facility in the affected villages.

(c) Habitat Management:

Cleaning and desiltation of the existing natural water bodies shall be taken up to create natural water bodies accessible for the elephants.

In places where the natural water holes are not available, constructing water retention structures like the check dams and water harvesting Sarovars shall be considered based on feasibility.

In areas where there is a scarcity of water, saucer shaped water hole along with a solar powered water pump set shall be considered/installed to create water sources within forest and elephant movement areas.

8. Implementation Plan :

The Plan is proposed to be implemented for a period of six months from October to March every year in areas wherein the Human Conflict is at peak and coincides with the paddy cultivation season.

The scheme shall be extended to other vulnerable villages and adapted to address broader conservation challenges.

Documentation of successful interventions shall serve as reference for replication in other areas/districts of Assam.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation :

A District Level Committee having the following members shall be formed for monitoring of the Gaja Mitra Scheme on periodic interval

- i. Guardian Minister: Chairman.
- ii. District Commissioner: Co-Chairman.
- iii. Senior Superintendent of Police: Member.
- iv. Divisional Forest Officer: Member Secretary.
- v. ADC (Forest) or ADC to be nominated by Guardian Minister: Member.
- vi. Tea garden Manager (if any): Member.

The concerned Divisional Forest Office shall maintain detailed records of each Gaja Mitra Scheme, including the details of the members of the Gaja Mitra team, its selection history, training records, and activity logs.

An annual review shall be conducted by the committee to document outcomes, recommend improvements, and explore expansion or replication.

A monthly village-level coordination meeting will be convened review performance and participation, discuss challenges and mitigation strategies and further propose changes in team composition, if required, based on performance and community feedback.

10. Budget and Funding : The CAMPA Fund may be utilised for improving the sustainable ecosystem, including high feed-value plantations for elephants, along with other components proposed in the scheme.

11. Miscellaneous : The possibility of on-boarding of the members of the Gaja Mitra team onto the PM Suraksha Bima shall be taken up.

Further, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) camera and the procurement of additional arms and ammunition, especially the 38 mm MSLs for the Capacity building of the Scheme shall be taken up.

MAHENDRA KUMAR YADAVA,

Special Chief Secretray to the Government of Assam,
Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department.