

PRESS RELEASE

**RELOCATION OF ONE MALE ELEPHANT FROM DHARMAPURI TOWN AREA
TO A SUITABLE ELEPHANT HABITAT**

As per report by the Conservator of Forest, Dharmapuri, a male Elephant, aged about 20-25 years had strayed away from main herd in Pennagaram Range forest area to Palacode range limits of Dharmapuri division during February last week. On 03.03.2024, the same Elephant reached to outskirts of Dharmapuri town by travelling about 25 kms, crossing NH 44 during night hours. This created panic and human-wildlife conflict situation in and around Dharmapuri town and adjacent villages.

The presence of wild Elephant near the densely populated human habitation area was foreseen as threat to safety of people as well as the wild Elephant. The forest department immediately took several steps to drive the Elephant back to Reserve Forest area. District administration, Police and E.B Department was alerted to prevent any untoward incident.

The Forest Department led by Mrs.C.H.Padma, IFS, C.F. Dharmapuri, Th.Rajangam, IFS, DFO Dharmapuri, Veterinarian Dr.A.Prakash, Elephant monitoring team in Dharmapuri lead by ACF Vincent, ACF Saravanan, FRO Arun Prasath, FRO Anantha Kumar, Elephant trackers from Hosur joined together to monitor the strayed Elephant through-out for 12 days to ensure that, the Elephant is driven back to Pennagaram forest area. In-spite of best efforts of Department, the Elephant came back to human habitation.

It was observed for the past 2 days that, the Elephant remained back near the human habitation area in Morappur range limits. Hence, in the interest of the safety of local people as well as to safe-guard the Elephant, team of Veterinarians consisting of Dr.A.Prakash and Dr.N.Kalaivanan led by DFO Dharmapuri Th.Rajangam, IFS and the monitoring team, tranquilized the Elephant today early morning (16.03.2024) in the outskirts of Sillarahalli village, Morappur Range limits. After Veterinarians ascertained its vital signs, health parameters as normal, the Elephant was translocated and safely released around 9am in a suitable Elephant habitat about 55 kms away near water hole to ensure fodder and water availability.

V.A.S Dr.A.Prakash, ACF, Dharmapuri and a team of Elephant trackers are constituted to monitor further movement of the Elephant for a week in the released area.

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