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**Government Push to Elephant Conservation efforts in
Tamil Nadu**

Tamil Nadu Government issued orders today sanctioning Rs.8 crores towards establishment of a New Elephant Camp at Sadivayal, at Bolampatti RF, Coimbatore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 15th March, 2023 had announced setting up of a new elephant camp at Sadivayal which has already been functioning as the temporary elephant camp since 2012. This amount shall be utilized for creating elephant sheds, veterinary facilities, kitchen and elephant-proof trenches, food and water facilities for elephants. With these initiatives, the conservation and management of camp elephants will improve significantly in accordance with the policy of the Tamil Nadu Government to strengthen conservation efforts for elephants. This proposal also includes strengthening of rescue related activities including specialized transport with necessary facilities.

The Government also sanctioned Rs.5 crores for improvement of Kozhikamuthi elephant camp at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Pollachi. This amount shall be utilized to create infrastructure facilities at the camp, training for Mahouts and Cavadies, setting up of viewing Gallery for visitors, improvement of food preparation area and water availability for elephants.

In addition to this, the Government sanctioned Rs.9.10 crores for construction of eco-friendly and culturally compatible houses in accordance with the announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.03.2023 for 91 elephant care takers of Theppakadu and Kozhikamuthi elephant camps. 44 Houses shall be constructed for elephant care takers of Theppakkadu at Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, while 47 numbers of houses shall be constructed for elephant care takers of Kozhikamuthi Elephant Camp, at Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Pollachi.

Last year, Government had notified 1,19,748.26 hectare area as the new elephant reserve namely viz., Agasthyamalai in Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts early. This year Government sent 13 numbers of mahouts and cavadies for specialized training to Thailand.

**Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and Forests Dept**

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