

Shri Aseem Shrivastava
Chief Wildlife Warden
Government of Madhya Pradesh
Pragati Bhavan, BDA Building
3rd Floor, MP Nagar
Zone-1, Bhopal
Madhya Pradesh 462016

28 June 2024

Via e-mail and post: pccfwl@mp.gov.in

Subject: Urgent request to seize and rehabilitate elephant who killed a mahout

Respected Sir:

I am writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, representing over 2 million members and supporters, to request that you urgently seize and rehabilitate the female elephant Nanki (also known as Janki), **who reportedly killed a mahout** and was used for begging by a private custodian. As per news reports, **this elephant also killed a man two years ago and attacked another about a year ago (Annexure 1).**

The hon'ble Madras High Court has observed that the use of an elephant for begging amounts to exploitation of the animal (**Annexure 2**). The Guidelines for Care and Management of Captive Elephants, issued in 2008 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, state that, "marching an elephant over tarred roads or otherwise, during hottest period of the day and for a long duration at a stretch without rest for religious or any other purpose" is tantamount to cruelty. By using the elephant for begging, the owner had allowed her to be exploited and neglected his duty to provide adequate "housing, maintenance and upkeep" of the elephant. **For the reasons stated above – and to safeguard human lives and the elephant's welfare – we humbly request that the elephant's ownership certificate, if any has been issued under Section 42 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, be immediately cancelled and that Nanki be urgently transferred to a sanctuary for rehabilitation so that she can live unchained, in company of other elephants, and recover from the trauma of captivity.**

Elephants are highly intelligent, active, and social animals, and captivity denies them the vital activities and interactions that they need to be healthy and happy, including foraging for food, being on the move for various reasons (which aids in the prevention of foot and leg problems), taking dust baths, swimming, and – most importantly – socialising with their families and other elephants in accordance with their nature.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS
INDIA

PETA India
PO Box 28260
Juhu, Mumbai
Maharashtra 400049
022 40727382

Info@petaindia.org
PETAIndia.com

Entities:

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

Registered Office:
F-110, First Floor, Jagdamba Tower
Plot No 13, Community Centre
Preet Vihar, New Delhi
Delhi 110092

Because elephants are wild animals who would not willingly obey human commands, when used for begging, rides, ceremonies, tricks, and other purposes, they are trained and controlled through severe punishments, beatings, and the use of weapons. Many have extremely painful foot ailments and leg wounds from being chained to concrete for hours on end, and most do not get adequate food, water, or veterinary care, let alone any semblance of a natural life. The frustration of captivity leads many elephants to develop and display abnormal behaviour. At their wit's end, frustrated elephants often snap and attack.

Vantara in Gujarat, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Karnataka, and Wildlife SOS in Uttar Pradesh are sanctuaries that do not chain elephants or use weapons against them, and they are all equipped with experts in handling disturbed elephants.

We trust that your good office will consider this request with the urgency and seriousness it requires. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your prompt response and necessary action. I can be contacted on 919910397382 or at KhushbooG@petaindia.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Khushboo', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Khushboo Gupta
Director of Advocacy Projects
PETA India

<https://www.ndtv.com/bhopal-news/elephant-kills-mahout-in-bhopal-cops-take-her-in-custody-5884391>

Elephant Kills Mahout In Bhopal, Cops Take Her In Custody

The incident took place in Madhya Pradesh's capital city Bhopal, when Narendra, a mahout, was crushed to death by an elephant.

[Bhopal News](#)[NDTV News Desk](#) Updated: June 13, 2024 10:40 pm IST



Image credit: [istockphoto.com/Rawpixel](https://www.istockphoto.com/Rawpixel)

The man used to take the elephant around the country with five other people. (Representational)

Nanki was kept tied the whole night and, when she was about to be freed the next morning, she got angry and killed a man. Police have now taken Nanki, an elephant, into custody.

The incident took place in Madhya Pradesh's capital city Bhopal this morning, when Narendra, a mahout, was crushed to death by an elephant. The cops have tied the elephant outside the police station.

The man used to take the elephant around the country with five other people. He managed to meet the expenses through the donations he used

to receive from people. Last night, he tied Nanki to a tree in an empty field near the Bhanpur Bridge, the police said.

"We are trying to contact the forest department so that they can take the elephant away. It poses a danger though it is behaving normally now. The victim's friend Bhupendra is keeping a watch on the animal," Inspector Suresh Chandra Nagar told PTI.

Asked about the mahout's friends claiming that the elephant gets aggressive due to the rise in temperatures and that he had killed a man earlier, the official said he had heard about these things.

The victim's nephew Dipak Kapadia claimed the elephant had killed a man two years ago and had attacked a man last year. The elephant should be handed over to the forest department, he added.

<https://www.ndtv.com/bhopal-news/elephant-kills-mahout-in-bhopal-cops-take-her-in-custody-5884391>

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/290417/dont-use-jumbos-for-begging-madras-high-court.html>

Don't use jumbos for begging': Madras High Court

Nation J Stalin 29 April 2017 8:11 AM

Elephants are now used largely for entertainment, not work, slams court. The Madras High Court has held that utilising the elephants for blessing and receiving money in return is nothing but begging.

Chennai: The Madras High Court has held that utilising the elephants for blessing and receiving money in return is nothing but begging. Justice D Krishnakumar gave the ruling while disposing of a petition from N.Sekar, owner of an elephant, whose transit permit licence was suspended after his elephant was used by the mahout for begging without his knowledge.



The Madras High Court has held that utilising the elephants for blessing and receiving money in return is nothing but begging.

“It is brought to the notice of this court that, today, the elephants are largely used for performing entertainment, without engaging them in active work.” “The elephants are also utilised to bless and receive money in return, which is nothing but begging. Sub Rule (11) Rule 6 of the Tamil Nadu Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules stated that elephants should not be used for begging. This condition is also incorporated in the certificate of ownership. Therefore, today begging of an elephant would amount to exploitation of the animals and they are

thereby subjected to uncharacteristic behaviour”, said Justice D Krishnakumar.

The judge said captive elephants are mostly owned by temples, mutts and individuals who use them for festivals, and other religious functions. Often they were shifted from one place to another for a specified purpose. As seen in the present case, the concerned elephant was used for a temple festival and the Mahout used the elephant for street begging and made it walk on the concrete road. The above act was a regression from the natural behaviour of the elephants and shall result in constant suffering, pain and stress.

Therefore, in order to ensure the best possible atmosphere and health condition of captive elephants, the Tamil Nadu Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules was framed and the provisions have to be followed strictly, the judge added and directed the District Forest Officers to ensure that the Rules were strictly implemented in its letter and spirit so as to ensure the welfare of the captive elephants.

The judge said it was also brought to the notice of this court that only a meagre amount of money was being paid to the Mahout and Cavady. Therefore, the concerned authority was directed to take steps to ensure that the Mahout and Cavady were paid adequate monthly salary by the owner. After the petitioner gave an undertaking that he was ready and willing to comply with any conditions that may be imposed by the authorities, the judge granted liberty to him to approach the authorities, who shall consider and pass appropriate orders for grant of the transit permit within 4 weeks thereafter. (**Source : Deccan Chronicle.**)

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/290417/dont-use-jumbos-for-begging-madras-high-court.html>