

Rogue tusker killed in Jharkhand

A rogue tusker, which had killed 11 people and was called Osama bin Laden by villagers, was shot by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers in Jharkhand Friday night, officials said here.

The death warrant was issued by the forest department Thursday. The elephant was killed near Dungriyatar village of Bokaro district, around 160 km from here.

According to forest officials, the tusker had trampled to death 11 people and injured 22 in the last two months.

It had killed six people in Purulia district of West Bengal May 21. West Bengal had also declared the jumbo a rogue elephant.

The tusker was captured by the forest department officials Wednesday, but it managed to escape and killed one more villager the same day.

'We had no option but to declare the rampaging tusker a rogue. West Bengal had already declared it a rogue,' said A.K. Singh, Chief Wildlife Warden of Jharkhand.

According to forest department officials, the Bokaro district administration was informed about the need to kill the elephant. The administration sought help from the CRPF.

The villagers heaved a sigh of relief after the tusker was shot dead. 'The tusker was called Osama bin Laden by us. It was roaming free and ruthlessly killing people of the area,' said Mahadeo Manjhi, a resident of Dungriyatar village.

This was not the first time that a tusker was declared a rogue in Jharkhand. Another elephant was declared a rogue in Silli area of [Ranchi](#) and it died under mysterious circumstances in Hazaribagh district Jan 26.

According to forest department figures, over 400 people have been killed in the last six years and over 700 were injured in confrontation with elephants.

In Jharkhand, the population of elephants has declined from 772 in the last census to 622 in the one conducted this May.

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