

Tamil Nadu Forest Department to complete study on elephant corridors soon, says M. Mathiventhan

TNN | Sep 12, 2024, 12.30 AM IST

Coimbatore: The Tamil Nadu Forest Department is conducting a study to identify elephant corridors in the state, which will be completed soon, said Minister for Forests, M. Mathiventhan, in Coimbatore on Wednesday.

The department observed National Forest Martyrs Day at the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy (TNFA) in Coimbatore, where Minister M. Mathiventhan and Sudhanshu Gupta, Principal chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, paid homage to 41 officials from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department who died in the line of duty.

During his speech, Mathiventhan requested Sudhanshu Gupta to explore providing life insurance coverage for forest department staff through banks.

Speaking to reporters after the event, Mathiventhan mentioned that the department is planning to procure modern equipment for forest staff across the state.

"With the help of experts, we are currently conducting a study on elephant corridors in the state. There are blockages and issues in these corridors, and we are in the process of identifying potential encroachments or reasons why elephants may be deviating from their regular paths," he said.

The minister assured that once the corridors are identified, there will be no harm to either the public or the elephants. The study will be completed soon, he added.

When asked about demands to increase the risk allowance for forest department staff, he said that they would consult with the chief Minister and work on enhancing it step by step.

Principal chief Conservator of Forests and Director of the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy (TNFA), Sewa Singh, along with serving and retired officials of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, scientists from the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, and forest range officer trainees from TNFA, also paid tribute to the martyrs.