

Training Programme for Capacity Building of Mahouts

The Central Zoo Authority has felt the need for capacity building of the Mahouts who are taking care of elephants housed in the zoos across the country. Accordingly, the Central Zoo Authority has decided to organize a Capacity Building Programme for Mahouts/ Elephant Keepers of the recognized zoos across the country housing elephants. Keeping in view the location of zoos housing elephants and the number of elephants housed in the zoo as well as available infrastructure for capacity building programme in the zoos, it has been decided to organize the capacity building programme of Mahouts/ Elephant Keepers at the Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden, Guwahati and for southern zoo in the Sri Chamajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru, Karnataka. It was also decided that the training shall be organized in two batches at each zoo so that the zoo are able to depute the mahouts on an alternate basis.

The training programme for 1st Batch of the Mahouts from southern and central region has already been organized at Sri Chamajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru, Karnataka from 19th to 23rd November, 2018. In total 25 numbers of Mahouts/ Elephant Keepers from 8 zoos from southern region of country has participated and benefitted from the training programme.

The participants were exposed about management of elephants in captivity and accordingly the session included various topics like role of mahouts and kavadis in captive elephant welfare, handling of elephants during musth period, health care management, enrichment, diet formulation, breeding and hand rearing of calves, management of human elephant conflicts and constrains in management of elephants at captive conditions and practical sessions, exposure visit to Dubbare elephant camp, Madikeri etc.



Group photograph of participants of training programme for Capacity Building of Mahouts at the Sri Chamajendra Zoological Garden, Mysuru, Karnataka (19th to 23rd November, 2018)