

**Need to conduct Elephant Specific Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) in different areas of Assam to address human-elephant conflicts in the State.-
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SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI (NAGAON): Last week, locals in West Karbi Anglong set fire to a Forest Department's Beat Office over its alleged delay in responding to the death of a villager killed by an elephant. This mirrors the concerning impact of human-elephant conflict in Assam over the past few years. Last year alone, it is estimated that 74 people were killed by elephants and over 1,300 acres of crops were damaged by elephant raiding. Elephants too suffer as their habitats shrink due to unplanned development, leading to casualties from contact with electric fences and poisoned food. In line with the recommendations of the report of the Elephant Task Force, I suggest the formulation of elephant-specific Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) in areas where development in elephant habitats is absolutely necessary to minimise any adverse effects. The Centre should also direct all states to identify areas with high chances of conflict and constitute Conflict Management Task Forces for them, composed of biologists and representatives of the Forest and Revenue Departments and the local community. Such a task force can be empowered to create adaptive action plans covering all aspects of human-elephant conflict and also convene at short notice to monitor emergency situations.