

Unabated Man-elephant conflict in Udalguri



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[Attacks](#) by wild elephants continue in villages along the [India](#)-Bhutan border in Assam's [Udalguri](#) district with three people being trampled to death within a week this month and several houses being damaged.

"Almost every day, elephant herds are entering villages and damaging houses and crops. People are scared and worried. Villagers are being attacked and killed by the animals in their desperate attempt to chase away the herds."

On Sunday, Harka Bahadur Sunjel was killed by elephants at No. 1 [Samrang](#) near Indo- Bhutan border. Four days after Harka Bahadur's death, Mahadev [Orang](#) (60) another villager, was killed in an elephant attack today morning.

Human-elephant conflict is increasing in [Udalguri](#) district. Neither BTC nor the [state](#) government have taken steps to [stop](#) rather lack of ignorance is seen.

With herds of elephants entering human settlements from the hills of Bhutan and adjoining forests almost every day, forest officials are left with little resources to mitigate the conflict.

"It is very difficult to deploy adequate staff at all places [as](#) elephants are entering from multiple locations almost every night. Whatever resources we have at our disposal, including 'kunkis' (trained elephants) and firecrackers, are not sufficient to effectively drive out elephants from villages and farmlands at several places," a forest official said. Bagh said in many cases, desperate villagers had to chase away the elephants, putting their lives in [danger](#).

"Destruction of forest cover is the reason behind the rise in human-[animal](#) conflict. Unless the forest cover is saved, the problem is only going to aggravate in future," Bagh added.

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Borengajuli Tea Estate Dimakuchi, Udalguri, Assam

BY ROBERTSON TANTI

Kargil Divas Observed

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