

High Court directs Madhya Pradesh government to trans-locate and set free chained elephants at Indore Zoo

Tags: [Indore Zoo](#) | [Chained elephants](#) | [Moti](#) | [Champa](#) | [PIL](#) | [Madhya Pradesh High Court](#) | [Kanha Tiger Reserve](#) | [Bandhavgarh National Park](#) | [Anshuman Singh](#) | [Justice Ajit Singh](#) | [Advocate Sanjay K Agrawal](#) | [PIL](#) | [Sudhir Khetawat](#) | [Karuna International](#)



◀ Chained elephants. (For representation only)

Coming to the rescue of a pair of chained [elephant](#) at Indore Zoo, a Lokadalat of Madhya Pradesh High Court in Indore on Saturday directed the state government to trans-locate and set free within 45 days these pachyderms either in world famous Kanha Tiger Reserve or Bandhavgarh National Park - both situated in eastern part of the state.

A bench of the MP High Court Lok Adalat, comprising Justice Ajit Singh and Advocate Sanjay K Agrawal asked the authorities to submit their compliance report regarding male elephant named 'Moti' and female pachyderm christened 'Champa' within 45 days.

The petitioner's counsel Anshuman Singh told the court that the elephants were captive for more than ten years at the Indore zoo. During hearing Central Zoo Authority (CZA) counsel Mohan Sausarkar stated the retention of elephants at Indore zoo is unjust and improper. The CZA has already issued circular prohibiting keeping the elephants captive in zoos on November 7, 2009, the counsel said.

The HC direction came while disposing of a Public Interest Litigation moved by Dr. Sudhir Khetawat, chairman of MP Branch of Karuna International Chennai for rehabilitation of the two captive elephants.

The HC had registered the PIL on letter of Dr. Khetawat sent to its Chief Justice in November. Joint Divisional Forest Officer Indore and Superintendent Rala Mandal Sanctuary Indore Ashok Kharate was present during the hearing in the Lok Adalat.