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Supreme Court Orders Nationwide Survey of Elephant Corridors, Bars Crop-Damage as Justification to Block Wildlife Movement

20 August 2026

ENVIRONMENT

GS3

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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Supreme Court Orders Nationwide Survey of Elephant Corridors, Bars Crop-Damage as Justification to Block Wildlife Movement

20 August 2026 · 1 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*The **Supreme Court**, in **Prerna Singh Bindra v. Union of India** (order dated **August 17, 2026**), directed a fresh nationwide survey of elephant corridors and ruled that fears of crop damage cannot justify blocking wildlife movement.*

What the Court Directed

A Bench led by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant**, with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, asked the Centre to consider banning “**fireball**” and “**hulla party**” elephant drive-out methods, both of which involve using fire or organised crowds to forcibly push elephants away from human settlements, often causing injury or panic-driven fatalities to both elephants and people.

Why This Matters

Human-elephant conflict has intensified in India as corridor fragmentation from agriculture, mining, and infrastructure has narrowed traditional elephant migration routes. The Court’s direction for a systematic, updated national corridor survey responds to the gap between officially notified corridors and elephants’ actual, evolving movement patterns.

UPSC Relevance

This is a core GS3 topic covering wildlife conservation, human-wildlife conflict management, the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, and **Project Elephant**. A useful Mains angle discusses balancing agrarian livelihood concerns against habitat-connectivity conservation, and India’s Gaj Yatra elephant-corridor-mapping initiative.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**ELEPHANT CORRIDOR SURVEY ORDER:**

Case: Prerna Singh Bindra v. Union of India

Order date: August 17, 2026; Bench: CJI Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana

Directs: fresh nationwide elephant corridor survey

Asked Centre to consider banning: “fireball” and “hulla party” elephant drive-out methods

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Project Elephant was launched in 1992 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Sources: Bar and Bench, Verdictum

Source: Supreme Court Orders Nationwide Survey of Elephant Corridors, Bars Crop-Damage as Justification to Block Wildlife Movement — Ujiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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