

I/467012/2023

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FOR-23014/7/2021-SECTION(FOR)-Dept. of Forest

PA TO PCCF & HoFF

Reg. No. 2643 Dt. 28.12.23

PA TO PCCF & HoFF

28.12.23

9/1/23

Government of West Bengal
Department of Forests
Aranya Bhawan, Block-LA/10A
Sector-III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-106

Sagar
Please do
need full.
17/01/24

No. I/467012/2023

Date:27-12-2023

From: The Joint Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

✓ To : The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, West Bengal.

Subject: Forwarding of Re-Notification regarding use of Teesta 'B' Field Firing Range.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter No. 1689(3)-I.S.S /2F-03/18 dated 05.12.2023 received from OSD & EO Deputy Secretary, Home & Hill Affairs Department, Internal Security Branch, (Secret Section), Government of West Bengal, along with Gazette Notification No. 1301-ISS/PL/O/Secret/2F-03/18 dated 08.09.2023 of Home & Hill Affairs Department, Internal Security Branch, (Secret Section), for your kind information and taking necessary action. This may kindly be circulated amongst all concerned.

Enc.- As Stated.

Yours faithfully,

Joint Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

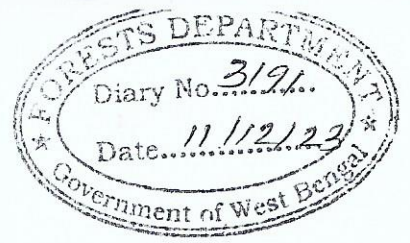
Date:27-12-2023

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and CWLW, WB

Joint Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

CCF/HA
9/1/23



Government of West Bengal
Home & Hill Affairs Department
Internal Security (**Secret Section**) Branch
Nabanna, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah - 711 102

No. 1689 (3) -I.S.S./2F-03/18

Dated, Howrah, the 5th Dec, 2023

- To: 1 ✓ The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal.
Department of Forest
Aranya Bhawan. LA-10A, Sector-III, Kol- 700 106
2. The District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri
P.O. & Dist- Jalpaiguri, Pin- 735 101.
3. The lieutenant Colonel, Colonel Training for General Officer Commanding, HQ
Bengal Sub Area, 246, AJC Bose Road, Kol- 700 027

Sub: Re-Notification of Teesta 'B' Field Firing Range.

I am directed to forward herewith the copies (4 in number) of Notification No. 1301-I.S.S./PL/O/Secret/2F-03/18 dated 08.09.2023 for carrying out practice of field firing throughout the area as described in the Schedule.

In this connection, I am also directed to request the army authorities to explore the alternative place for FFR during the permitted period.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As Stated


OSD & EO Deputy Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal

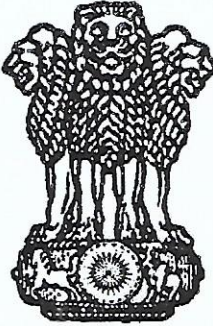
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We may send to the FF/CW/LW
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The

 Kolkata Gazette

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Home & Hill Affairs Department

Internal Security Branch, Secret Section

Nabanna, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah - 711 102

RE-NOTIFICATION

No. 1301-I.S.S./PL/O/Secret/2F-03/18

Dated, Howrah, the 8th September, 2023

This is with reference to the earlier Notification No. 526-I.S.S./PL/O/Secret/2F-03/18 dated 12.04.2021 of this Department and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, 1938 (Act 5 of 1938), the Governor is hereby pleased to **authorize** the Teesta 'B' Field Firing Range (TFFR) as an area within which field firing and artillery practice, including air armament practice by the Indian Air Force, may be carried out throughout the district of Jalpaiguri described in the Schedule to this Notification below, during the period commencing from the date of issue of this Notification and ending on 14.05.2025, subject to the strict compliance of the provisions of the Manoeuvres, Field Firing and Artillery Practice Act, 1938 (Act 5 of 1938).

The authorization to carry out artillery practice in the notified area shall further be subject to strict adherence of the Clauses as laid down vide No. 620-I.S.S./PL/O/Secret/2F-03/18 dated 26.05.2023 read with 1161-I.S.S./PL/O/Secret/2F-03/18 dated 22.08.2023 of this Department, besides wide publicity, to avoid any untoward incident.

The Clauses are reproduced ad seriatim :—

1. Range Officers of Targhera, Sarugarh Ranges under Baikunthapur Forest Division and Range Officer of South Range, Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary must be **informed at least 48 hrs in advance** about the dates and timings of use of the Range.
2. There should be an arrangement of **field verification** by the Range Officers of Targhera, Sarugarh and South Range, Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary before and after field firing exercise, to be provided as and when required by them.

3. To take care of the migratory season of elephants using Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary and migratory birds using the Pakhibitan Bird Sanctuary, there shall be **no firing** of any armaments beginning from **15th October to 30th January of next Year**.
4. Live Bullets and Shells left in the field after firing shall be removed and an **"All Clear" report** should be submitted to the Range Officers of Targhera, Sarugarh and South Range, Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary.
5. Mechanism and process for range clearing after firing should be enhanced.
6. The flight route of aircraft shall be restricted to approaching from East of Teesta River only and exiting West only to avoid overflying the two Sanctuaries.
7. The flight sorties over the river bed shall be restricted to 15 minutes at a stretch.
8. The field firing and artillery practice should be held at the time at **08.00 am to 04.00 pm** only when there is least possible inconvenience to the local people and day time field firing and artillery practice should be encouraged. Additionally, **intermittent night firing can be done and restricted to 7-10 days at a stretch**.
9. **Detailed survey of range area by Drone** from height not more than 20 meters from ground level, before firing with repetition at every two hours and on any occasion of reporting of the wildlife in vicinity to the target area be mandated before approval.
10. Thermal imaging enabled high end optical and electronic devices to be employed on elevated mast during the conduct of firing as additional safety measures on the southern side to monitor, record and **prevent incidents of intrusion** and to maintain line of sight of target area.
11. **Target area to be restricted** to jointly identified area on ground bounded by longitude and latitude as marked in Standard Operating Procedures of the range. All firing activities and explosive activities will be restricted to the identified area and no violation on ground will be accepted.
12. Long range firing of heavy artillery should be avoided as far as practicable.
13. Field firing exercise shall be kept postponed if presence of the wild animal is reported and driving of the same is not completed.
14. Utmost precaution shall be taken to avoid any unnecessary law and order situation.
15. Local Police Station must be kept informed for Police Posting etc.
16. Further, DGPS map of the area of the firing range can be prepared to induce clarity of the boundaries.

THE SCHEDULE

Teesta 'B' range situated in between Apalchand Forest (Katambari Range) and Mahananda Wild Life Sanctuary (7th mile) in the district of Jalpaiguri.

BLOCK 'X'

The South Western boundary starts at the point South of Mahipal Phapuri which is at a distance of 1,000 yards (approximately) towards north from 4th mile above Salughara in Rajganj Police Station, runs towards north till it slightly touches line at Chemkadungi, then runs towards east till it meets river Teesta flowing along Jungle Mahal in the Southern direction touches Nim Nadi and meets the starting point along the 4th mile road downward.

BLOCK 'W'

On the western side of this portion is the entire land covered by block marked 'X' above. The north-western boundary starts from Chemkadungi (LV 933085) along South-Western bank of river Teesta to Samardanga (LV 917111) to South of N.F. Railway Bridge at Sivok (LV 926127) and then along North-Eastern bank of river Teesta keeping 400 metre South of N.F. Railway metre gauge line to Rong Dong (LV 969114). The eastern boundary runs along river Teesta further east till it touches Kalagaiti Tea Garden (LV 992084) moves along western bank of Lish Nadi till it touches N.H. 31 and N.F. Railway metre gauge near Washabari Tea Garden (LV 999112), then moves along South of

N.H. 31 towards east bank of Lish Nadi in Mal Police Station at a point (LW 012105). Thereafter it moves South ward along the Lish Nadi Eastern bank edge Nimbudhara (LW 007073) marked in map/topographical map 78B/9 of 1986 production. From Nimbudhara, the boundary moves in the South—Easterly direction along North-Eastern bank of river Teesta to a point at (LW 021053). Thereafter, the boundary moves along North-East bank of Gish Nadi to a point at (LW 034070), the South-Easterly direction across the Nala at a point (LW 043058). It now turns South-Westerly towards Dhumsigora (LW 030030) and joins at a point (LW 019031) and further South-West to Amjhaki (LV 989005) to Nim Nadi (LV 971002). The distance of this line is approximately 4.5 KM from the Barrage axis.

BLOCK 'V'

The boundary of this block at North-Eastern Point Starts from the meeting point of N.H. 31 and N.F. Railway metre gauge, runs towards Western side till it touches Rong Dong R.S. through Ellenbari Washabari Tea Garden in Mal Police Station. The East Western side in triangular position touches Sundari Basti Kalagaiti Tea Garden in Mal Police Station.

By order of the Governor,

S. ROY

Deputy Secretary to the Government of West Bengal