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Panel to suggest relocation of Arikompan to deep forests

Expert committee likely to submit report to the High Court on Wednesday. Agitation by local people enters fifth day

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THE HINDU BUREAU

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A five-member expert committee constituted by the Kerala High Court to suggest measures to prevent Arikompan, a wild elephant roaming in Munnar, from entering human habitations, will recommend fixing a radio collar on the tusker and relocating it to the deep forests, according to highly placed sources. The committee will submit its report to the High Court on Wednesday, they added. The forest area will be specified in the report.



The committee members visited Chinnakkanal and Santhanpara in Idukki, the panchayats most affected by the tusker attacks, on Monday and collected details. The committee had mainly discussed three options to address the issue. "The options were fixing a radio collar to keep track of the animal and releasing it to its habitat at Chinnakkanal, collaring and relocating it to deep forest, and capturing and shifting it to the Kodanad elephant camp," said the sources.