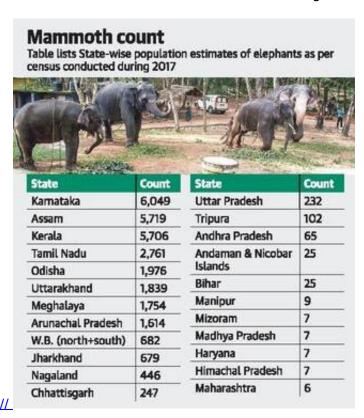


Elephant Undercounting

Kerala may have undercounted almost 2,700 elephants in the latest elephant census conducted in 2017.

■ The earlier 2017 elephant census figures indicated that Kerala had only 3,054 elephants whereas, recent number showed Kerala as having 5,706 elephants.



- Elephant census, is conducted once in 5 years under the aegis of Project elephant.
- A scientist associated with the census are of the view that discrepancy had resulted from Kerala's insistence in 2017 on using a technique called the 'direct count' method.

Elephant Counting Methods Employed in Census

- The direct counting method is based on sightings of elephants.
- The indirect counting method uses the elephant elephant 'dung decay' formula, in which the analysis of dung is used to estimate the population of the elephant.

Project Elephant

- Project Elephant (PE), is a <u>centrally sponsored scheme</u>, and was launched in February 1992 for the <u>protection of elephants</u>, their habitats and corridors.
- It also seeks to address the issues of <u>human-wildlife conflict</u> and welfare of domesticated elephants.



PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/elephant-undercounting