World Elephant Day

Every year World Elephant Day is observed on **August 12** to spread worldwide awareness for the **conservation and protection** of elephants from the numerous threats they face.

- It was launched on August 12, 2012, to bring attention to the urgent plight of **Asian and African elephants.**
- **Escalation of** poaching, habitat loss, **human-elephant conflict** and mistreatment in captivity are some common threats to both African and Asian elephants.

Elephants

- There are **three subspecies** of Asian elephant – the Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan.

    - The Indian has the widest range and accounts for the majority of the remaining elephants on the continent.
- African elephants are listed as **"vulnerable"** and Asian elephants as **"endangered"** in IUCN Red List of threatened species.
- The elephant has been accorded the highest possible protection under the Indian wildlife law through its listing under Schedule I of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- Government of India has launched various initiatives for **conservation of elephants.**

Source: TH

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