



# Elephant

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# ELEPHANT



Drishti IAS

## 4 Main Species of Elephant

Species	Found in	IUCN Red List Status	Habitat
Indian	Asia	EN (CITES - Appendix I, WPA - Schedule I)	Subtropical broadleaf forest, tropical broadleaf moist forest, dry forest, grassland
Sumatran	Asia	CR	Broadleaf moist tropical forests
Savanna (Bush)	Africa	EN	All sub-Saharan Africa except for Central Africa's dense tropical forest
Forest	Africa	CR	Dense Tropical Forests

## Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

**Largest Land Mammal on Asian Continent**  
**National Heritage Animal of India**

- Top 5 Indian States by Maximum Elephant Population: (As per elephant census 2017)
  - Karnataka > Assam > Kerala > Tamil Nadu > Odisha
- Social Structure:
  - Female elephants are more social than males; form herd (generally 5-7)
  - Led by the oldest female, the 'matriarch'
  - Males usually live alone

- Threats:
  - Habitat Fragmentation
  - Poaching for Ivory
  - Human-Elephant Conflict
  - Mistreatment in Captivity
- Conservation Efforts:
  - Gaj Sookhna App (2022)
  - Gaj Yatra (2017)
  - Hathi Mere Sathi campaign (2011)
  - National Elephant Corridor project (2005)
  - Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme (2003)
  - Project Elephant (1992)