

World Elephant Day

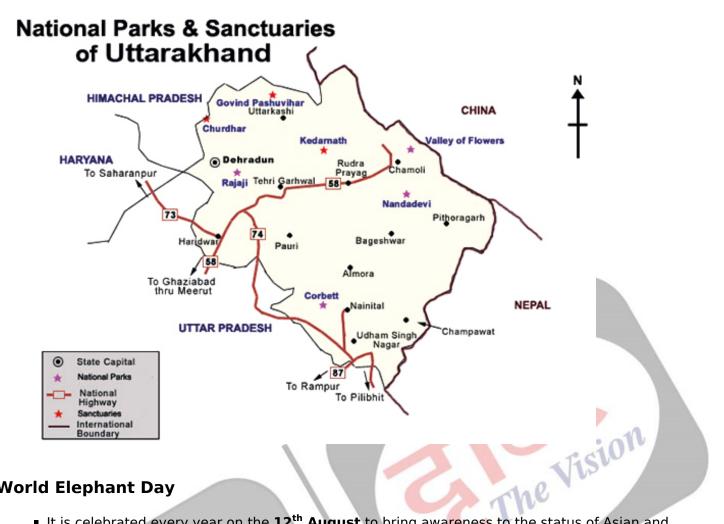
Why in News?

Recently, The <u>Corbett Tiger Reserve</u> in Uttarakhand ran an awareness campaign to celebrate <u>World</u> <u>Elephant Day.</u>

Key Points

Corbett Tiger Reserve

- It is located in **the Nainital district of Uttarakhand.** The **Project Tiger** was launched in 1973 in **Corbett National Park (first National Park of India)**, which is part of Corbett Tiger Reserve.
 - The national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.
 - It is named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment.
- The core area forms the **Corbett National Park while the buffer contains reserve forests** as well as the Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The entire area of the reserve is mountainous and falls in the Shivalik and Outer Himalaya geological provinces.
- **Ramganga, Sonanadi, Mandal, Palain and Kosi** are the major rivers flowing through the Reserve.
- Sprawling over **500 square kilometres**, CTR is home to 230 tigers and has the world's highest tiger density at 14 tigers per hundred square kilometres.
- Flora:
 - Dense moist deciduous forests are found. According to the **botanical survey of** India, Corbett has 600 species of plants - trees, shrubs, ferns, grass, climbers, herbs, and bamboo. Sal, Khair, and Sissoo are the most visible trees found in Corbett.
- Fauna:
 - Apart from tigers, Corbett also has leopards. Other mammals such as jungle cats, barking deer, spotted deer, sambar deer, sloth etc. are also found there.
- Other Major Protected Areas of Uttarakhand:
 - Nanda Devi National Park.
 - Valley of Flowers National Park.
 - Valley of Flowers National Park and Nanda Devi National Park together are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - Rajaji National Park.
 - Gangotri National Park.
 - Govind National Park



World Elephant Day

- It is celebrated every year on the 12th August to bring awareness to the status of Asian and African elephants in the wild.
- The theme for 2024 is "Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance, and environmental importance".
- India is home to about 60% of the world's Asian elephant population, with an estimated 27,312 individuals as per the 2017 census and 138 identified elephant corridors.
- Elephants have a gestation period of about 22 months, the longest of any land animal.
- Asian elephants (Indian) are classified as Endangered on the <u>IUCN Red List</u> due to habitat loss, human-elephant conflict, and poaching.

ELEPHANT



Human-Elephant Conflict

Mistreatment in Captivity

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	
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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
- 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
- Conservation Efforts:
- Gaj Soochna 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)

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