



Elephants Electrocuted in Raipur

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh [High Court](#) has reprimanded the **state energy department officials** for [negligence](#) following the electrocution of three [elephants](#) in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

▪ Court's Decision:

- A division bench directed the energy department to submit affidavits detailing the incident. The officials were asked to provide an account of the circumstances surrounding the elephants' deaths in Raigarh's **Gharghoda Forest Range** and to outline preventive measures to avoid future occurrences.
- Preliminary investigations revealed that **forest department staff had repeatedly warned the local electricity department** about the **dangerously low 11 kV transmission line**.
 - However, no action was taken to address the issue, ultimately leading to the elephants' deaths.

▪ Emphasis on Wildlife Safety:

- Taking up the matter [suo motu](#), the court emphasized the **importance of [wildlife protection and conservation](#)**, underscoring the need for responsible management in areas inhabited by wildlife.

▪ Elephant Fatalities in Chhattisgarh:

- According to the state forest department, Chhattisgarh has reported over **70 elephant deaths in the past six years due to various causes**, with 13 of these due to electrocution in 2024.

//

ELEPHANT

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)