



Elephants Electrocuted in Raipur | Chhattisgarh | 06 Nov 2024

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.

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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)