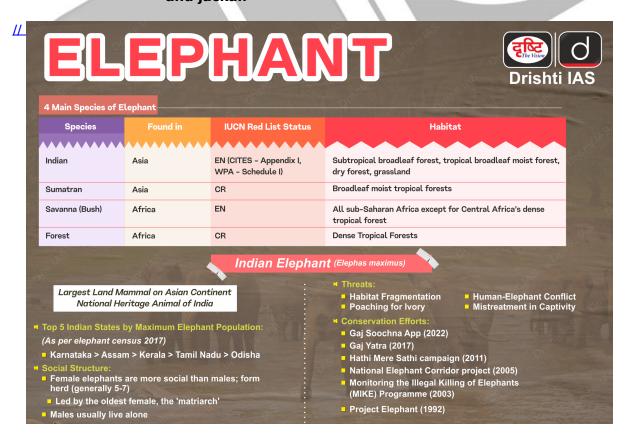


Elephant Casualties in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Source: TH

Recently, **four** <u>elephants</u> **were found dead** and five in poor health in **Madhya Pradesh's** <u>Bandhavgarh</u> <u>Tiger Reserve (BTR).</u>

- India has the largest number of wild <u>Asian Elephants</u>, estimated at 29,964 according to the 2017 census by <u>Project Elephant</u>.
 - Karnataka has the highest number of elephants, followed by Assam and Kerala.
- Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve:
 - It is located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh and is spread over the Vindhya hills.
 - It holds significant historical importance, evidenced by the **presence of the renowned** Bandhavgarh Fort, along with numerous caves, rock paintings, and carvings throughout the protected area.
 - In 1968, it was designated as a national park and in 1993 was declared a tiger reserve.
 - It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers.
 - Other important prey species consist of chital, sambhar, barking deer, nilgai, chinkara, wild pig, chowsingha, langur and rhesus macaque.
 - Dependent upon them are the major predators like tiger, leopard, wild dog, wolf and jackal.



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