



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.

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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)