



Elephant Casualties in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

[Source: TH](#)

A group of [elephants](#) in Madhya Pradesh's [Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve \(BTR\)](#) reportedly died from **suspected kodo millet poisoning**.

According to a 2023 research paper led by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), [CSIR](#), the consumption of kodo millet is **often associated with intoxication and poisoning in humans and animals**.

▪ Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve:

- It is located in the **Umariya 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](#).

▪ Population of Elephants in India:

- India has the **largest number of wild [Asian Elephants](#)**, estimated at 29,964 according to the **2017 census by [Project Elephant](#)**.
 - **Karnataka** has the highest number of elephants, followed by **Assam and Kerala**.

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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)

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