

Elephant Casualties in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Source: TH

A group of <u>elephants</u> in Madhya Pradesh's <u>Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR)</u> reportedly died from **suspected kodo millet poisoning.**

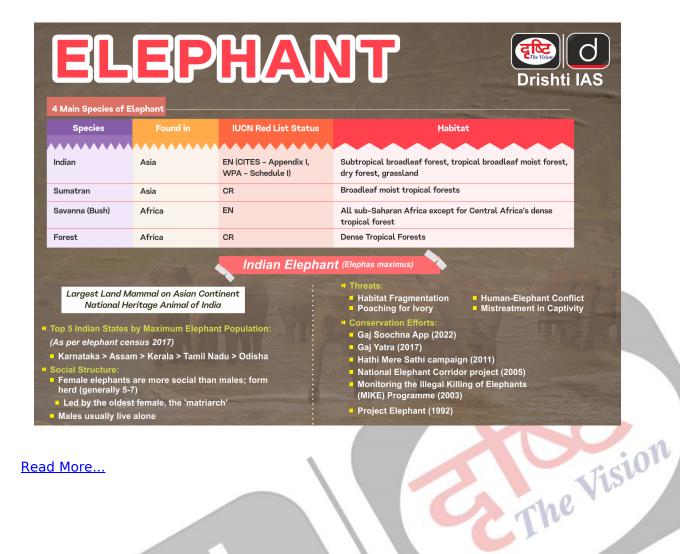
According to a 2023 research paper led by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), CSIR, the consumption of kodo millet is **often associated with intoxication and poisoning in humans and animals.**

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve:

- It is located in the 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.

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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