



Elephant

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ELEPHANT



Drishti IAS

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)