



High Court Postpones Hearing on Wild Elephants

Why in News?

A division bench of the **Madhya Pradesh (MP) High Court**, postponed the hearing of a [Public Interest Litigation \(PIL\)](#).

- The PIL seeks protection and proper care of wild elephants straying from **Chhattisgarh to Madhya Pradesh**.

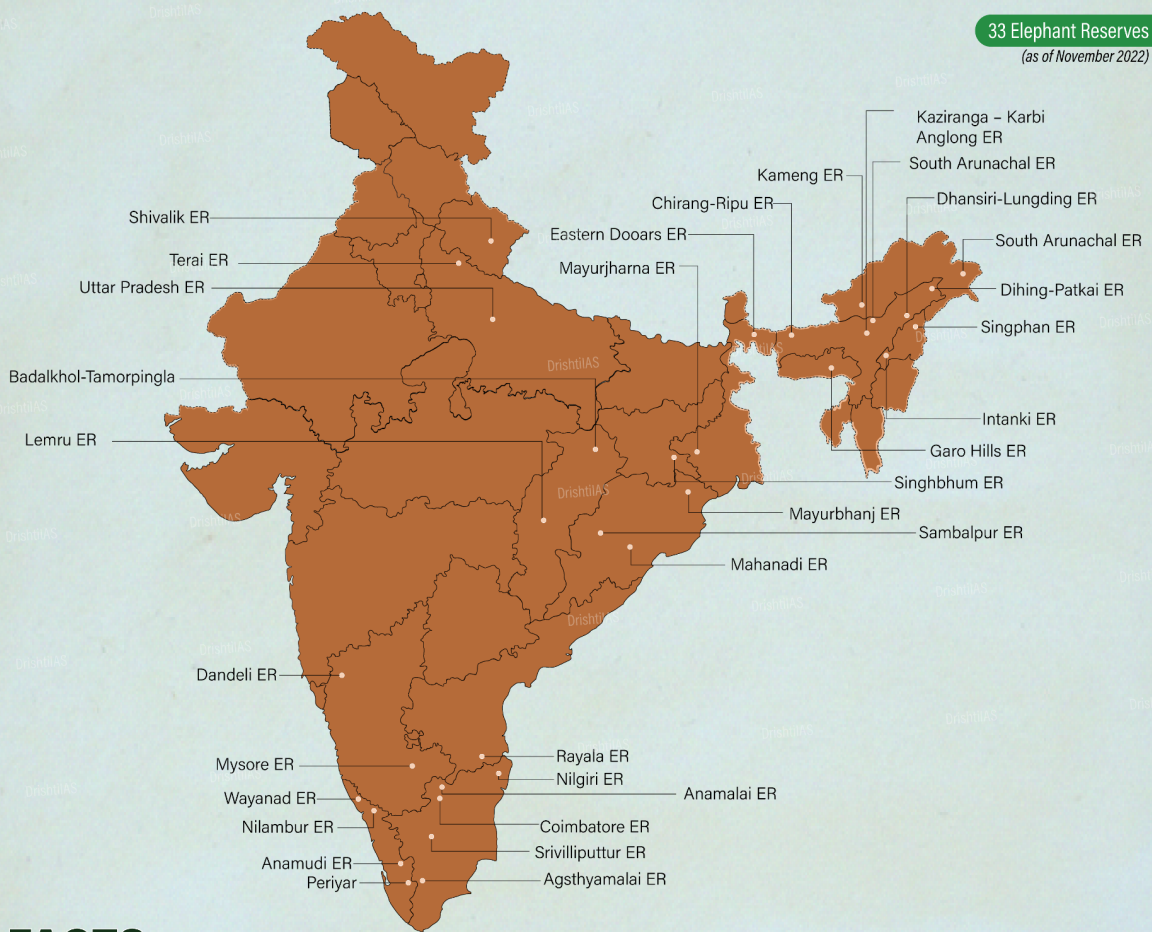
Key Points

- The MP High court instructed that the case be presented before the regular bench hearing the matter.
 - In the previous hearing before the bench headed by the [Chief Justice](#), the state government informed the court that a committee, comprising a **chairman** and **six experts**, was constituted to examine the issues raised in the petition regarding the protection and well-being of wild elephants entering the jungles of Madhya Pradesh from Chhattisgarh.
- The petitioner presented a list of experts in controlling wild elephants before the court.
 - The state government requested time to consult experts from outside the state, as suggested by the petitioner.
- During a previous hearing the petitioner raised the issue of the **death of 11 wild elephants** in the [Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve area](#), stating that there is no expert in the state of MP to control the wild elephants.

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Elephant Reserves

33 Elephant Reserves
(as of November 2022)



FACTS

- Tamil Nadu and Assam have the highest number (5) of elephant reserves in India.
- The Indian elephant *Elephas maximus* is included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in Appendix I of CITES.
- Indian Elephant has also been listed in the Appendix I of the Convention of the Migratory Species and as 'Endangered' in the IUCN Red List.
- The elephant was declared the National Heritage Animal of India in 2010.
- MoEFCC provides financial and technical support to major elephant range states in the country through Project Elephant.
- Project Elephant was launched by the Government of India in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.



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**.

