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## High Court Postpones Hearing on Wild Elephants | Madhya Pradesh | 16 Jan 2025

### 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**.

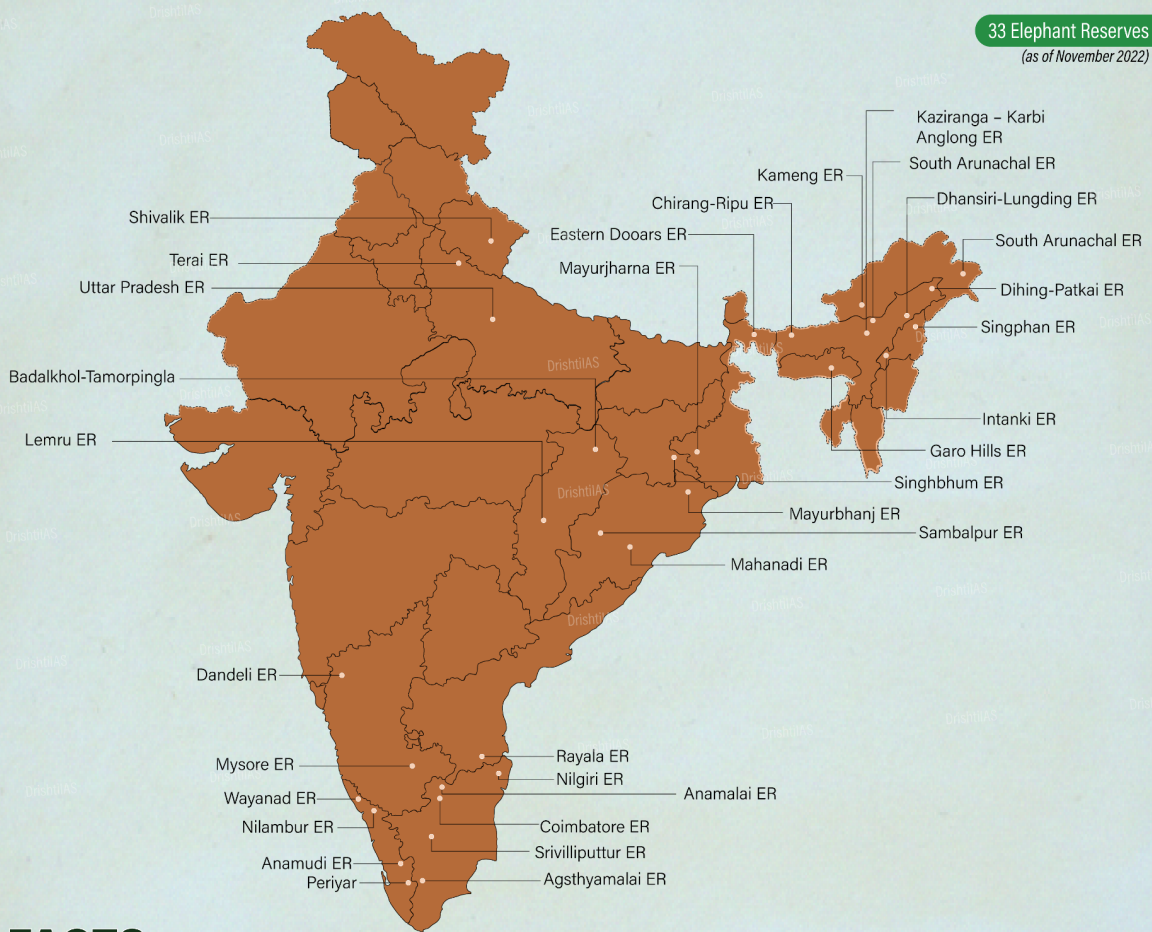
### Key Points

- 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**.

# Clay Rudraksha Garlands | Madhya Pradesh | 16 Jan 2025

## Why in News?

**Madhya Pradesh** has become a leading state for [women's empowerment](#) and **sustainable craftsmanship** with the rising popularity of **clay Rudraksha garlands**.

- This is skillfully crafted by women artisans using the soil from the [Narmada River](#).

## Key Points

- The women's empowerment and sustainable craftsmanship, spearheaded by the [Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board \(MPTB\)](#), has not only celebrated local artistry but also opened new avenues of employment for women.
- As part of **MPTB's Safe Tourist Places for Women initiative**, women and girls in the Sanchi cluster receive clay art training through the **'Maati Kala Shilp' scheme**.
  - The training programme emphasizes a balance between preserving **traditional clay craft methods** and incorporating modern techniques.
    - Women artisans are taught **soil preparation, moulding, drying, finishing, and quality control processes** to meet market demands.
- **Over 200 women** have been trained in various clay techniques, both **fired** and **unfired**, allowing them to produce a diverse range of items, including [Sanchi stupas](#), [diyas](#), [ornamental vessels](#), [animal figurines](#), and [toys](#).
- The initiative has significantly boosted the livelihood of women in Sanchi, where many now earn a stable monthly income of **₹14,000 to ₹15,000**.
- The **artisans have also expanded their reach beyond Sanchi** to cities like Bhopal and Jabalpur, receiving recognition and encouragement from various quarters.
  - A key milestone in their success came when a private hotel chain began ordering approximately **2,000 garlands per month**.
- Currently, the women's group has scaled production to around **5,000 garlands monthly** and continues to explore new market opportunities with the support of MPTB.

## Narmada River



▪ **About:**

- The **Narmada River** (also known as Rewa) serves as a traditional boundary between North and South India.
- It is 1,312 km west of its origin from the **Amarkantak peak of Maikal mountain**. It flows into the **Gulf of Khambhat**.
- It drains a large area in **Madhya Pradesh** besides some areas in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- It is a West flowing river of the peninsular region flowing through a rift valley between the **Vindhya Range** on the north and the **Satpura Range** on the south.

▪ **Tributaries:**

- The predominant tributaries from the right are **Hiran, Tendori, Barna, Kolar, Man, Uri, Hatni** and **Orsang**.
- The predominant left tributaries are **Burner, Banjar, Sher, Shakkar, Dudhi, Tawa, Ganjal, Chhota Tawa, Kundi, Goi,** and **Karjan**.

▪ **Dams:**

- The Major dams on the river include **Omkareshwar** and **Maheshwar dams**.

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