



Kumki Elephants

[Source: TH](#)

Recently, **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** and **Karnataka** signed an MoU for the deployment of **trained elephants (Kumki)** from Karnataka to **control the elephant menace in AP**.

- It Includes deploying an **expert team for elephant capture, mahout training programs**, knowledge transfer, SOPs for darting (tranquillising) and capturing animals, nutrition and food, and workshops and seminars.
- Karnataka has transferred 62 kumki elephants to Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and other states.
- **Kumki:**
 - Kumki is a term used in India to refer to **trained captive Asian elephants**.
 - They can **capture, rescue, and treat injured wild elephants**, as well as to drive them away from human settlements.
 - Some are **trained to follow commands and aid** in training other elephants.
 - They participate in **forest patrolling to support conservation** initiatives.
- India is home to about **60%** of the world's Asian elephant population, with an estimated 27,312 individuals as per the 2017 census and 138 identified [elephant corridors](#).
- Elephants have a **gestation period of about 22 months**, the longest of any land animal.
- Asian elephants (Indian) are classified as **Endangered** on the [IUCN Red List](#).

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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 Soochna 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)

Read More: [Translocation of Elephants](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/kumki-elephants>

