



World Elephant Day 2025

Why in News?

On 12th August 2025, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**, in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, hosted the [World Elephant Day](#) celebration in **Coimbatore**.

- A specialized workshop on [Human-Elephant Conflict \(HEC\)](#) was also held, providing a platform for **elephant range states** to share challenges and discuss mitigation strategies, in line with [Project Elephant's](#) focus on community participation and scientific solutions to address human-elephant conflicts.
- A nationwide awareness program also aims to engage approximately 12 lakh school children from around 5,000 schools across India.

World Elephant Day

- World Elephant Day was co-founded on **12th August 2012**, by Canadian Patricia Sims and the **Elephant Reintroduction Foundation** of Thailand.
- Since its inception of global awareness building, it has partnerships with 100 elephant conservation organizations worldwide and reaches countless individuals across the globe.
- The theme for 2025 is **“Bringing the world together to help elephants”**.
- **World Elephant Society**, established in November 2015 as a **nonprofit organization**, aims to support the annual World Elephant Day campaign.
 - The organization **educates the public** on global elephant conservation efforts, particularly around World Elephant Day.



Asian Elephant



African Savanna Elephant



African Forest Elephant

Facts About Elephants

- **Three Species:** African savannah elephant, African forest elephant, and Asian elephant.
- **Size:** African savannah elephants are largest (up to 4 meters tall and 6,800 kg in weight).
- **Lifespan:** Wild elephants typically live 60 to 70 years of age.
- **Diet:** Elephants are herbivores
- **Trunk:** Their trunk is a versatile tool used for breathing, smelling, touching, grasping, and producing sound.
- **Tusks:** Elephant tusks are actually **enlarged incisor teeth** and can be found on elephants at 2 years old.
 - Elephants have been targeted for their ivory tusks, driving the illegal wildlife trade and causing severe declines in their populations.
- **Intelligence:** Elephants have the largest brain of any land animal.
- **Social Structure:** Female elephants live in family groups called herds, led by a matriarch.
- **Reproduction:** Elephant pregnancies last about 22 months, and calves weigh 200–300 pounds at birth.
- **Conservation Status (IUCN Red List Status):**
 - Asian elephants: **Endangered (EN)**
 - Savannah elephants: **Endangered (EN)**
 - Forest elephants: **Critically Endangered (CR)**

India's Role in Elephant Conservation

- India is home to **nearly 60% of the world's** wild elephant population.
- India has established **33 Elephant Reserves** and 150 identified Elephant Corridors, according to the Report on Elephant Corridors in India, 2023.
- India has granted elephants the status of **National Heritage Animal**.
- In India, Asian Elephants are categorized under **Schedule I** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

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