





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**.

ELEPHANT



Drishti IAS

| 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)

Read More: [Translocation of Elephants](#)

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

