

Project Elephant completes 30 years

April 11, 2023

In news— President of India Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the 'Gaj Utsav 2023' at the Kaziranga National Park in Assam to mark 30 years of Project Elephant.

What is Project Elephant?

- It is a project introduced by the Government of India in 1992 to provide **financial and technical support to wildlife management efforts** by states for their free-ranging populations of wild Asian Elephants.
- The project aims to **ensure the long-term survival of the population of elephants in their natural habitats** by protecting them, their habitats and migration corridors.
- Other goals of Project Elephant are supporting the **research of the ecology and management of elephants**, creating awareness of conservation among local people, providing improved veterinary care for captive elephants.
- Aims Project Elephant (PE) was launched by the Government of India in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with following objectives:
 - To protect elephants, their habitat and corridors.
 - To address issues of man-animal conflict.
 - Welfare of captive elephants.
 - to promote not to harm elephants for their tusks.
 - Financial support is being provided to major elephant bearing States in the country.
- The Project is being mainly implemented in 16 States / UTs, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra,

Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.

Other initiatives for protection of Elephants-

- **MIKE programme**-Project Elephant has been formally implementing **MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants)** programme of CITES in 10 ERs since January 2004.
- **Hathi Mere Sathi**-Ministry of Environment and forests (MOEF) in partnership with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has launched a campaign called **Hathi Mere Sathi**.
 - The campaign aims to improve the conservation, protection and welfare of elephants in India.
 - It was launched at Elephant- 8 ministerial meeting which was held in Delhi on 24th may 2011.
- **The campaign Mascot Gaju**- It focuses on various groups which include local people near elephant habitats, youth, policymakers and others. The scheme envisions to set up elephant centres all over the country in the elephant landscapes.
- **The elephant task force (ETF)** which was constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest has recommended the campaign to **Take Gajah (the elephant) to the Prajaha (the people)** in order to increase public awareness and their participation in the conservation and welfare of elephants.
- **Gaj Gaurav award**- It is conferred for the commendable efforts of local communities, frontline staff and mahouts working at grass root level to conserve elephants in wild and captivity.

Note:

- The Indian elephant *Elephas maximus* occurs in the central and southern Western Ghats, North-east India, eastern India and northern India and in some parts of southern peninsular India.

- It is included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES).

List of Notified Elephant Reserves in India (As on November 2022)

S. No.	Elephant Reserve	State	Date of Notification	Total Area (Sq. Km)
1	Rayala ER	Andhra Pradesh	09.12.2003	766
2	Kameng ER	Arunachal Pradesh	19.06.2002	1892
3	South Arunachal ER	Arunachal Pradesh	29.02.2008	1957.50
4	Sonitpur ER	Assam	06.03.2003	1420
5	Dihing-Patkai ER	Assam	17.04.2003	937
6	Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong ER	Assam	17.04.2003	3270
7	Dhansiri-Lungding ER	Assam	19.04.2003	2740
8	Chirang-Ripu ER	Assam	07.03.2003	2600
9	Badalkhol-Tamorpingla	Chhattisgarh	15.09.2011	1048.30
10	Lemru ER	Chhattisgarh	2022	450
11	Singhbhum ER	Jharkhand	26.09.2001	4530
12	Mysore ER	Karnataka	25.11.2002	6724
13	Dandeli ER	Karnataka	26.03.2015	2,321
14	Wayanad ER	Kerala	02.04.2002	1200
15	Nilambur ER	Kerala	02.04.2002	1419
16	Anamudi ER	Kerala	02.04.2002	3728

17	Periyar	Kerala	02.04.2002	3742
18	Garo Hills ER	Meghalaya	31.10.2001	3,500
19	Intanki ER	Nagaland	28.02.2005	202
20	Singphan ER	Nagaland	16.08.2018	23.57
21	Mayurbhanj ER	Odisha	29.09.2001	3214
22	Mahanadi ER	Odisha	20.07.2002	1038
23	Sambalpur ER	Odisha	27.03.2002	427
24	Nilgiri ER	Tamil Nadu	19.09.2003	4663
25	Coimbatore ER	Tamil Nadu	19.09.2003	566
26	Anamalai ER	Tamil Nadu	19.09.2003	1457
27	Srivilliputtur ER	Tamil Nadu	19.09.2003	1249
28	Agsthyamalai ER	Tamil Nadu	12.08.2022	1,197.48
29	Uttar Pradesh ER	Uttar Pradesh	09.09.2009	744
30	Terai ER	Uttar Pradesh	2022	3049
31	Shivalik ER	Uttarakhand	28.10.2002	5405
32	Mayurjharna ER	West Bengal	24.10.2002	414
33	Eastern Dooars ER	West Bengal	28.8.2002	978