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Conservation of Elephants in India (Source: The Hindu)



CONSERVATION MEASURES OF ELEPHANTS IN INDIA

Elephants are a keystone species and an integral part of India's natural heritage. Their conservation ensures ecological balance, biodiversity and human well-being.



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Grants Schedule I status – highest protection.
- Project Elephant (1992): Central sector scheme for holistic conservation and management.
- Elephant Corridors identified and notified under the Act.
- National Elephant Conservation Action Plan (NECAP), 2023: Long-term strategy for co-existence and conservation.
- Biological Diversity Act, 2002: Protects their habitats and ecosystems.

HABITAT CONSERVATION

- Protection and restoration of forests and grasslands.
- Securing and managing Elephant Reserves and Corridors for safe movement.
- Preventing fragmentation of habitats by regulating linear infrastructure.
- Ensuring availability of water, food and shade in habitats.

HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT MITIGATION

- Early warning systems (SMS alerts, watch towers, mobile apps).
- Physical barriers: solar fences, trenches, watch towers.
- Crop protection and quick compensation for crop loss and human casualties.
- Community awareness and participation in conflict mitigation.

ANTI-POACHING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Strict enforcement against poaching and illegal ivory trade.
- Strengthening of forest staff, dedicated anti-poaching squads and intelligence network.
- Use of technology: drones, camera traps, M-STriPES, e-surveillance.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- Population estimation and regular monitoring.
- Radio-collaring and tracking of elephant movements.
- Research on elephant behaviour, genetics, health and habitat use.
- Data-driven management for informed decision-making.

CAPTIVE ELEPHANT WELFARE

- Registration and monitoring of captive elephants.
- Improvement of living conditions, health care and nutrition.
- Ban on unnecessary use in events; promote ethical use.
- Encouraging phased reduction of traditional practices.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LIVELIHOODS

- Involving local communities in conservation and decision-making.
- Promoting alternative livelihoods and eco-development.
- Strengthening community-based organizations and conservation reserves.
- Building tolerance and coexistence through education and awareness.

PROJECT ELEPHANT – KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 30 Elephant Reserves notified across 15 States.
- Protection of elephant habitats and corridors.
- Capacity building of forest staff and local communities.
- Reduction in poaching and ivory trade.
- Better management of captive elephants.
- Improved knowledge base and research outcomes.

WAY FORWARD

- Secure and connect habitats and corridors.
- Strengthen community participation and benefit sharing.
- Leverage technology for conflict mitigation and monitoring.
- Ensure climate-resilient landscapes for long-term survival.
- Promote coexistence for a harmonious future.

“ Saving elephants is not just about protecting a species, but sustaining the ecosystems and our shared future. ”

CONSERVE ELEPHANTS. CONSERVE NATURE. SECURE OUR FUTURE.



DATE: 18 AUGUST 2026

2 Renaming of States in India (Source: The Hindu)

Constitutional Provisions

- *Renaming a state is governed primarily by Article 3 of the Constitution.*
- *Parliament can alter the name of an existing state through an ordinary law passed by a simple majority; a constitutional amendment under Article 368 is not required*

Procedure to Rename the States

- **Initiation of Proposal:** A proposal may originate from the State Legislature or the Union Government.
- **Union Government Examination:** The proposal is examined by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **President's Recommendation:** A Bill dealing with the alteration of the name of a state can be introduced in either House of Parliament only on the recommendation of the President.
- **Reference to State Legislature:** Before recommending the Bill, the President refers it to the concerned State Legislature for expressing its views within a specified period.
- **Advisory Nature of State's Opinion:** The State Legislature's views are not binding on Parliament. Parliament may accept, modify or reject them. It may also proceed if the State Legislature fails to respond within the prescribed period.
- **Parliamentary Passage:** The Bill is passed by both Houses of Parliament by a simple majority.
- **Presidential Assent:** After receiving the President's assent, the Bill becomes an Act.
- **Official Implementation:** The new name is notified, and the relevant constitutional schedules and official records are amended.

Examples

- Uttaranchal was renamed Uttarakhand with effect from 1 January 2007, while Orissa was renamed Odisha in 2011.