



## Elephant census

### Why in news?

\n\n

Four States — Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand which comprise India's most human-elephant conflict-prone region, have **decided to count elephants synchronously**.

\n\n

### Why this census is significant?

\n\n

\n

- This will be the first regional synchronous elephant census with an identical set of rules for direct and indirect counting methods.

\n

- The **direct elephant counting method** is based on sightings of elephants.

\n

- In the **indirect method**, surveyors follow a **dung decay formula** for arriving at population estimation which is being used by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka at present.

\n

- A variation of about 8% to 9% has been noticed between the two methods.

\n

\n\n

### What are the advantages of synchronised census?

\n\n

\n

- According to the 2015 census, Odisha has 1,954 elephants, while Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal have approximately 700, 275 and 130 elephants respectively.

\n

- The synchronised census will indicate the size, distribution, structure and density of the elephant population in the region.  
\n
- A simultaneously conducted census would **eliminate underestimation, duplication.**  
\n
- This approach helps to produce a good map on the distribution of elephants in different landscapes, highlighting the abundance and density of elephants.  
\n
- Synchronisation in the elephant census will lead to **better regional planning.**  
\n
- Elephants travel long distances and an exhaustive information base on regional elephant distribution will help plan a proper intervention for their conservation in the long run.  
\n
- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has set up a committee that is trying to prepare a strategic action plan for the region.  
\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n



**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative