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**News: Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024**

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024, which liberalises the conditions for transferring elephants within or between states.

## **Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024**

Circumstances for Transfer of Captive Elephants: **Transfer may occur when:**

- The **owner is no longer capable of adequately maintaining the elephant's welfare.**
- If it's **determined that the elephant will receive better care in the new circumstances** compared to its current situation.
- The **Chief Wildlife Warden may deem it necessary for the elephant's better upkeep** based on the specific circumstances of the case.

### **Procedure within the State**

- Before a transfer within a state, the **elephant's health must be confirmed by a veterinarian.**

- The suitability of both the current and prospective habitats must be verified by the Deputy Conservator of Forests.
- Approval or rejection of the transfer is at the discretion of the Chief Wildlife Warden based on these assessments.

### **Procedure outside the State**

- Similar conditions apply for transferring elephants outside a state.
- Additionally, the elephant's genetic profile must be registered with the MoEF&CC before the transfer.

### **Requirements for Elephant Transfer**

- The elephant must be accompanied by a mahout and an elephant assistant.
- A health certificate from a veterinary practitioner confirming fitness for transport is mandatory.
- Transport should occur after the quarantine period, if required for contagious diseases, is completed.
- Proper feeding and watering arrangements must be made during transport.
- Tranquillisers/sedatives shall be used to control nervous or temperamental elephants upon prescription by the veterinary practitioner.