Animal Welfare Groups Seek Clarity on Assam Elephant Transfer to TN

Animal welfare groups urged the Tamil Nadu government to verify ownership, records, and veterinary status of five elephants transferred from Assam to temples.

It concerns the inter-state transfer of captive elephants, specifically from Assam to Tamil Nadu, and the legal and ethical issues raised by animal welfare organisations regarding their acquisition and welfare.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Five** young elephants were transferred from **Assam** to **temples** and religious institutions in **Tamil Nadu**.
- A group of **53 animal welfare, wildlife, and conservation organisations** made a joint representation to the **Chief Minister**.
- The organisations sought clarity on the **ownership**, **acquisition**, and **age records** of the transferred elephants.
- The joint representation was addressed to Chief Minister **C. Joseph Vija** and other authorities.
- Concerns were also raised regarding potential **future transfers** of elephants between states.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, lists elephants under **Schedule I**, granting them the highest level of protection.

Project Elephant was launched in **1992** by the **Government of India** to protect elephants and their habitats.

Inter-state transfer of elephants requires prior approval from the **Chief Wildlife Warden** of both states and the **Central Zoo Authority**.

Tamil Nadu is home to several elephant reserves, including the **Nilgiri Elephant Reserve** and **Anamalai Elephant Reserve**.

The **Madras High Court** has previously issued directives regarding the welfare and maintenance of **captive elephants** in temples.

Elephants are considered a **National Heritage Animal** of **India** since **2010**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Animal welfare groups sought clarity on the transfer of five Assam elephants to Tamil Nadu temples.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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