



# Kerala's captive jumbos get genetic IDs

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## **Kerala's captive jumbos get genetic IDs-Move could help solve wildlife crime cases involving poaching and illegal trade**

- DNA profiling may be a contentious issue among humans, but for Kerala's captive elephants, it's a done deal.
- In a first for India, every one of Kerala's captive elephants now has a unique DNA-based genetic ID.
- Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), which was given the task of DNA fingerprinting the elephants, handed over the DNA database, prototypes of Unique Identification Cards, and a study report to the Forest Department
- Captive elephants are those that have been captured from the wild and used by humans.
- The Forest Department provided blood samples of captive elephants from across the State to the RGCB for DNA fingerprinting.
- The method is a forensic technique that makes it possible to identify individuals — people or animals — based on unique DNA characteristics called micro-satellites (DNA portions that occur repeatedly), much like fingerprints.
- Unlike the microchip-based ID used so far, DNA fingerprinting provides a unique identity and is more fool-proof.

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