

Golden langur

By iastoppers | 2024-03-12 15:55:00



Key facts

Golden langur

There are an estimated 7,396 golden langurs in India, the latest survey of the primate has revealed.



[ref- mongabay]

About Golden langur:

- Golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) belongs to the **colobines**, a large group of Old World monkeys.
 - The colobines are **leaf-eating primates** with a **multi-chambered stomach** that acts like a ruminant.
- They are found in a small region of **Western Assam**, India and in the neighboring foothills of the **Black Mountains of Bhutan**.
- They are a small, diurnal, and arboreal primates primarily resides in the upper canopy of trees.
- They are also known as **golden leaf monkeys**.
- They were first brought to the attention of the Western world by the naturalist **Edward Pritchard Gee in the 1950s**.

Habitat:

- Golden langurs live in **moist evergreen** and **tropical deciduous forests**, as well as some **riverine areas and savannas** in **Assam and Bhutan**.
- Their habitat is limited to the area surrounded by **four geographical landmarks**: the foothills of Bhutan to the north, Manas river to the east, Sankosh river to the west, and Brahmaputra river to the south.

Characteristics:

- They have a distinctive appearance with **hair ranging from dark golden to creamy buff**.
- Their faces are black and hairless, except for a **long pale beard**.
- **During winter**, their fur takes on a dark golden chestnut hue, **while in the summer**, it transitions to a lighter, more cream-colored tone.
- Golden langurs are **primarily herbivorous**, eating leaves, fruit, flowers, seeds, buds, and leguminous shrubs.

Threats:

- **Habitat fragmentation and isolation:** Deforestation and rural electrification have fragmented the golden langur's habitat, especially in Assam.
- **Poaching:** Poaching is another threat to the golden langur.
- **Inbreeding:** Obstructions like wires and gaps in the forest from felling have increased the risk of inbreeding among golden langurs.

Conservations:

- **IUCN:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife Protection Act:** Schedule-I
- The **Golden Langur Conservation Project (GLCP)** was started in **1998** to protect the golden langur.
 - The GLCP uses **community conservation methods** to promote sustainable use of forests and agricultural land.