



## Sloth Bear

### Why in the News?

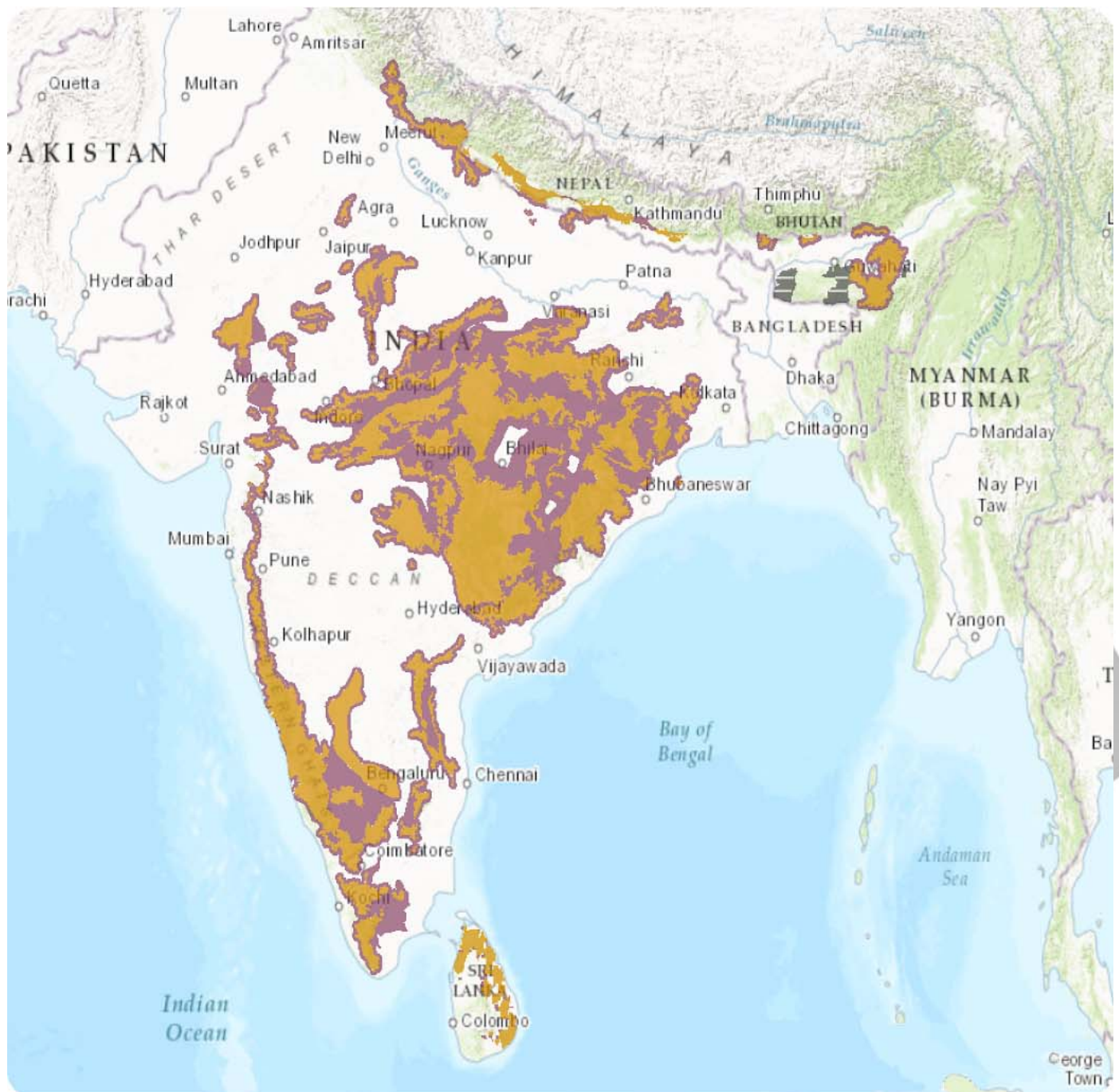
Recently, **two sloth bears** were rescued by forest officials from a village in Jharkhand by the **People for Animals group**.

- The **People for Animals (PFA)** is an animal welfare organization founded by Maneka Gandhi.
- The PFA was informed by **Madaris**. Madaris is a **nomadic community that earns a living by performing street acts with animals**.



### What is a Sloth bear?

- **About:** Sloth bears are found in **Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan and Nepal**, predominantly in lowland areas.
  - Sloth bears primarily **eat termites and ants**, and unlike other bear species, they routinely carry their cubs on their backs.
  - They are also very fond of honey, hence their alternative name of **“honey bear”**.
  - Sloth bears **do not hibernate**.
- **Scientific Name: Melursus ursinus**
- **Habitat:** It is a forest-dwelling member of the family Ursidae (comprises 8 species of bears) that inhabits tropical or subtropical regions of India and Sri Lanka.



Range

- Extant (resident)
- Possibly Extant & Origin Uncertain (resident)
- Possibly Extant (resident)
- Presence Uncertain



Protection Status:

- [IUCN Red List: Vulnerable](#)
- [CITES listing: Appendix I](#)
- [Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I](#)

Threats: **Habitat loss, poaching** for body parts and are sometimes captured for use in

performances or hunted because of their **aggressive behavior and destruction of crops.**

## UPSC Civil Services Exam Previous Year Questions

**Q. Which one of the following groups of animals belongs to the category of endangered species? (2012)**

- (a) Great Indian Bustard, Musk Deer, Red Panda and Asiatic Wild Ass
- (b) Kashmir Stag, Cheetal, Blue Bull and Great Indian Bustard
- (c) Snow Leopard, Swamp Deer, Rhesus Monkey and Saras (Crane)
- (d) Lion-tailed Macaque, Blue Bull, Hanuman Langur and Cheetal

**Ans: (a)**

**Exp:**

Species	Current Status
Great Indian Bustard	Critically Endangered
Musk Deer	Endangered
Red Panda	Endangered
Asiatic Wild Ass	Near Threatened
Kashmir Stag	Least Concern
Cheetal	Least Concern
Blue Bull	Least Concern
Snow Leopard	Vulnerable
Rhesus Monkey	Least Concern
Saras (Crane)	Vulnerable
Lion Tailed Macaque	Endangered
Hanuman Langur	Least Concern

**Source: IE**

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