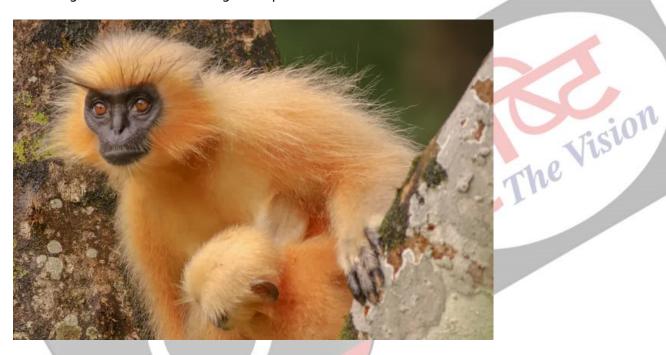


# **Golden Langur**

#### Source: IE

### Why in News?

A <u>Golden Langur</u> was killed in an accident on National Highway 117 in Assam, raising concerns over the increasing threats to this endangered species.



## What are the Key Facts About Golden Langur?

- Taxonomy and Discovery:
  - Species Name: Trachypithecus geei.
  - Family: Cercopithecidae (Old World Monkeys).
  - Subfamily: Colobinae (Leaf-eating monkeys).
  - **Discovered By:** E.P. Gee in 1953; formally described by Khajuria in 1956.
- **Geographic Range:** Golden langurs are found exclusively in Assam, India, and neighboring Bhutan.
  - They inhabit a restricted area bordered by the foothills of Bhutan (north), the Manas River (east), the Sankosh River (west), and the Brahmaputra River (south).
- **Habitat**: Subtropical and temperate broadleaf forests at elevations from near sea level to above 3,000 meters.
- Physical Characteristics:
  - **Color: Golden-orange fur.** Coat color changes with seasons (cream in summer, dark golden in winter).
  - Facial Features: Black hairless face with a pale beard; protective hair whorl on the crown.

- **Sexual Dimorphism:** Males are larger and more robust than females.
- Behavior: Active during the day (Diurnal) and primarily live in trees (Arboreal).
  - Golden Langurs live in troops of 3 to 15 individuals, typically a single male with multiple females or occasionally all-male groups.
- Geographic Variation: The golden langur is thought to have two subspecies based on coat color differences, they are *Trachypithecus geei bhutanensis* (northern Bhutan) and *Trachypithecus geei geei* (southern Bhutan and India).
  - However, the northern subspecies has not been formally described according to the <u>International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN)</u>.
- **Threats:** Fragmented habitats are a major threat to golden langurs, as their population is split into isolated groups.
  - The absence of **non-breeding all-male bands** in these fragmented areas is a concern, as it could affect the species' long-term survival.
  - Human activities like road construction, deforestation, and conflicts between people and wildlife are causing this habitat fragmentation.
- Conservation Status: The <u>IUCN Red List</u> lists the golden langur as Endangered, and it is protected under <u>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</u> Appendix I.
  - The <u>Wildlife Protection Act of 1972</u> (now the <u>Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act</u> 2022) lists the Golden Langur in **Schedule I**, ensuring highest stringent protection measures
- Conservation Measures: Create corridors to connect fragmented habitats, improving genetic diversity and movement between populations.
  - Building canopy bridges for safer movement. Long-term conservation strategies are needed to address human impacts on the golden langur's habitat.

### **UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)**

### **Prelims**

- 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)

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/golden-langur-2