



# Golden Langur

[Source: IE](#)

## Why in News?

A [Golden Langur](#) 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 **International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN)**.
- **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 **IUCN Red List** lists the golden langur as **Endangered**, and it is protected under **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** Appendix I.
  - The **Wildlife Protection Act of 1972** (now the **Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act 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)**