

# **Slender Loris**

## Why in News

Recently, some environmentalists demanded that Tamil Nadu's Kadavur Reserve Forest be declared as a **Wildlife Sanctuary** in order to conserve **Slender Loris** (Loris tardigradus).

■ The wildlife census conducted during 2016-17 showed an appreciable population of 3,500 slender loris in the Karur Reserve Forest.

# **Key Points**

About: //





- The slender lorises (Loris) are a genus of loris native to India and Sri Lanka.
- Slender lorises spend most of their life in trees, traveling along the tops of branches with slow and precise movements.
- They generally feed on insects, reptiles, plant shoots, and fruit.
- Habitat:
  - They are found in tropical rainforests, scrub forests, semi-deciduous forests, and swamps.
- Types:
  - There are two species of Slender Loris, the only members of the genus 'Loris':
    - Red Slender Loris (Loris tardigradus)
    - Grey Slender Loris (Loris lydekkerianus)
- Threat:
  - It is believed that they have **medicinal properties** and they are captured and sold. Since there is great demand for keeping these animals as pets, **they are illegally smuggled.**
  - Habitat loss, electrocution of live wires and road accidents are other threats that have caused its populations to dwindle.
- Protection Status:

- **IUCN:** Endangered,
- Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972: Schedule I
- **CITES:** Appendix II

#### **Kadavur Reserve Forest**

### About:

- The forest is **located in Karur district of Tamil Nadu** with a forest area of around 6000-hectare. The forest consists of **hills and dense dry areas.**
- <u>Indian Bison</u>, <u>Spotted Deer</u>, mouse deer, slender loris, <u>Jackal</u>, <u>Mongoose</u>, black naped hare, wild boar, porcupine, monitor lizard, <u>Pangolin</u>, <u>Monkeys</u>, pythons, etc are found in the forests.

### Major Protected Areas in Tamil Nadu:



**Source: DTE** 

