



Grey Slender Loris

Why in News?

Recently, scientists from the **Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)** in Coimbatore carried out a survey of Grey slender loris populations in **Tamil Nadu's Dindigul forest division**.

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What is Grey Slender Loris?

▪ About:

- The Grey slender loris belongs to the **family Loridae**.
 - It is a **species of primate**.
- It has got a **lean and lanky appearance**, with **longer and slender limbs, larger ears, pointed snout** and eyes circled with black or dark brown.
 - The fur is **soft and woolly**. The colour varies from **dark grey to earthy brown**.
- The Grey slender loris is a **nocturnal animal**. It is also a slow-moving animal. It comes down into the **bushes to feed and crosses open stretches of ground** to enter isolated groves or to cross from one tree to another.
- Though it is **insectivorous**, it is fond of berries also.

▪ Habitat:

- They are found **in tropical rainforests, scrub forests, semi-deciduous forests, and swamps**.
- Grey Slender Loris generally inhabits **dry and drought-prone areas of Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu**.
 - It is found in acacia and tamarind-dominated thorn and scrub forests near cultivated fields.
- The species occurs in southern and eastern India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) and Sri Lanka.

▪ 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:**

- The loris has become **threatened mainly because of habitat loss.**
- The disappearance of the **acacia tree, a preferred tree species of the loris**, hunting for the **pet trade and for their meat, road kills, superstitious kills, traditional medicine and habitat fragmentation** pose serious threats to this primate.

▪ **Protection Status:**

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

What is Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)?

- SACON , established in 1990 at **Anaikatti, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)** is a national centre for **information, education and research in ornithology and natural history in India.**
- It was named after Dr. Salim Ali in appreciation of his lifelong services to **India's bird life and conservation of natural resources.**
- It designs and conducts research in ornithology covering all aspects of biodiversity and natural history.

Source: DTE

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