



## Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat

### Why in News

The **Karnataka** Forest Department, along with the **Bat Conservation India Trust (BCIT)**, is getting prepared to **save the Kolar leaf-nosed bat from extinction**.

- BCIT is a **non-profit organization** which was conceived for the protection of bat species in India by protecting their habitat. It is **headquartered in Bengaluru**, Karnataka.

### Key Points //



- **Scientific Name:** *Hipposideros hypophyllus*
- **Geographic Range:** It is **endemic to India**. It is **presently known only from one cave in Hanumanahalli village in Kolar district, Karnataka**.
- **Threats:**
  - Habitat loss from **land use change, hunting, and stone quarrying** in the region.
  - Till several years ago, the Kolar Leaf-Nosed Bat **was found in only two caves in the village of Hanumanahalli**. For **reasons that are still unknown**, the bat **became locally extinct in one of the two caves**.
- **Protection Status:**
  - [IUCN Red List](#): **Critically Endangered**
  - [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): It **has not been accorded legal protection** under the Act.
- **Conservation Efforts:**
  - The government had **notified the 30 acres around the caves as a protected area**.
    - Any development work here, including construction of new infrastructure, will **need the permission of the [National Board for Wildlife](#)**.
  - The **Bat Conservation Indian Trust** has been **awarded a grant** to conduct further research on this species of bats.
  - It is running **an intensive awareness campaign** in the nearby communities and they have come to understand the threat to the species and have started guarding this area from encroachers.
- **Concerns:**

- Bats are **one of the least studied mammals in the country**, though there are **130 species in India**.
    - Bats are **vital for the ecology as they are pollinators**, their main diet being nectar.
    - Bats also **help in insect control** and therefore, **help in the protection of crops**.
  - They are **very adaptable creatures** and therefore can often be found **near human habitation** or even in urban settlements, which **makes them vulnerable**.
  - They also have a **bad image** in the public eye, as **carriers of diseases**.
- **Suggestions:**
- There is an urgent need to **curb illegal granite mining and quarrying** within five to ten kilometre radius of the roost (resting-place) to ensure the quality of other subterranean caves in the area.
  - Meanwhile, **widespread cave explorations and acoustic sampling** are recommended to understand the distribution of the species.

**Source: IE**

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