



# World Monkey Day

## Why in News?

World Monkey Day is celebrated worldwide on **14<sup>th</sup> December, every year.**

## What is World Monkey Day?

- Monkey Day has been created to **celebrate [monkeys](#) and other non-human primates.**
  - A **primate is any mammal of the group that includes** lemurs, lorises, tarsiers, monkeys, apes, and humans.
- It is a great day when it comes to **raising awareness about different types of monkeys and primates around the world**, as well as the **issues they face and how we can help** them.

## What are the Key Facts about Monkey?

- **About:**
  - Monkeys, also **known as simians, live all over the world.**
  - **More than 250 species** of monkeys **populate Africa, Central America, South America, and Asia.**
  - Monkeys are divided into **two categories- Old World monkeys and New World monkeys.**
    - **Old World monkeys are native to Africa and Asia while New World monkeys are indigenous to the Americas,** but their homes are not the only ways in which they are different.
- **Physical Characteristics:**
  - They **range in size from mere ounces** like the pygmy marmoset to the mandrill **at a heavier 80 pounds.**
  - Monkeys tend to **walk on all four limbs.**
  - As a member of the primate family, they are **considered a lesser ape.**
  - Most monkeys **have a tail, though not all do.**
    - Usually, **New World monkeys possess prehensile tails**, meaning they can use their tails to grasp or hold on to objects.
    - On the other hand, **Old World monkeys all have tails**, but they **lack the ability to grasp objects.**
- **IUCN Status:**
  - According to **[International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#)**, approximately **70% of Asian species are Endangered**, as are about **50% of African species and 40% of neo-tropical species.** Some of them are:
    - **Western Chimpanzee:** Critically Endangered.
    - **Roloway Monkey:** Critically Endangered.
    - **Lion-tailed Macaque:** Endangered.
    - **Diana Monkey:** Endangered.
    - **Long-tailed Macaque:** Endangered.
    - **Gee's Golden Langur:** Endangered.

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

**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)**

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