



Gee's Golden Langur

Why in News

Primatologists have observed that the threat of **electrocution and inbreeding** is increasing among the Gee's Golden Langur.



Key Points

- **Scientific Name:** Trachypithecus geei
- **About:** Golden langurs can be most easily recognized by the color of their fur, after which they are named.
 - It has been noted that their fur changes colors according to the seasons as well as geography (region they live in).
 - The color of the young also differs from adults in that they are almost pure white.
 - They are highly dependent on trees, living in the upper canopy of forests. They are also known as **leaf monkeys**.
- **Habitat:** It is endemic to western Assam, India, and southern Bhutan.
 - Their habitat is restricted to the region surrounded by **four geographical landmarks:** the foothills of Bhutan (North), Manas river (East), Sankosh river (West), and Brahmaputra river (South).
- **Threats:**
 - **Restricted Habitat:** As mentioned above, their habitat is restricted by natural boundaries further increasing the threat of extinction.
 - **Habitat Fragmentation:** Their habitat in Assam has fragmented drastically especially

after a thrust on rural electrification and massive deforestation.

- **Inbreeding:** Obstructions such as wires, and gaps in the forest due to felling, have increased the threat of inbreeding among golden langurs.

▪ **Conservation Efforts/Status:**

- The **Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi** entrusted the state zoo with the project for the conservation breeding of golden langur in Assam in 2011.
- In 2019, Bhutan recorded a drop of 62% in the population of golden langurs over the 2009 census.
- The recorded estimation in Assam in 2009 was 5,140. This year's census could not be completed due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

▪ **Protection Status:**

- **IUCN List of Threatened Species:** Endangered
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** : Appendix I
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** : Schedule I

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