



## Dispelling Myths Around Bats in Kerala

[Source: TH](#)

Recently, researchers from Kerala have training programs on **bat taxonomy, acoustics, and biogeography.**

- **Myth, superstition, and zoonotic diseases** such as **Covid-19** and the **Nipah virus** infection, have created a negative impression of bats.
- The project aims to address the challenges posed by emerging **zoonotic diseases** and the ongoing threats faced by **bat populations, including habitat loss and the cutting down of fruit bat roosts.**
- Researchers in Kerala are **also supporting the ongoing National Bat Monitoring Programme, which has been running since 1996.**
  - It gives us the information needed to help **bat conservation.**

### Bats:

- India is home to 135 bat species. Bats are **nocturnal animals.**
- Bats normally **feed on fruits**, helping in **pollination by seed dispersal but also cause agricultural losses and hence are regarded as vermin.**
- The **population of bats** has declined worldwide due to **poaching, meat consumption, use in traditional medicines, climate change, environmental pollution, and biological invasions.**

Read more: [Invasive Alien Species](#)

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