

## Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

**Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance | Species

### Why in News?

Recently, the Kerala government renamed Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in recognition of its exceptional butterfly diversity.

- **About** - Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary is officially declared as **Kerala's first butterfly sanctuary**.
- **Declared in** - 1984.
- **Declared Under** - The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The sanctuary serves as a habitat for migrating butterflies in the Western Ghats.
- **Location** - Situated in **Kannur district, north Kerala**.
- **River** - The Cheenkannipuzha River, originating from the Brahmagiri ranges, flows through the sanctuary.
- **Vegetation** - The sanctuary is composed of evergreen and semi-evergreen forests.
- **Fauna** - The sanctuary hosts a vast number of butterfly species, including Common Albatross and Danaine species.

Common Albatross	Danaine species
<p>Its scientific name is <i>Appias albina</i>. Its subspecies are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sahyadri Common Albatross. (<i>Appias albina swinhoi</i>)</li> <li>• Sylhet Common Albatross (<i>Appias albina darada</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>The Danaine species includes species such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Tiger (<i>Danaus genutia</i>),</li> <li>• Plain Tiger (<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>).</li> </ul>
It belongs to the family <i>Pieridae</i> , i.e., whites and yellows.	It belongs to the family <i>Nymphalidae</i> , i.e., brush-footed butterflies.
Fewer protected species compared to <i>Nymphalidae</i> .	Many species are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- The sanctuary is also a habitat of the **Schedule I Slender Loris**.

***Slender Loris*** is a small, nocturnal primate native to **southern India and Sri Lanka**, known for its large eyes and slow, stealthy movement.

- **Other species** - Spotted Butterfly, Buddha Mayuri, Rosy, Thalir Neeli, Okila Butterfly, and Malabar Rose were also recorded.
- **Ecological Significance** - It supports exceptional butterfly diversity and mass migrations, playing a crucial role in sustaining pollination and forest ecosystem balance.
- **Wildlife corridors**- The sanctuary shares boundaries with Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka), Kottiyoor Wildlife Sanctuary, and the North Wayanad forest division.

## Reference

[The Hindu | Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

