

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

- 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](#)

