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
Its scientific name is *Appias albina*. Its subspecies are • Sahyadri Common Albatross. (*Appias albina swinhoei*) • Sylhet Common Albatross (*Appias albina darada*)	The Danaine species includes species such as • Common Tiger (Danaus genutia), • Plain Tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*).
It belongs to the family *Pieridae*, i.e., whites and yellows.	It belongs to the family *Nymphalidae*, i.e., brush-footed butterflies.
Fewer protected species compared to Nymphalidae.	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

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