

## Golden Langur

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

### Why in News?

Recently, 7 endangered Golden Langurs were successfully released back into the wild at Sikhna Jwhlao National Park in Assam following a major joint anti-trafficking operation.

- **Golden Langur** - It is an ***Old-World monkey***, known primarily for its distinct, leaf-eating dietary adaptations.
- **Scientific Name** - Trachypithecus geei.
- **Family** - Cercopithecidae (Old World Monkeys).
- **Discovery** - The species was discovered in 1953 by the naturalist E.P. Gee.
- **Morphology**
  - **Size** - Medium-sized arboreal primate.
  - Males are slightly larger and more robust than females.
  - **Weight** - 9.5 - 10.8 kg.
  - **Height** - 50 to 75 cm in head-and-body length.
  - **Tail** - Very long, non-prehensile tail measuring 70 to 100 cm.

*Arboreal - Living in, or spending most of its time in, trees.*

- **Unique Trait** - Their striking golden-orange fur, which undergoes fascinating seasonal color changes (dark chestnut in winter to cream-coloured in summer).
- They possess a completely hairless, jet-black face framed by a long, pale beard.



- **Habitat** - High-canopy *subtropical moist deciduous and evergreen forests*, highly dependent on contiguous riverine forest ecosystems.
- **Distribution** - Endemic to a very small region split between Western Assam, India and the neighbouring Black Mountains of Bhutan.
- **Geographical Boundaries**
  - **North** - Foothills of the Black Mountains in Bhutan.
  - **South** - The Brahmaputra River in Assam, India.
  - **East** - The Manas River.
  - **West** - The Sankosh River
- **Diet** - Herbivores (folivores)
- **Internal Adaptations** - They feature a specialized, multi-chambered "tripartite" (three-chambered) stomach utilizes unique microflora to ferment and digest tough cellulose from leaves, fruits, seeds, and buds.

Conservation Status	
<b>IUCN Red List</b>	Endangered
<b>Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972</b>	Schedule I (offering the highest level of legal protection against hunting and trade).
<b>CITES</b>	Appendix I.

- **Threats**
  - Habitat fragmentation,
  - Human-wildlife conflicts, and

- Genetic isolation.

## Reference

[The Hindu | Golden Langur](#)

