Golden Langur

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

Why in News?

Rcently, 7 endangered Golden Langurs were successfully released back into the wild at Sikhna Jwhwlao 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	
IUCN Red List	Endangered
Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972	Schedule I (offering the highest level of legal protection against hunting and trade).
CITES	Appendix I.

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

- Genetic isolation.

Reference

[The Hindu | Golden Langur]

