



GOLDEN LANGUR: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: In Assam, a highway death puts spotlight on an uncommon victim – a golden langur

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The killing of a rare golden langur in Assam's Bongaigaon has sparked protests demanding better protection measures for this endangered species, which plays a vital role in forest ecosystems. Conservation efforts emphasize habitat protection and the prevention of accidents in high-risk areas.

About the Golden Langur (*Trachypithecus geei*)



- **Physical Characteristics:**

- Unique golden fur, varying with seasons and geography.

- **Habitat:**

- Found in sub-tropical and temperate forests of Western Assam and Bhutan.
- Specific habitat types include moist evergreen, tropical deciduous forests, and riverine regions.

- **Distribution Range:**

- Restricted to areas bordered by the Manas River (east), Sankosh River (west), Brahmaputra River (south), and Bhutan's foothills (north).

Behaviour and Ecology

- **Lifestyle:**

- Arboreal, confined to high canopies with long tails aiding in movement.
- Herbivorous, typically in troops of 8 with multiple females per male.

- **Ecological Role:**

- Frugivores that disperse seeds, supporting forest regeneration.



- Their presence is a sign of healthy forest ecosystems.

Conservation Status

- **Legal Protections:**
 - IUCN Red List: Endangered.
 - CITES: Appendix I.
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (India): Schedule I (maximum legal protection).

Key Conservation Efforts

- **Protected Habitats in Assam:**
 - Ripu Reserve Forest.
 - Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - Kakoijana Reserve Forest.
- **Recent Demands and Proposals:**
 - Constructing hanging bridges over highways to aid safe movement.
 - Implementing traffic barricades in high-risk zones to prevent road accidents.

National Parks in Assam

- Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Dibru-Saikhowa, Orang, Raimona, Dehing Patkai, Shikna Jwhwlaao.

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