

Golden langur

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In news- Neighbours of a golden langur habitat i.e., Kakoijana Reserve Forest in western Assam's Bongaigaon district have opposed a move by the State government to upgrade it to a wildlife sanctuary.

About Golden langur-

- Golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*), is an Old World monkey found in moist evergreen and tropical deciduous forests, mainly in a small region of Western Assam, and in the neighboring foothills of the Black Mountains of Bhutan.
- Adult males have a cream to golden coat with darker flanks while the females and juveniles are lighter.
- It has a black face and a long tail up to 50 cm in length.
- It lives in high trees and has a herbivorous diet of ripe and unripe fruits, mature and young leaves, seeds, buds and flowers.
- Their hair ranges from dark golden to creamy buff and their faces are black and hairless except for a long pale beard.
- Its **fur changes colours according to the seasons.**
- Habitat destruction is a major threat to them.
- IUCN status – **Endangered.**
- It is a Schedule-I species under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- It is also listed in Appendix I under CITES.
- **Chakrashila** of Assam **is India's first wildlife sanctuary with golden langur as the primary species.**

Kakoijana Reserve Forest-

- It is located near Abhayapuri in Bongaigaon district of Assam.

- The forest is famous for its golden langur.
- The reserved forest was constituted in the year 1966 as reserved forest.
- It falls under Aie Valley Division.

Difference between Reserve Forest & Wildlife Sanctuary-

Reserve Forest	Wildlife Sanctuary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reserved forest are forests accorded a certain degree of protection. • The concept was introduced in the Indian Forest Act of 1927 during the British Raj. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlike National Parks or wildlife sanctuaries, reserved forests and protected forests are declared by the respective state governments. • Activities including hunting, grazing, etc. in reserved forests are banned unless specific orders are issued otherwise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a natural area that is reserved by a governmental or private agency for the protection of particular species. • Area is designated for the protection of wild animals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It comes under the category called "Protected Areas". • It comes under category IV of IUCN.