

Kadavur Reserve Forest, a sanctuary for the Slender Loris

August 18, 2021

In news- There is a demand to declare Kadavur Reserve Forest in Karur district of Tamil Nadu as a sanctuary for Slender Loris.

Key updates

- A proposal has been sent to the State government to declare the Kadavur Reserve Forest in Kadavur taluk in Karur district as a sanctuary for Slender Loris.
- The entire forest in the taluk has been classified as a reserve forest and considered a hotspot in the State for Slender Loris.
- According to a census taken in 2016-17 by the Forest Department, the Reserve Forest has a population of 3,500 Slender Loris and the current population is estimated to be around 5,000.

About Slender Loris(*Loris tardigradus*)-

- The Slender Loris is a small, **secretive nocturnal primate**.
- It is **commonly found in the tropical scrub and deciduous forests** as well as the dense hedgerow plantations bordering farmlands of **Southern India and Sri Lanka**.
- These animals are about 25 cm long and have long, thin arms.
- **Their most prominent feature is the pair of two large**, closely set, brown eyes.
- Being **arboreal**, they spend most of their life on the trees.

- They live between 12-15 years.
- **The two species of slender loris are:** The red slender loris (*Loris tardigradus*) and the gray slender loris (*L. lydekkerianus*)
 - They are **known to be very social at dusk and dawn, interacting with others of their own.**
 - They are fond of lantana berries and also eat insects, lizards, small birds, tree frogs, tender leaves and buds.
 - **They have the habit of urine washing of their face and limbs, which is thought to soothe or defend against the sting of the toxic insects they prefer to eat.**
- **IUCN status- Endangered and** has been brought under **Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- **Threats:**
 - As it is believed that these animals have some **medicinal properties**, they are captured and sold.
 - Since there is great demand for **keeping these animals as pets, they are illegally smuggled.**

Habitat loss, electrocution of live wires and road accidents are other threats that have caused its populations to dwindle.