

# Red panda

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**In news-** A red panda rescued was recently released into the wild in Arunachal Pradesh.

## **About Red Panda-**

- Red panda, also called **lesser panda, red cat-bear, or red bear-cat** is reddish brown, long-tailed, raccoon-like **mammal**, about the size of a large domestic cat.
- Its Scientific Name is Ailurus fulgens.
- It is found in the mountain **forests of the Himalayas and adjacent areas of eastern Asia**.
- Red pandas are made up of **two subspecies** – the **Himalayan red panda** (Ailurus fulgens fulgens), which resides in the mountains of northern India, Tibet, Bhutan, and Nepal, and the **Chinese red panda** (A. fulgens styani), which lives in China's Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.
- It is also the **state animal of Sikkim**.
- It subsists mainly on **bamboo and other vegetation, fruits, and insects**.
- Once classified as a relative of the giant panda, it is now usually **classified as the sole member of the family Ailuridae**.
- The head and body length of the red panda is 50–65 cm and the tail 30–50 cm long.
- The feet have hairy soles, and the claws are semi-retractile.
- It is nocturnal and may live alone, in pairs, or in family groups.
- The red panda has an extra thumb for feeding and climbing.
- **Conservation issues include** habitat fragmentation and degradation, predation by feral dogs and occasional hunting and poaching.