

White-cheeked macaque

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In news– Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have found a new mammal species – the White Cheeked Macaque in Arunachal Pradesh.

About White Cheeked Macaque (*Macaca leucogenys*)–

- The white-cheeked macaque is a species of macaque and it lives in forest habitats, from tropical forests to primary and secondary evergreen broad-leaved forests and mixed broadleaf-conifer forests
- It is one of twenty-three extant species in the genus *Macaca*, and the most recent to be formally described to science.
- It was first discovered in China (Modog in Southeastern Tibet) in 2015, its existence was not known in India before this recent discovery of its presence in the remote **Anjaw district in central Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Both the Arunachal macaque as well as the White Cheeked Macaque exist in the same biodiversity hotspot in the eastern Himalayas.
- Along with White-Cheeked Macaques and Arunachal Macaque the other species of Macaques are Assamese Macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) and Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) reported from the same landscape.
- White- Cheeked Macaques are distinct from other macaques found in the region by displaying white cheeks, long and thick hairs on the neck area, and a longer tail.
- The latest discovery, **takes India's mammal count from 437 to 438.**
- The White Cheeked Macaque has distinct white cheeks, long and thick hair on the neck and a longer tail than other Macaque species.
- It is the last mammal to have been discovered in Southeast Asia.