

Lion-Tailed Macaque

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Lion-Tailed Macaques Latest News

Researchers cautioned that the increase of lion-tailed macaques in human-dominated landscapes is driven largely by easy access to food associated with human presence.

About Lion-Tailed Macaques

- It is an **Old World monkey**.
- It is also **known as the 'beard ape'** because of its mane.
- **Appearance**
 - The magnificent Lion-tailed macaque is **named due to its lion-like, long, thin, and tufted tail**. Also they are characterised by the **grey mane around their face**.
 - It is one of the **smallest macaque species** in the world.
- **Distribution:** It is endemic to **evergreen rainforests** of the southern part in Western Ghats, with its range passing through the three states of **Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.

Characteristics of Lion-Tailed Macaques

- It is an **arboreal and diurnal creature**, they sleep at night in trees (typically, high in the canopy of rainforest).
- These macaques are **territorial and very communicative animals**. One of the distinguishing features of this species is that **males define the boundaries of their home ranges by calls**.
- Overall, their communication system **contains as many as 17 vocalisations**.
- **Diet:** It is **omnivorous** and feeds upon a wide variety of food, although fruits form the major part of their diet.

Conservation Status of Lion-Tailed Macaques

- **IUCN:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

Source: **TH**

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