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Table of Contents

1. Nilgiri Tahr (Nilgiri Ibex).....	2
2. Grey Slender Loris.....	3
3. MERCOSUR Grouping.....	4





1. Nilgiri Tahr (Nilgiri Ibex)

Prelims Perspective: What needs to be learned

- Habitat and Protection Status
- Eravikulam National Park

What needs to be known?

- Nilgiri Tahr (Nilgiri Ibex)

→ **Habitat**

- ★ It is **endemic to the Nilgiri Hills** and the southern portion of the **Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**

→ **Protection Status**

- ★ **IUCN Status:** Endangered ; **WPA , 1972:** Schedule 1

→ **Threats**

- ★ Habitat loss (mainly from domestic livestock and spread of invasive plants) ; Poaching.
- ★ Populations of these animals are small and isolated, making them vulnerable to local extinction,
- ★ Climate Change

→ **Fact to Know:** It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.

- Eravikulam National Park

→ **Location:** Southern Western Ghats, Kerala.

→ **Ecological Significance:** Presence of Shola Forest and key habitat of Nilgiri Tahr.





2. Grey Slender Loris

Prelims Perspective: What needs to be learned?

- What are primates
- Protection Status of Grey Slender Loris

What needs to be known?

- Grey Slender Loris
 - **What is it?:** It is a **primate species** that is **nocturnal** in nature.
 - **Habitat:** They are found in the dry forests of South India, especially Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.
 - **Protection Status**
 - ★ **IUCN:** Near Threatened; **WPA:** Schedule I; **CITES:** Appendix II



What are Primates?

- **Primates** are a group of mammals that include **humans, monkeys, apes, lemurs, and lorises.**



3. MERCOSUR Grouping

Prelims Perspective: What needs to be learned?

- What's Mercosur and who are the Member Countries
- India's Engagement

Mains Perspective: Notes need to be prepared

- Regional Grouping(GS II- International Relations)

What needs to be known?

- MERCOSUR Grouping

→ **What is it?:** It is a regional trade bloc and customs union headquartered in Montevideo, Uruguay, and formed by the Treaty of Asunción (1991).

→ **Member Countries**

★ Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay.

- Significance of MERCOSUR Grouping for India

→ Diversification of the market for Indians goods like pharmaceuticals, automobiles, textiles, IT services, chemicals, and engineering goods

→ Access to critical minerals like Lithium (**Lithium Triangle** - Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia).

→ Strengthens South–South cooperation and ensures support for UN reforms.