



Phayre's Leaf Monkey (*Trachypithecus phayrei*)

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News Context: Rapid habitat loss in North-East India is forcing this typically tree-dwelling (arboreal) monkey to spend more time on the ground, increasing its vulnerability to predators.

- **Habitat:** Distributed in **Tripura, Assam, and Mizoram** in India, as well as Bangladesh and Myanmar. It thrives in tropical deciduous and bamboo forests.
- **Conservation Status:** * **IUCN:** Endangered.
- **CITES:** Appendix II.
- **Behavioral Change:** The transition from **arboreal to terrestrial** behavior due to "canopy fragmentation" (logging and rubber plantations) is a sign of ecological stress.
- **Wholistic Insight:** This is an example of **Anthropogenic Behavioral Modification**. For UPSC, relate this to the **Ecological Corridor** concept—the need to connect fragmented forest patches to allow safe movement for primates.