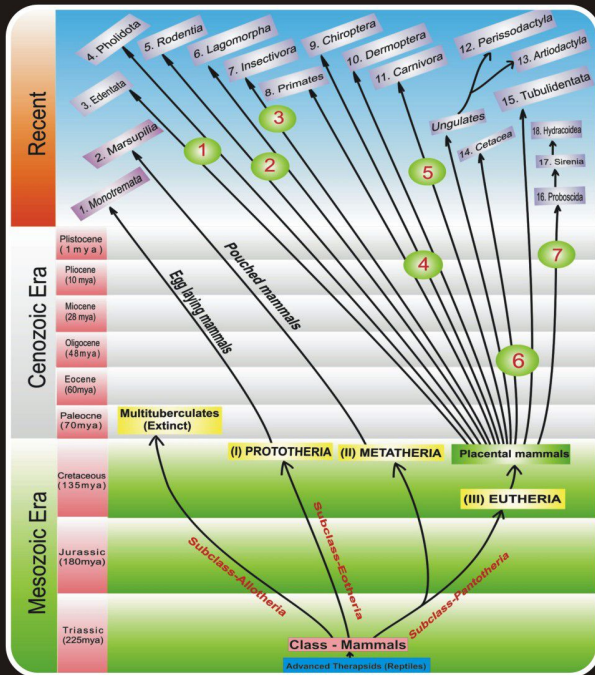


Exhibition on Mammalian Series

The exhibition explored the evolution of mammalian species ranging from Big to small, from speedy to sloth-like and displayed animals with oversized claws, snouts and horns.

Mammals were evolved from Advanced Therapsid a reptile i.e. Dicotyledon, they come under Subclass-Synapsida of Class-Reptilia, gradually during 150 million years of Jurassic era. But they remained suppressed by the mighty Dinosaurs and could not grow larger than a cat. A large no. of them became extinct. Eupantotherian lineage became the ancestor of all modern mammals. Mammals got the opportunity to flourish after the extinction of Dinosaurs, during 70 million years ago, when almost suddenly within a few million years, seven distinct mammalian groups had evolved and all of the 16 orders established in Sub-class, Eutheria and one order each in Marsupials and Monotremes Sub-class. Therefore total 18 orders of Class-Mammalia established from the Sub-class Prototheria, Metatheria and Eutheria. These are the Sub-classes of present-day living mammals, whereas Allotheria, Eotheria and Pantotheria are Sub-classes of extinct mammals of the Mesozoic period. Fig.1- Shows the Evolution of Mammals with time scale from Advanced Therapsid, the reptile. All these ancestral mammals were small in size but grew larger and diversified in the extinction of dinosaurs.



Evolution of Mammals



Sloth Bear (*Melurus ursinus*):

Sloth bears are typically black, but sometimes have a blackish brown tinge on the shaggy coat. A V- and U- shaped, whitish or buff-coloured breast patch is present. The sloth bear is endemic to the Indian subcontinent. In India, it ranges from the southern tip of the Western Ghats to the foothills of the Himalaya.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as Vulnerable, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

Golden Langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) & Slender Loris (*Loris tardigradus*):



The Golden langur is a medium sized primate. The coat colour is cream to off-white during non-breeding season, appearing golden orange during the breeding season. The golden langur prefers tropical, subtropical and temperate forest. In India it is found in forest types range from moist mixed deciduous forests of sal (*Shorea robusta*) to broad leaved semi-evergreen forest including Khair, sissou, bamboo and riverine forests.

Conservation status:-

IUCN has listed them as Endangered, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.



The Slender loris is a small nocturnal prosimian. The second digits on both hands and feet are reduced, and move somewhat in the same plane as the thumb or big toe. On the second digit of the feet, the nail is modified to form a toilet claw, used for scratching and cleaning. Slender lorises are reported from both dry deciduous and moist deciduous forests of India and Sri Lanka, at altitudes up to 1500 m.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as Endangered, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of

the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

Chital (*Axis axis*):

The Chital is a moderately sized deer. The species is sexually dimorphic; males are larger than females, and antlers are present only on males. The distribution of chital ranges from India to Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The western limit of its range is eastern Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as Least Concern, whereas they are listed under the Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.



Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) & Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*):



The leopard cat is the most widely distributed Asian small wild cat. It's fur colour is yellowish brown in the southern populations, but pale silver-grey in the northern ones. The black markings may be spotted, rosetted, or may even form dotted streaks, depending on subspecies. It lives in tropical evergreen rainforests and plantations at sea level, in subtropical deciduous and coniferous forests in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as Least Concern, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

The Indian pangolin is a solitary, shy, slow-moving, nocturnal mammal. Females are generally smaller than the males and have one pair of mammae. The most noticeable characteristic of the pangolin is its massive, scaled armour, which covers its upper back and its whole body with the exception of the belly and the inside of the legs. The animal can be found in grasslands and secondary forests, and is well adapted to desert regions as it is believed to have a tolerance to dry areas, but prefers more barren, hilly regions.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as Endangered, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

Snow Leopard (*Panthera unica*):

The snow leopard is a medium to large-sized cat. They have an exquisite smoky-grey pelage tinged with yellow and patterned with dark grey, open rosettes and black spots. In India, it occurs along the Himalaya and northern border with China in the Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as Vulnerable, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

Marbled Cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*) & Armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*):

The Marbled cat is a small wild cat, it is characterized as being very active, with a great capacity to climb and jump. Their front feet have webbed and flexible paws. Their claws are retractable and are double-sheathed, so they are well suited for climbing. Marbled cats live in Nepal and northern India, south-eastern Asia, Borneo and Sumatra. They occur in mixed deciduous-evergreen forest, secondary forest, rocky scrub. Marbled cats primarily prey on birds and small arboreal mammals.



Conservation status- IUCN has listed them as Near threatened, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as Near threatened, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

Armadillo is a medium-sized mammal found in North, Central, and South America. The term "armadillo" means "little armoured one" in Spanish, and refers to the presence of bony, armour-like plates covering their body. These are nocturnal and spend their waking time burrowing or feeding. Approximately 20 species of armadillo exist, but the nine-banded is the only one found in the United States, its ancestors originated in South America. Armadillo is a solitary and it is an insectivore, feeding primarily on ants, termites, and other small invertebrates.

Conservation status-

Due to high reproduction rate and expanding distribution, nine banded armadillos are not considered in any danger. In fact, throughout most of their distribution their population size is increasing. Therefore IUCN is listed them as least concern.

Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrias*):

The Nilgiri tahr is a stocky goat with short, coarse fur and a bristly mane. Males are larger than females and of darker colour when mature. Both sexes have curved horns, reaching up to 40 cm for males and 30 cm for females. Adult males develop a light grey area on their backs, thus are called "saddlebacks". Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western Ghats in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in Southern India.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as Endangered, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) & Mouse deer (*Moschiola indica*):

The Red panda has long, soft, reddish-brown fur on the upper parts, blackish fur on the lower parts, and a light face with tear markings and white badges. In India, Red Panda occur in Singhalila National Park and Neora Valley National Park in West Bengal; Kanchendzonga National Park, Singha Rododendron Sanctuary, Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary, Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary, Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary and Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary in Sikkim and in Tawang.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as Endangered, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

The Mouse deer, in general, stand 20-40 cm high at the shoulder and are sexual dimorphic as males are smaller than females. Mouse-deer occupy a range of habitats from evergreen forests to plantations. They are an ancient group of frugivorous ungulates, small-bodied and active both day and night. Mouse deer are primarily frugivores, consuming easily digestible items which provide relatively high protein and less fibrous materials.

Conservation status-

IUCN has listed them as least concern, whereas they are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.



Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum Of Natural History

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Sawai Madhopur-322001 (Rajasthan)
Phone no.: 07462-223010

Timing: 10 AM to 6 PM
Museum will remain close on every
Monday & National Holidays

