# **Central Zoo Authority Invited talk by Dr. Nabajit Das, a faculty of Zoology Dept, B. H. College**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through the Central Zoo Authority is conducting massive conservation awareness activities as part of **'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'**: Commemoration of 75 years of India's Independence under the theme- Conservation to Co-existence: The people connect #75weeks 75species # 75 zoos. **Dr. Nabajit Das** of the Dept. was invited to talk (online) about the Bengal Slow loris (a nocturnal primate species exclusively found in NE India) on  $2^{nd}$  Feb, 2022 as a part of this programme.

## Full talk link:

https://youtu.be/\_naKCyg\_kA4 and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_naKCyg\_kA4

### Talk banner by CZA (Central Zoo Authority)



## Know all about the Species

The Bengal Slow Loris is an arboreal and nocturnal primate that inhabits tropical evergreen rainforest, semi-evergreen forest, and mixed deciduous forest. They are easily identified by their facial features i.e. large forward-facing eyes in proportion to the head. Their pelage (fur) colour varies from ash-grey to buff-yellow with a dark-coloured stripe starting from the head and ending midway along the back.

They are native to Southeast Asia and also sparsely found in North-East India. Their average lifespan is about 15 years in the wild. They live in small family groups with no dominance hierarchy and maintain territory by scent marking.

The diet consists of nectar, tree bark, fruits and small invertebrates. Bengal Slow Lorises use a variety of verbal and non-verbal signals to communicate with one another.

Habitat loss and poaching (for the exotic pet trade and traditional medicine) has led to the decline in the species population throughout its range. It has been accorded highest protection under the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972. There are 40 individuals housed in 10 zoos across India.



Dr. Nabajit Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, B.H. College, Assam & Adjund Researcher Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK & Primate Research Centre NE India Guwahati, Assam.



**Dr. Sengbat Momin,** Veterinary Officer, Nehru Park cum Mini Zoo, Tura, Meghalaya.





## Bengal Slow Loris Nycticebus bengalensis

#### Know all about the Zoo

The Nehru Park cum Mini Zoo, Danakgre is the only zoo in the Garo Hills region of Meghalaya. It was initially established as a rescue facility for wild animals by the District Administration at Tura Park. As the collection expanded the need for a permanent holding facility was realised and the zoo was shifted to its present location at Danakgre. Presently, the zoo houses 7 species of mammals, 11 species of birds and 3 species of reptiles.



