

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**PROJECT NILGIRI TAHR**

To conserve and protect the State animal of Tamil Nadu "**Nilgiri Tahr (Varaiyadu)**", the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had launched "**Project Nilgiri Tahr**" on October 12, 2023. One of the main objectives in this iconic project is Population estimation of Nilgiri Tahr. A "**Pilot study**" is being undertaken now in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation, Tamil Nadu and WWF-India, the pilot study is being conducted at, Valparai, Anamalai Tiger Reserve home to Nilgiri Tahr.

Project Director, Thiru M.G. Ganesan will lead a team of 25 research personnel and field staffs to implement 3 days protocol. Based on the data and results obtained from five different methods, the best suitable method will be followed in upcoming synchronized census during March-April, 2024 in Tahr habitats in Tamil Nadu. First time, Drones have been used for population estimation in Nilgiri Tahr.

Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Dept.

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