

## Leopard Numbers Show 8% Rise from 2018 to 2022 | Madhya Pradesh | 01 Mar 2024

## Why in News?

According to a report made public by the Environment Ministry, India's <u>leopard</u> numbers rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022.

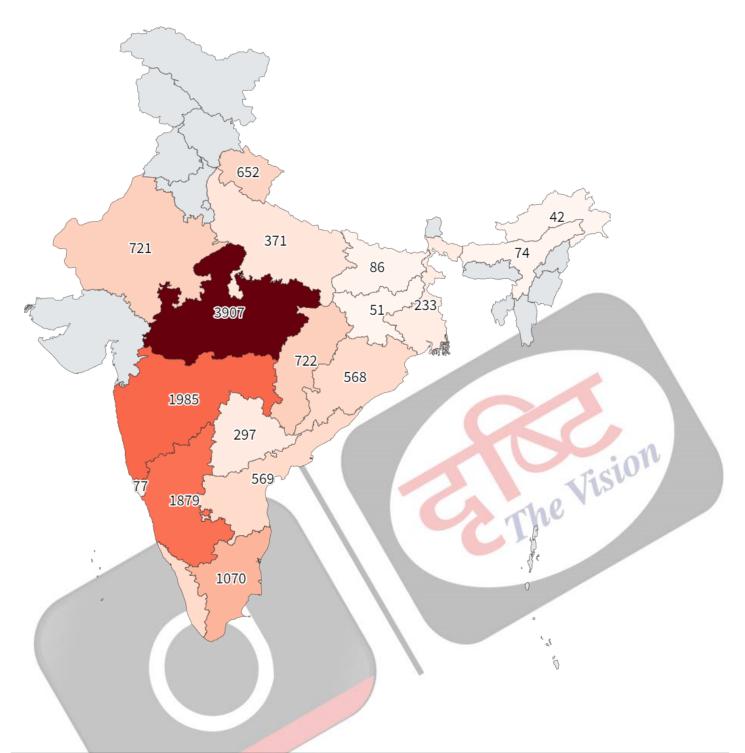
## **Key Points**

- The highest number of leopards were reported in Madhya Pradesh (3,907), only three other States reported over a 1,000 animals each — Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070).
- Uttarakhand reported a 22% decline in the big cat numbers, due to poaching and <u>human-animal conflict.</u>
- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal saw a collective 150% rise to 349 animals.
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- In the analysis coordinated by the <u>whome institute or india</u>, the Shivalk hills and the Gangetic plains recorded 3.4% yearly decline, while Central India and the <u>Eastern Ghats</u>, the <u>Western</u> <u>Ghats</u> and the hills of the northeast, and the Brahmaputra flood plains recorded growth of 1.5%, 1% and 1.3% per annum respectively.
- Leopard numbers have declined in Ramnagar forest division (Uttarakhand), where tiger numbers have shown a very steep growth in the past four years.
  - The significant increase in leopard population reported in the northeastern States was due to a **"sampling artifact",** indicating that there were few systematic surveys and fewer cameras installed in previous years.

## Wildlife Institute of India

- It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- It was established in 1982.
- It is based in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- It offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management.

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