



International Leopard Day 2023

Why in News?

On **International Leopard Day** (May 3, 2023), the **Cape Leopard Trust (CLT)**, an active predator conservation working group, launched a new portal dedicated to **leopards to promote and celebrate leopards globally**.

- The portal was launched at the **Global Leopard Conference**.

What are the Characteristics of Leopard?



- **Scientific Name:**
 - *Panthera pardus*
- **About:**
 - Leopards are elusive and **nocturnal animals** whose size and colour depend on the habitat. They are great climbers and hide in trees, where they hide their prey to avoid competition.
- **Geographical Extent:**
 - **Members of the cat family**, leopards live in Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Russia, and the Indian subcontinent.
 - The Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.
- **Habitat:**
 - In comparison to other large carnivores, **leopards are quite adaptable with respect to their habitat needs** and food requirements, being found in:
 - Agro-pastoral landscapes

- Plantations
- Near human habitation (both rural and urban)
- **Population in India:**
 - As per '[Status of leopards in India, 2018](#)' report released by MoEF&CC, there has been a "60% increase in the population count of leopards in India from 2014 estimates".
 - The 2014 estimates placed the population of leopards at nearly 8,000 which has increased to 12,852.
 - The largest number of leopards have been estimated in Madhya Pradesh (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1,783) and Maharashtra (1,690).
- **Threat:**
 - **Habitat loss**
 - **Poaching**
 - [Human-wildlife conflict](#)
- **Protection Status:**
 - [IUCN Red List](#): **Vulnerable**
 - [CITES](#): **Appendix I**.
 - [Wildlife Protection Act 1972](#): **Schedule I**
- **Human-Leopard Conflict:**
 - The areas that often witness leopard-human conflicts include Srinagar in the Kashmir Valley, the **Brahmaputra Valley** in Assam, [Gir National Park](#) in Gujarat, and [Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve](#) in southern Tamil Nadu.

UPSC Civil Services Exam, Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

Q. Consider the following: (2012)

1. Black-necked crane
2. Cheetah
3. Flying squirrel
4. Snow leopard

Which of the above are naturally found in India?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (b)

Source: DTE