



Leopard Strays Into Residential Colony in Jaipur

Why in News?

Recently, Panic spread in the Vidhyadhar Nagar area after a [leopard](#) strayed into a residential colony and attacked three people. The wildcat was later tranquillised and rescued by a forest department team.



Key Points

▪ About Leopards:

- Its scientific name is ***Panthera pardus***.
- The leopard is the smallest of the Big Cats of genus Panthera namely the [Tiger](#), [Lion](#), [Jaguar](#), [Leopard](#), and [Snow Leopard](#). It known for its ability to adapt in a variety of habitats.
- A nocturnal animal, the leopard hunts at night.
- It feeds on smaller species of herbivores found in its range, such as the chital, hog deer and wild boar.
- Melanism is a common occurrence in leopards, wherein the entire skin of the animal is black in colour, including its spots.
 - A melanistic leopard is often called [black panther](#) and mistakenly thought to be a different species.

▪ Habitat:

- It occurs in a wide range in **sub-Saharan Africa**, in small parts of **Western** and **Central Asia**, on the **Indian subcontinent** to **Southeast** and **East Asia**.
- The [Indian leopard \(*Panthera pardus fusca*\)](#) is a leopard widely distributed on the

Indian subcontinent.

▪ **Population in India:**

- As per a recent report '[Status of leopards in India, 2018](#)' released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 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).**

▪ **Threats:**

- Poaching for the illegal trade of skins and body parts.
- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Human-Leopard conflict

▪ **Conservation Status:**

- [IUCN Red List](#): Vulnerable
- [CITES](#): Appendix-I
- [Indian Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#): Schedule-I

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