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## Nandankanan Zoological Park: Odisha

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### Why in News

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Recently, death of two **sloth bears** have been reported from the **Nandankanan Zoological Park**, Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

The exact cause of deaths is not yet known. Earlier, a 28-year-old **Himalayan black bear** died probably due to old age as bears are known to live for about 30 years.

### Key Points

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- **Nandankanan Zoological Park:**

- It is 15 kms from **Odisha's capital, Bhubaneswar**. It was **inaugurated in 1960**.
- First zoo in the country to become a **member of the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA)**.

WAZA is the global alliance of regional associations, national federations, zoos and aquariums, dedicated to the care and conservation of animals and their habitats around the world.

- It is recognized as a leading zoo for the **breeding of the Indian pangolin and white tiger**.

Leopards, mouse deer, lions, ratel and vultures are also bred here.

- It was the **world's first captive crocodile breeding centre**, where **gharials** were bred in captivity in 1980.
- The **State Botanical Garden of Nandankanan** is one of the pioneering plant conservation and nature education centres of Odisha.

- **Sloth Bears:**



- **Scientific Name:** *Melursus ursinus*
- **Habitat:** Also called honey bear, **Hindi bhalu**, it is a forest-dwelling member of the **family Ursidae** (comprises 8 species of bears) that inhabits tropical or subtropical regions of India and Sri Lanka.
- **Protection Status:**
  - **‘Vulnerable’** in the **IUCN Red List**.
  - **Appendix I** in **CITES listing**.
  - **Schedule I** of the **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, poaching for body parts and are sometimes captured for use in performances or hunted because of their aggressive behavior and destruction of crops.

- **Himalayan Black Bear:**



- **Scientific Name:** *Ursus thibetanus*
- **Habitat:** Also called **Asiatic black bear**, it inhabits mountainous and heavily forested areas across southern and eastern Asia.
- **Protection Status:**
  - **‘Vulnerable’** in the **IUCN Red List**.
  - **Appendix I** in **CITES listing**.
  - **Schedule I** of the **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
- **Threats:** Illegal hunting for body parts, specifically the gallbladder, paws and skiing poses the main threat, together with habitat loss caused by logging, expansion of human settlements and roads.

**Source: TH**