



## 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**