



Leopard Numbers Show 8% Rise from 2018 to 2022

Why in News?

According to a report made public by the Environment Ministry, India's [leopard](#) 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 [human-animal conflict](#).
 - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal saw a collective 150% rise to 349 animals.
- In the analysis coordinated by the [Wildlife Institute of India](#), the Shivalik hills and the Gangetic plains recorded 3.4% yearly decline, while Central India and the [Eastern Ghats](#), the [Western Ghats](#) 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.

