

13 – 01 – 2024

News: Snow Leopard

- **Kyrgyzstan has officially declared the Snow Leopard as its national symbol, signifying its commitment to conservation and ecological balance.**

Snow Leopard

- Snow Leopard (often referred to as the “**ghost of the mountains**”) inhabits at the **higher Himalayan & trans-Himalayan landscape in 4 states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and UT’s of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.**
- This area contributes to **5% of global snow leopard range.**
- Snow leopard acts as an **indicator species to the health of the mountain ecosystem** in which they live, due to their position as the **top predator in the food web.** It is also declared as a **flagship species** by the Government of India **for the high-altitude Himalayas.**
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable.
- Wildlife protection Act: Schedule I.
- CITES Status: Appendix I.
- CMS Status: Appendix I.
- Recently, the 1st Snow Leopard Survey of nation was developed by scientific experts. The use of technology such as camera traps & scientific surveys will

help to estimate the numbers on International Snow Leopard Day (23rd October 2019).