

19– 03 – 2024

News: Status of Leopards in India

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released a report on the Status of Leopards in India 2022. The survey covered 20 States of India, and focussed on about 70% of the animals' expected habitat.

Leopard

- Leopards can be found in Sub-Saharan Africa, in small parts of Western and Central Asia, on Indian Subcontinent to Southeast Asia.
- Leopards are distinguished by their slender and long body and yellowish-brown coats with black spots. They are solitary hunters and nightstalkers and are well known for their ambush attacks when hunting.
- Leopards are excellent climbers. The slender body with short, stocky legs and long tail make them excellent and agile hunters and swimmers.
- Leopards are the smallest of all the big cats it approximately weighs 90 kilograms.
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable.
- Wildlife Protection act: Schedule I.
- CITES: Appendix I.

- According to a study published in the journal Global Ecology and Biogeography, the leopard faces an 83% increased risk of extinction in North India due to roadkill.

Status of Leopards in India 2022

- Status of Leopards in India 2022 is a **report published by National Tiger Conservation Authority** recently.
- Leopards are found in **13 states in India**. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand are states where Leopard is found.
- India's **leopard population rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022**.
- About **65% of the leopard population is present outside protected areas in the Shivalik landscape**. Only about a third of the leopards are within protected areas.
- **Madhya Pradesh has the highest number** of leopards with 3907 big cats, followed by **Maharashtra and Karnataka** respectively.
- In **Odisha** the number of leopards dropped from 760 in 2018 to 562 in 2022, and in **Uttarakhand**, the population declined from 839 in 2018 to 652 in 2022.
- **Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Goa** too reported population declines.