

KYC

Know Your Campus

Issue 3

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About the initiative

The New Forest - the IFS training campus - an area which houses the FRI and its sister institutions including the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) is also home to a rich biodiversity. These flora and fauna become a part of our neighbourhood while we are at the campus. The campus is also adorned by heritage buildings, museums, nurseries and a beautiful landscape. This initiative is aimed at making us more familiar with our neighbourhood.

The KYC (Know your Campus) initiative started by the IFS 2019 batch in this lockdown period shall come out with a campus related topic each day.

Indian Leopard

The Leopard is one among the 5 big charismatic cats found in our country. There are 3 different species of leopards found in India - Indian Leopard, Clouded Leopard and Snow Leopard.



How to identify?

The Indian Leopard is characterized by its yellow fur coat with black rosette-shaped spots. These spots help to differentiate it from the other similar cats - the cheetah or jaguar.



Jaguar



Leopard



Cheetah

Where can we find them?

They are most adaptable among the big cats and are found in various habitats, including rainforests, dry deciduous forests, temperate forests, coniferous forests and even in agricultural and human inhabited areas (such as our FRI Campus). They are more widely distributed than any other large cat.

What do they eat?

They have a varied pallete. They feed on antelopes and deer, wild boar or even smaller animals like hares and rodents. This makes them very adaptable. They are also known to feed on cattle, poultry and dogs if near a village. Like Tigers, they are ambush predators and are known for their strength rather than speed. They are swift and opportunistic hunters.

Some Facts :

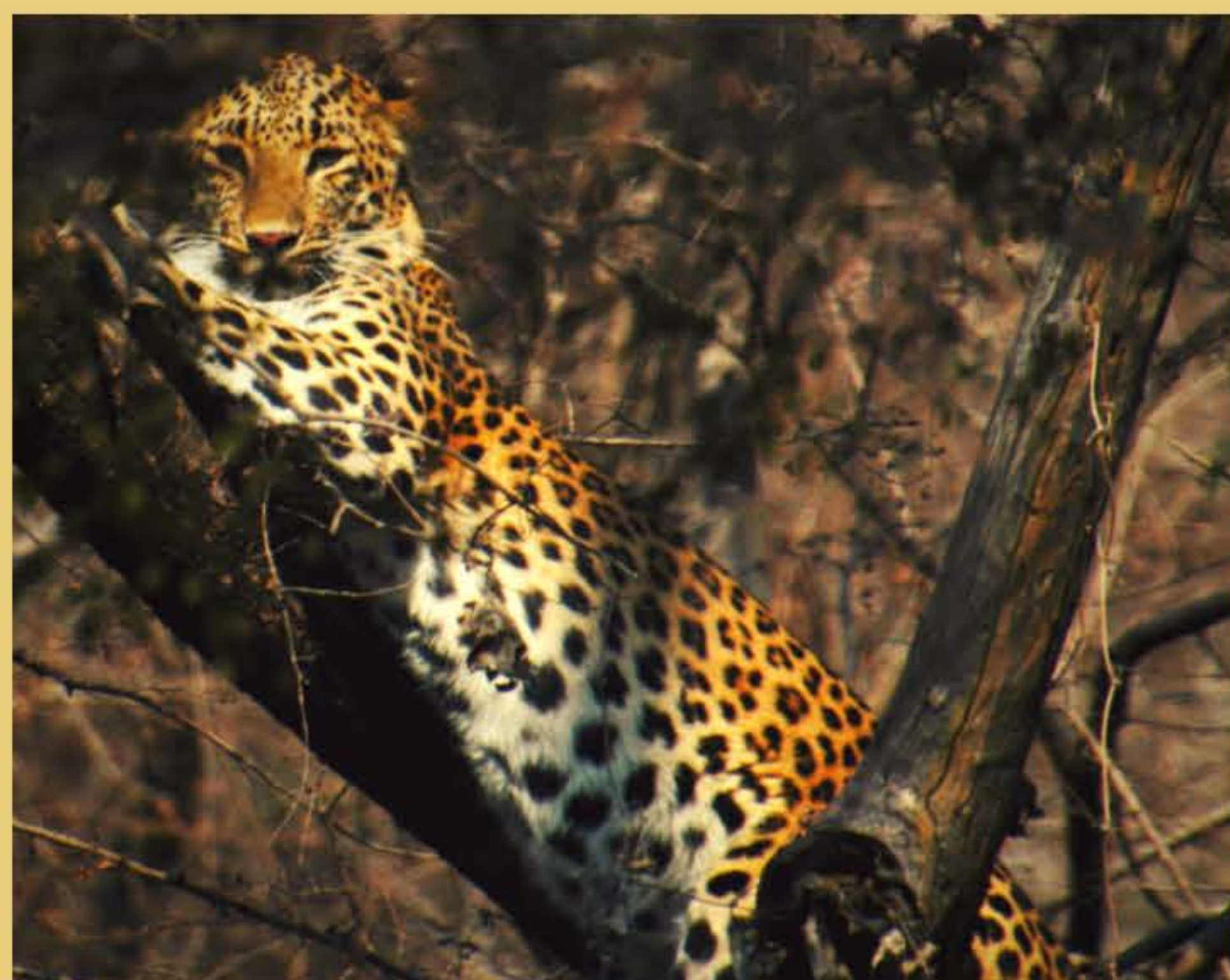
Local Name - Tendua

Scientific Name - Panthera pardus

Family - Felidae

IUCN Status - Vulnerable

Average Male weight - 50-77 kg



Did you know?

Leopards are excellent climbers. They can climb up trees by carrying a prey that's even twice its own weight. These skills assist them to keep their hard earned prey safe from other predators like the hyena.

How do they call?

The most distinct vocalisation of a Leopard is 'Sawing' which is like a Cough or Rasp.



Due to anthropogenic interference, the Indian Leopards have lost their key habitat. This has resulted in venturing out of Leopards in human dominated landscapes. The best way to deal with this situation and to ensure that a healthy prey base is maintained in the forests. If ever we spot one in our locality, we must inform the authorities immediately and make sure that neither human nor the leopard are harmed till it is safely taken away.

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