A KOLE TALUKA OF AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT HAS WITNESS MINIMAL HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS IN FORM OF LEOPARD ATTACKS

The leopard, Panthera pardus, is an apex predator native to India. According to the Indian Wildlife Act of 1972, leopards are protected animals. They are found throughout the subcontinent, including the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, and parts of Assam. Leopards are highly adaptable and can be found in a variety of habitats, including forests, mountains, and even urban areas. They are the most widespread large carnivore in South Asia.

In 2006, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) assessed the leopard as Vulnerable (VU) due to habitat loss and fragmentation. The species is listed as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. In recent years, there have been several initiatives taken by the Government of India and various organizations to protect and conserve leopards, both through conservation programs and law enforcement efforts.

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