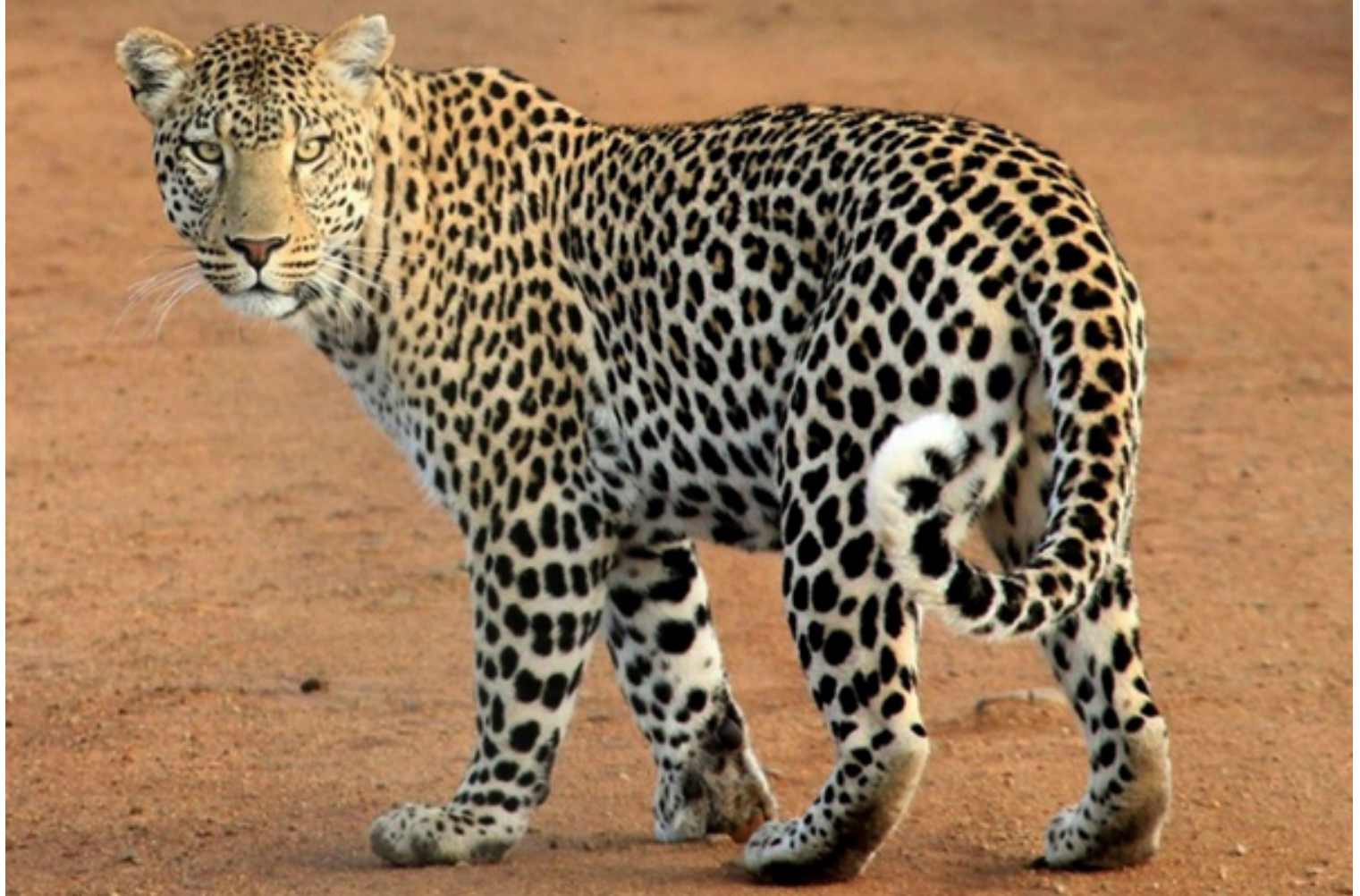


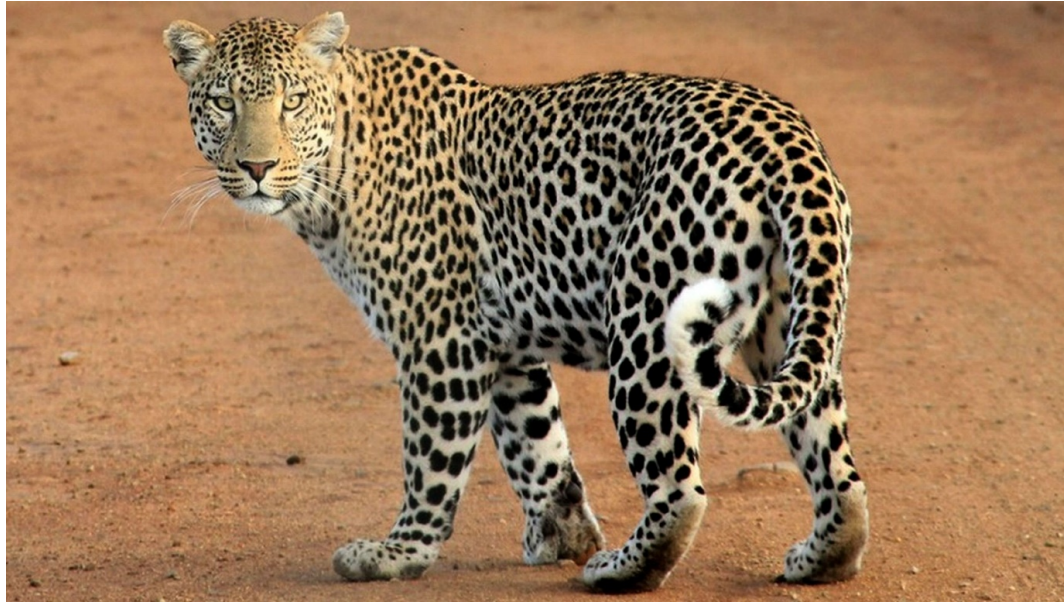
International Leopard Day

By IAS Toppers | 2024-05-08 16:05:00



International Leopard Day

International Leopard Day was recently celebrated on **May 3**.



[ref-PBS]

About Indian Leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*):

- A subspecies of leopard and the smallest among the Big Cats (**genus Panthera**), part of 9 subspecies globally. India hosts the largest population of this subspecies outside Africa.
- **Distribution:** Found across the Indian subcontinent, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, and parts of Pakistan.
- **Habitat:** Thrive in tropical rainforests, dry deciduous forests, temperate forests, and northern coniferous forests. Absent in mangrove forests (e.g., Sundarbans) and deserts.

Appearance:

- The skin is **rosetted** on a **pale yellow/golden background**, fading towards the white underbelly and lower parts of the legs. They have larger rosettes compared to other leopard subspecies.
- Coat **color** varies by habitat, appearing **paler** in **warm** climates and **darker** in **colder** regions.
- They have long tails, short ears, and small **yellowish-grey eyes**.

Characteristics:

- **Solitary** and **nocturnal** by nature, and excellent **tree climbers**.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN:** Vulnerable
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act:** Schedule I