



14 May 2024

West Bengal News

<p><b>Bengal Safari Park</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Bengal Safari Park in Siliguri recently welcomed a new member as the leopard cat gave birth to two cubs.</b> Unfortunately, one of the cubs passed away.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The park now has a total of six leopard cats, including three males and three females.</li><li>● In another development, <b>leopards Rimjhim and Garima at Rasikbil Nature Tourism Centre in Cooch Behar</b> gave birth to seven cubs, increasing the <b>centre's leopard count to 12.</b></li></ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The State of West Bengal with a variety of forest types is very rich in terms of Wildlife. North Bengal flood plains harbor wild animals like Tiger, Common Leopard, Elephant, Rhino, Himalayan Black Bear, Sloth Bear, Gaur, Sambar, Barking Deer, Spotted Deer, Hog Deer, Wild Boar, Rhesus Monkey, Common Langur, different types of small Cats and Civets, Crocodile, Gharail, Jungle Fowls and a large number of Birds &amp; Medicinal Plants.</li><li>● Siliguri is second most populous city after Kolkata in West Bengal.</li></ul>
<p><b>Leopard Cat</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Species Type:</b> Leopard Cat belongs to the Felidae family and is known for dwelling in forests.</li><li>● <b>Scientific Name:</b> Its scientific name is Prionailurus bengalensis.</li><li>● <b>Distinctive Appearance:</b> The Leopard Cat is notable for its resemblance to leopards in terms of coloration.</li></ul> <p><b>Distribution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Leopard Cats are among the most widespread Asian small cats.</li><li>● Their habitat spans across various regions from the Amur area in the <b>Russian Far East to the Korean Peninsula, China, Indochina, the Indian Subcontinent, northern Pakistan, and as far south as the Philippines and the Sunda Islands in Indonesia.</b></li></ul> <p><b>Habitat Preferences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● They are commonly found in areas with agricultural use but have a preference for forested environments.</li></ul>



- Their habitats include tropical evergreen rainforests, sea level plantations, and subtropical deciduous and coniferous forests, especially in the foothills of the Himalayas at altitudes exceeding 1000 meters.

**Features:**

- Leopard Cats exhibit significant variations in size and appearance within their range.
- Their coloration can range from pale tawny to yellow, red, or grey on the upper body with white underparts, often adorned with spots.
- They typically display four black stripes running from the forehead to the nape, which break into shorter bands and elongated spots on the shoulders.
- In terms of size, they typically measure between 45 to 75 cm (18 to 30 inches) in length, excluding their 23–35-cm (9–13.8-inch) tail.
- Behaviorally, they are solitary and carnivorous, primarily active during the night.

**Conservation Status:**

- According to the IUCN Red List, **Leopard Cats are categorized as "Least Concern," indicating that they are not currently facing significant threats to their survival.**

**Dengue**

**Context:**

- Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) is taking strict **action to prevent dengue spread** by imposing fines for dumping garbage on vacant land in the city.

**About:**

- Dengue is a **mosquito-borne viral infection causing a severe flu-like illness** and sometimes causing a potentially lethal complication known as severe dengue.
- Almost half of the world's population, **about 4 billion people, live in areas with a risk of dengue. Dengue is often a leading cause of illness in areas with risk.**
- Dengue outbreaks occur in many countries of the world, including in the Americas, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific Islands.
- No specific treatment exists for dengue.
- **The dengue vaccine CYD-TDV or Dengvaxia received approval from the US Food & Drug Administration in 2019, becoming the first dengue vaccine to be approved in the US.**
- **Vaccine for dengue could be available commercially as early as mid-2026.**



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ADDAPEDIA

## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Indian Immunologicals Limited</b> has finished the <b>first phase of clinical trials to determine the safety of the vaccine</b>, the company's Managing Director K. Anand Kumar said.</li><li>• The second and third phases of trials to test the vaccine's efficacy are expected to begin shortly.</li><li>• <b>IIL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board, established in 1982.</b></li></ul>
<b>Centre reduces kerosene oil allocation for Bengal</b>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Centre has reduced the allocation of kerosene oil for Bengal, citing a <b>recent communication from the Petroleum Ministry to the state Food and Supplies department.</b></li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A case regarding the state's kerosene allocation is pending before the Calcutta High Court, which directed the Centre to allocate kerosene based on the state's requisition until further notice.</li><li>• <b>Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) is one of the sensitive petroleum products distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS).</b></li><li>• Allocation of PDS SKO is made by the Government of India to different States / Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for cooking and lighting only.</li></ul>

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