

Credit - Drishti Ias

## India to Host Commonwealth Games 2030



Source: IE

### Why in News?

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India is set to host the **centenary edition** of the **Commonwealth Games (CWG) in 2030** , with **Ahmedabad** chosen as the proposed venue, marking a key step in its bid for the **2036 Olympics** .

- India last hosted the CWG in **2010 (Delhi)** .
- India has a **strong CWG record** , finishing **4<sup>th</sup> at Birmingham 2022** .
- The **2026 CWG** will take place in **Glasgow, Scotland** .

### What are Commonwealth Games?

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- **About:** CWG is the **world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest multi-sports event (after Olympic Games)** , bringing together athletes from **71 nations and territories** and celebrating the diversity and unity of the Commonwealth.
  - **Evolution:** It was first held in **1930 in Hamilton, Canada** as the **British Empire Games** .
    - The event was known as the **British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1954** , before being renamed the **Commonwealth Games** from **1978 onwards**.
  - **Governing Body:** **Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)** is responsible for the **direction and control** of the Games.
  - **Purpose and Values:** It is held **once every 4 years** and is often referred to as the **Friendly Games**, reflecting the core values of **Humanity, Equality, and Destiny** .
    - It promotes **sports, education, and recreation** while celebrating the Commonwealth's **cultural and linguistic diversity** .
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# 'Commonwealth'

- **About:** It is a **voluntary association of 56 independent and equal countries** , representing a population of **2.7 billion people** , with shared goals of **development, democracy, and peace** .
- **Historical Genesis:**
  - **Imperial Conference (1926):** UK and Dominions agreed to be **equal members within the British Empire** , owing allegiance to the monarch but retaining autonomy.
  - **London Declaration (1949):** Established the **Modern Commonwealth of Nations** , allowing republics and non-British monarchies to join.
- **Membership:** Composed of **56 independent countries** , most formerly British colonies. Membership is **voluntary** , and any country can join; **Gabon and Togo** joined in **2022** .
- **Values and Governance:** It is guided by the **Commonwealth Charter** , promoting **development, democracy, and peace** , with the **Commonwealth Secretariat** in London supporting member states in achieving these goals.
- **India and the Commonwealth:** India is the **largest Commonwealth member by population** and the **4<sup>th</sup> largest financial contributor** .
  - It has hosted the **Commonwealth Summit (1983)** and the **Commonwealth Games (2010)** in New Delhi.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. What are the Commonwealth Games?

The Commonwealth Games are a quadrennial multi-sport event for athletes from 71 Commonwealth nations and territories, promoting sports, cultural diversity, and unity.

### 2. When and where were the first Commonwealth Games held?

The inaugural Games took place in 1930, Hamilton, Canada, as the British Empire Games.

### 3. What is the Commonwealth of Nations?

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 independent countries, mostly former British colonies, promoting development, democracy, and peace through cooperation.

[Watch Video on YouTube: [▶ https://www.youtube.com/embed/qqk7ItADjbs](https://www.youtube.com/embed/qqk7ItADjbs) ]

# UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q.** Consider the following statements in respect of the Laureus World Sports Award which was instituted in the year 2000: **(2021)**

1. American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner of this award.
2. The award was received mostly by 'Formula One' players so far.
3. Roger Federer received this award maximum number of times compared to others.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

## International Snow Leopard Day



**Source: PIB**

India marked **International Snow Leopard Day** with the **'#23for23'** campaign to raise awareness about **snow leopard conservation**.

- In 2024, the **United Nations** designated **23 rd October as International Snow Leopard Day** to promote cooperation for snow leopard conservation and ecosystem protection.
- **#23for23:** The campaign, initiated by the **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)** and the **Snow Leopard Trust worldwide**, to dedicate 23 minutes of physical activity for honouring the snow leopard.
- **Snow Leopard:** The **snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*)**, often called the **'ghost of the mountains'**, is an elusive big cat found across high mountain regions of Asia, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, and several Central Asian countries.
  - It is **ecologically significant** and listed under **Appendix I of CITES**, and **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**.
  - It is classified as **Vulnerable by IUCN (2017)**, the species faces major threats from **habitat loss**,

**prey depletion, poaching, illegal trade, and climate change .**

- They are **solitary animals**, prefer elevations between **3,000 to 4,500 meters**. They breed seasonally, with a **gestation period of 90-100 days**.
- Despite being called the snow 'leopard', they're **genetically more closely related to tigers** than they are leopards.
- **India's Conservation Measures:** The **Snow Leopard Population Assessment (SPA)** reports **718 snow leopards in India, with 477 in Ladakh** , marking the first scientific population survey in the Indian Himalayas.
  - It is listed as **Schedule I species as per Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

# Snow Leopard

*Panthera Uncia*

*Often referred to as the "ghost of the mountains"*

## HABITAT

- Mountainous regions of **Central and Southern Asia**
- **12 Range Countries**
- In India:
  - **Western Himalayas:** Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh
  - **Eastern Himalayas:** Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh

## MAJOR SITES

- Hemis National Park, Ladakh
  - **Snow leopard capital of the world**
- Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh
- Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand
- Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim

## PROTECTION STATUS

- **Vulnerable:** IUCN Red List
- **Appendix I:** CITES
- **Schedule I:** Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972

## THREATS

- Human Snow Leopard Conflict
- Climate Change
- Loss of Prey and Habitat
- Poaching

## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

- Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme
- Himal Sanrakshak- Community Volunteer Programme
- Project Snow Leopard
- Snow Leopard Conservation Breeding Programme- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, West Bengal

**Read more: Snow Leopard**

# Kashmir's First Chrysanthemum Garden



Source: IE

**Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** has launched its first **chrysanthemum garden** as part of efforts to **extend the Valley's tourist season beyond spring** , transitioning from **tulips (Gul-e-Lala)** to **chrysanthemums (Gul-e-Dawood)** .

- It is situated at **Cheshma Shahi** , between **Zabarwan mountains** and **Dal Lake** , adjacent to Srinagar's **Tulip Garden** .

## Chrysanthemum (Dendranthema Grandiflora)

- **About:** It is a **perennial herbaceous plant** belonging to the **Asteraceae family** , popularly known as the " **Queen of the East** ". It is **native to East Asia and Europe** and is the **national flower of Japan** .
- **Commercial Importance:** It is a major **ornamental crop** cultivated primarily for **cut flowers, loose flowers, and pot plants** .
- **Climate & Soil Requirements:**
  - **Climate:** Thrives in **tropical and subtropical climates** . The optimal **temperature range** is **20-28°C during the day** and **15-20°C at night** .
  - **Soil:** Prefers a **well-drained red loamy soil** .



Read More: [Revival of Lotus in Wular Lake](#)