

SHRI KRISHAN MAHAVIDHYALAYA
GOVINDGARH (JAIPUR)

**Topic:- Project on Sajjangarh
Biological Park**

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Supported by

All Subject Teacher's

Submitted By

All Student's of
M.Sc. Final (Zoology)

M.Sc. Final Zoology, List of Student's

S.NO	Student Name	Father's Name
1	ALKA CHOUDHARY	DHARMPAL SINGH
2	ANJU YADAV	GOKUL PRASAD YADAV
3	ARCHNA YADAV	GIRDHARI LAL YADAV
4	ASHA SHARMA	RAMESH CHAND SHARMA
5	GOKUL CHAND SABAL	NAND KISHOR SABAL
6	KHUSHBOO KANWAR RATHORE	GOVERDHAN SINGH RATHORE
7	NEELAM KUMAWAT	SOHAN LAL KUMAWAT
8	PRIYA BARALA	ARJUN LAL BARALA
9	RACHANA YADAV	NARSI YADAV
10	RICHA SHARMA	SHYAM SUNDAR SHARMA
11	SAROJ YADAV	CHHOTU RAM YADAV
12	SUMAN SHERAWAT	KANA RAM SHERAWAT
13	SUMAN YADAV	LAXMAN RAM YADAV

Sajjangarh Biological park



Introduction : -

The palace, built with white marble, is located on Bansdara peak of the Aravalli hill range at an elevation of 944 m (3100 ft) above mean sea level, overlooking Lake Pichola from the west about 1,100 ft (340 m) below the palace. The intention of the original planner, Maharana Sajjan Singh, was to build a nine storey complex, basically as an astronomical centre and to keep track of the movement of monsoon clouds in the area surrounding the palace, and also to provide employment to people. It was also meant to serve as a resort for the royal family. Unfortunately, the Maharana died prematurely at the age of 26 (after only 10 years of rule between 1874 and 1884), which resulted in the shelving of his plans for some time.

Before his death, he had built it partially, and it was subsequently completed by his successor king Maharana Fathe Singh who used it to watch the monsoon clouds. The Royal family also used this building as a hunting lodge. The white marble palace has high turrets and guards regulating each of the towers. The palace has a grand central court with a staircase and many rooms and quarters. The palace is built on marble pillars, which are carved with exquisite motifs of leaves and flowers. The walls are plastered with lime mortar. At night, the illuminated palace with the Rajasthani architecture comprising domes, fountains and jharokas gives it a fairy tale beauty.

Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary, which encircles the palace, was established in 1987. It covers an area of 5.19 square kilometres (2.00 sq mi). It is now a well-protected sanctuary, with the Kishan Pol concrete wall surrounding it. The hillside is thickly wooded and the former rulers maintained this area as a royal shooting preserve.

When Udaipur was attacked by the Scindias in 1764, the hill was used as an ordnance dump; some cannons still remain.

The palace overlooks the sanctuary, which is a reserve for reptiles, tigers, nilgai, sambhar deer, wild boars, hyenas, panthers, and jackals. It is also popular for bird watching. The reserve can also be approached by a trek (as an adventure) starting from the Gorilla Point to the Jiyan Sagar or the Bari Lake, to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Aravalli hills and the wildlife of the reserve forest.

Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary is situated 5kms in the West of tourist city Udaipur, which surrounds the Sajjangarh Palace overlooking Udaipur City. From the palace, one can have a magnificent view of lakes of Udaipur and Aravalli hill ranges. The view of Sunrise and Sunset attracts every visitor atop of Bansdara hill.

Safari Park was created and wild animals like Chital, Sambar, Wild Boar, and Blue Bull were reintroduced. Animals like Panther, Hyena, Hare and Jackal has reappeared apart from variety of reptiles and birds. The wall extended further and now the entire hillock has been fenced, improving the vegetal cover of the sanctuary area.

In the Hills, at a short distance on the North-West of Sajjangarh, there is an artificial lake named Jiyan Sagar, popularly known as "Bari Lake" or "Tiger Lake". The lake was constructed by Maharana Raj Singhji, the ex-ruler of Mewar, in 1664 AD and was named after Jana Devi, the mother of the Maharana. The lake has an area of 1.25 square miles with a storage capacity of 400 million cubic feet of water.

History : -

The history of the palace reflects the history of the Mewar Kingdom. Sajjan Singh, Maharana (b. 18 July 1859 d. 23 December 1884), the initial builder of the Monsoon Palace was the seventy-second ruler of the Mewar Dynasty (1874–1884) and ruled from Udaipur for a short period of 10 years until his untimely death. The Mewar dynasty traces its history to Guhil who founded the Mewar state in 568 AD. Sajjan Singh came to the throne when he was 15 years old. However, his uncle Sohan Singh challenged his right to the crown and even plotted through astrologers, who said the timing for the coronation was not appropriate. Fortunately for him the then British agent, who was in favour of Sajjan Singh, intervened and persuaded the astrologers to give a favourable date for the crowning.

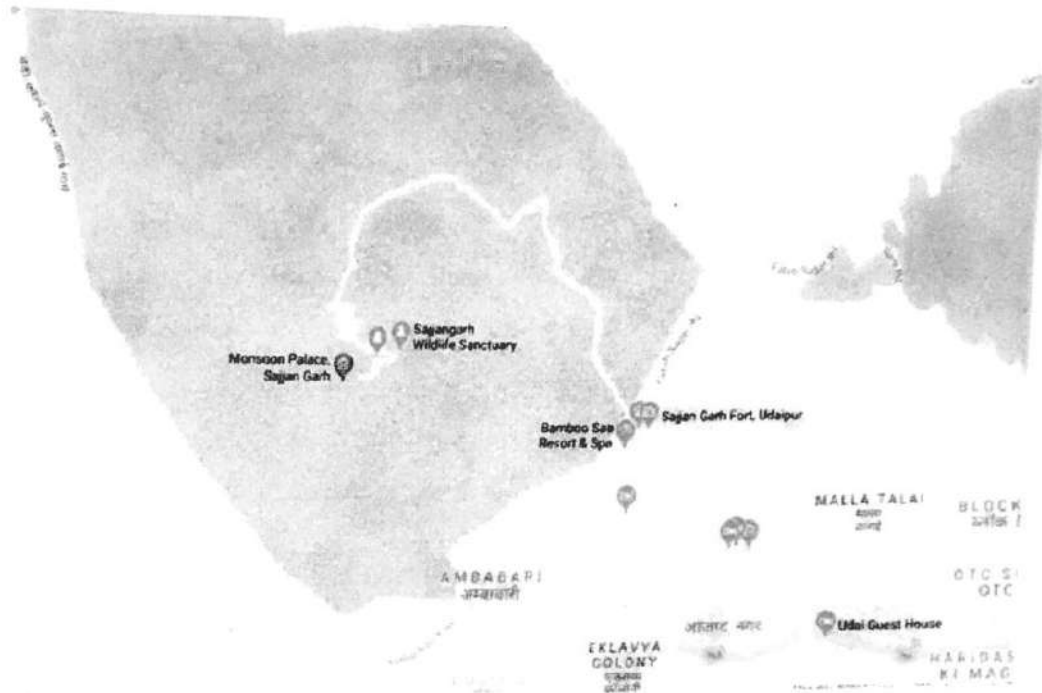
The eventual Coronation of Sajjan Singh took place two years after this. As the trouble-maker uncle was still persisting with his obstructions towards the newly crowned Maharana, his property was confiscated and he was eventually imprisoned. After he was invested in 1876 the Maharana, considered an enlightened ruler and a "man of vision", launched a massive programme of developmental activities in his kingdom, in particular, enlarging infrastructure facilities such as roads, water supply and other civil works. He also introduced civil administration and courts. He also improved the general environment of Udaipur by afforestation and lake improvements. He had Lake Pichola desilted and the masonry dam re-built to improve storage capacity, as well as preserving the historical heritage in line with his personal interest in the arts and culture. The most ambitious project he undertook was building the Sajjan Garh Palace, or the Monsoon Palace, as a western backdrop to Udaipur city.

It was during Sajjan Singh's rule that Udaipur gained recognition as the second Municipality in India, after Bombay. In recognition of his outstanding achievements in preserving and developing the Mewar kingdom, and to remind him that his was a princely state under the British Raj, he was conferred the title of "Grand Commander of the Star of India" in November 1881 by Lord Ripon, on the occasion of Queen Victoria's crowning as the Empress of India.

Location : -

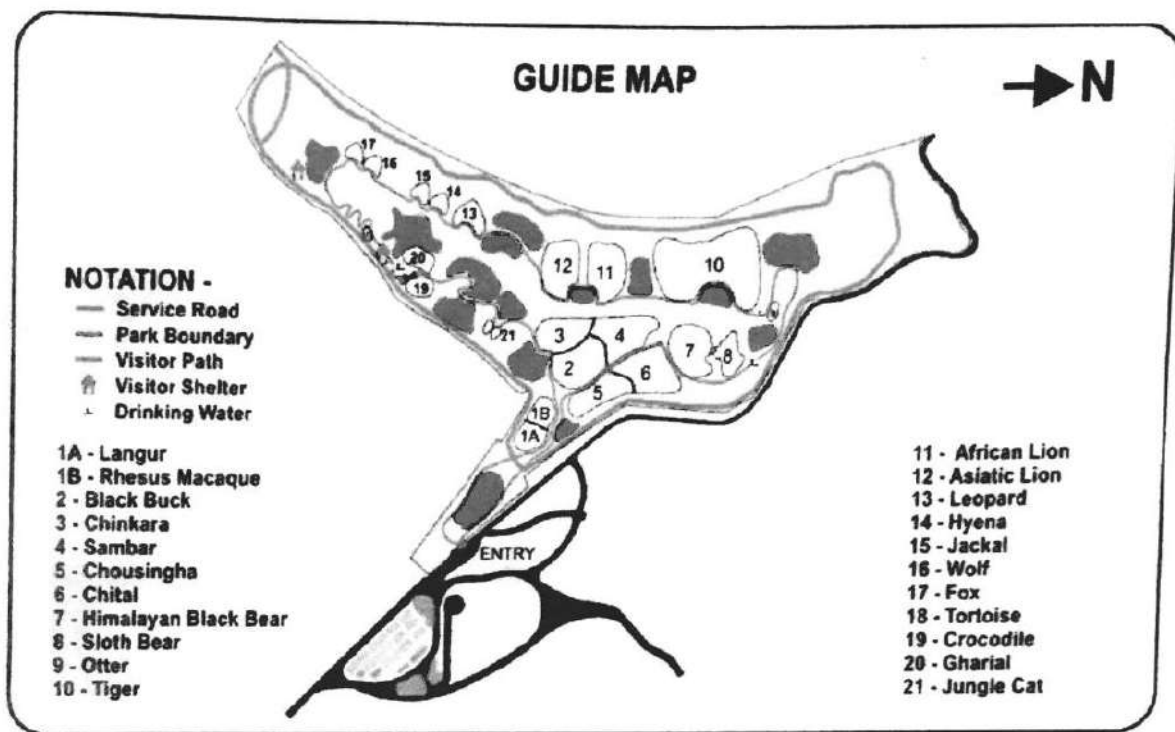
Perched on top of a distant hill like a fairy-tale castle, this melancholy, neglected late-19th-century palace was constructed by Maharana Sajjan Singh. Originally an astronomical centre, it became a monsoon palace and hunting lodge. Now government owned, it's in a sadly dilapidated state, but visitors stream up here for the marvellous views, particularly at sunset. It's 5km west of the old city as the crow flies, about 9km by the winding road. At the foot of the hill you enter the 5-sq-km Sajjan Garh Wildlife Sanctuary.

A good way to visit is with the daily sunset excursion in a minivan driven by an enterprising taxi driver who picks up tourists at the entrance to Bagore-ki-Haveli at Gangaur Ghat every day at 5pm. The round trip costs ₹350 per person, including waiting time (but not the sanctuary fees). His minivan has 'Monsoon Palace-Sajjangarh Fort' written across the front of it. Alternatively, autorickshaws charge ₹200 one way to the sanctuary gate, which they are not allowed to pass. Share taxis ferry people the final 4km up to the palace for ₹200 per person.



Area :-

The palace, built with white marble, is located on Bansdara peak of the Aravalli hill range at an elevation of 944 m (3100 ft) above mean sea level, overlooking Lake Pichola from the west about 1,100 ft (340 m) below the palace. The intention of the original planner, Maharana Sajjan Singh, was to build a nine storey complex, basically as an astronomical centre and to keep track of the movement of monsoon clouds in the area surrounding the palace, and also to provide employment to people. It was also meant to serve as a resort for the royal family



Flora: -

Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Udaipur districts of south – east Rajasthan, India. Extensive floristic survey was carried out during the year 2004 – 2010 to document flora of Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary and 279 plant species belonging to 71 families have been recorded. All the species are enumerated in the present paper along with their botanical name, family and habit.

Fauna:-

The palace oversees the sanctuary, which is a home for reptiles, tigers, nilgai, sambhar, wild boars, hyenas, panthers, and jackals. It is also popular for bird watching. The reserve can be a good trekking point by a trek and also go for a jungle safari as an adventure starting from the Gorilla Point to the Jiyan Sagar or the Bari Lake to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Aravalli hills and the wildlife of the reserve forest.

Amphibians :-

Rana Pipiens :-

Classification :-

Kingdom - Animalia
Phylum - Chordata
Subphylum - Vertebrata
Class - Amphibia
Order - Anura
Suborder - Neobatrachia
Family - Ranidae
Genus - *Rana*
Species - *Rana pipiens*

Comments :-

- ❖ *Rana pipiens* is a slim green or brownish frog.
- ❖ varying in length between about 5 and 11 cm
- ❖ On its back it has dark rounds spots with pale borders
- ❖ Its underside is white or cream colored
- ❖ The species has well-defined, continuous dorsolateral folds, which are not angled inward.
- ❖ The upper jaw has a white stripe.
- ❖ The male has a swollen, darkened thumb base and loose skin between jaw and shoulder during breeding season.



Reptiles :-

Crocodile :-

Classification :-

Kingdom - Animalia

Phylum - Chordata

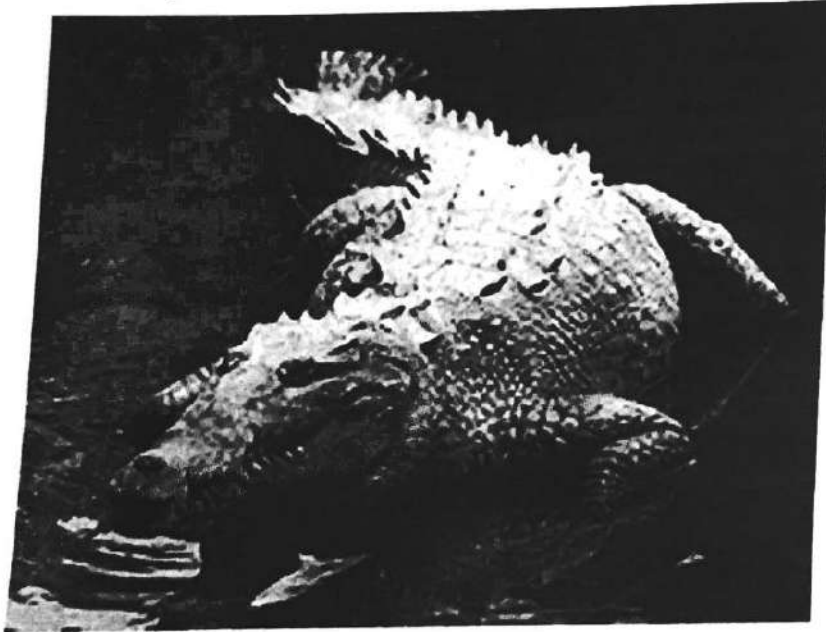
Class - Reptilia

Order - Crocodilia

Family - Crcodylidae

Genus - *Crocodylus*

Species - *Crocodylus acutus*



Comments :-

- ❖ American crocodile has a stocky body with a long, powerful tail.
- ❖ The short but muscular legs end in sharp claws
- ❖ the long triangular snout contains 14 to 15 sharp, conical teeth on each side.
- ❖ The American crocodile is neatly adapted to life in the water.

Tortoise :-

Classification:-

Kingdom : Amimalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Raptilia

Order: Testudines

Suborder: Cryptodira

Family: testudinidae

Species: Testudo graeca



Comments :-

- ❖ Most species of tortoises lay small clutch sizes, seldom exceeding 20 eggs, and many species have clutch sizes of only 1–2 eggs.
- ❖ The brain of a tortoise is extremely small. The tortoises, from Central and South America, do not have an area in the brain called the hippocampus,

Aves :-

Classification :-

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Aves

Family: Strigidae; Leach, 1820

Comments :-

Scientific name: Strigidae

Mass: Eurasian eagle-owl: 2.7 kg, Tawny owl: 470 g,



The true owls or typical owls are one of the two generally accepted families of owls, the other being the barn owls. The Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy unites the Caprimulgiformes with the owl order; here, the typical owls are a subfamily Striginae.

Ostrich:-

Classification :-

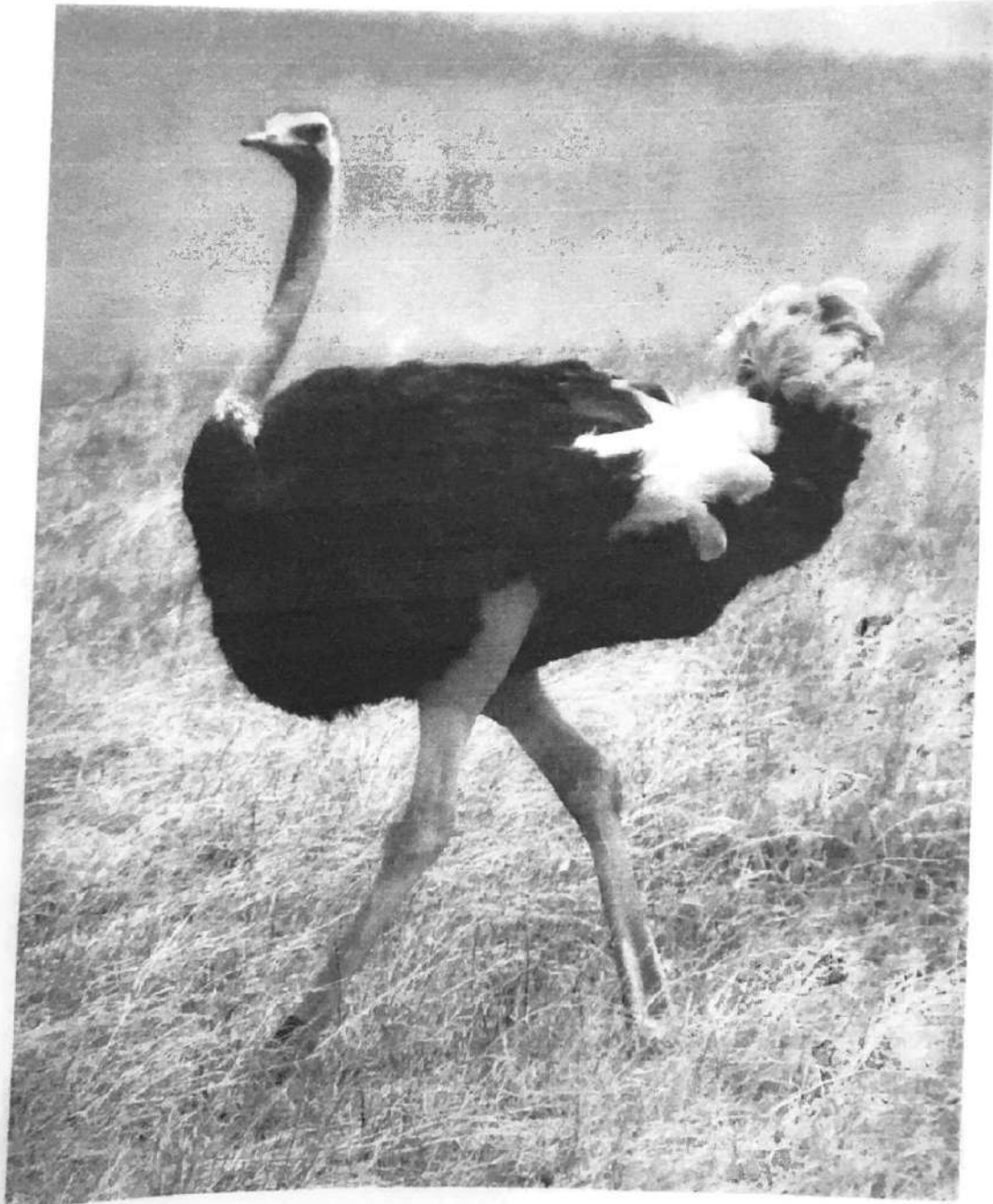
Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Ostriches

Family: Struthionidae



Comments:-

- ❖ The ostrich is the biggest bird in the world with a male ostrich often growing more than 2 meters tall.
- ❖ The ostrich is also the world's fastest bird on the ground being able to run at speeds of up to 50 mph for short periods of time.
- ❖ Despite the fact that the ostrich is a bird, the ostrich cannot fly and instead will run away when threatened.

Mammals :-

Classification :-

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus: Panthera

Species: *P. tigris*



Comments:-

- ❖ The Bengal tiger's coat is yellow to light orange, with stripes ranging from dark brown to black; the belly and the interior parts of the limbs are white, and the tail is orange with black rings.
- ❖ Bengal tigers weigh up to 325 kg (717 lb), and reach a head and body length of 320 cm (130 in).
- ❖ The tiger has exceptionally stout teeth. Its canines are 7.5 to 10 cm (3.0 to 3.9 in) long and thus the longest among all cats.

Jackal :-

Classification:-

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Canidae

Genus: Canis

Species: Canis aureus

Comments :-

- ❖ The jackal is a medium sized member of the dog family.
- ❖ Jackals are generally found in packs of roughly between 10 and 30 jackal individuals.
- ❖ Jackals are small canines that have adapted to hunting small mammals, birds and reptiles.
- ❖ The jackal is a nocturnal mammal that can easily maintain speeds of 16km an hour for long periods of time.



Striped hyena :-

Classification :-

KINGDOM: ANIMALIA

CLASS: Mammalia (Mammals)

ORDER: Carnivora

FAMILY: Hyaenidae

GENUS: *Hyaena*

SPECIES: *hyaena*



Comments :-

- ❖ The striped hyena has a fairly massive, but short torso set on long legs.
- ❖ The hind legs are significantly shorter than the forelimbs, thus causing the back to slope downwards.
- ❖ The winter coat is unusually long and uniform for an animal its size, with a luxuriant mane of tough, long hairs along the back from the occiput to the base of the tail.
- ❖ The skull is entirely typical of the genus, having a very high sagittal crest, a shortened facial region and an inflated frontal bone.

Panther :-

Classification:-

Kingdom: Animalia (animals)

Phylum: Chordata (vertebrates)

Class: Mammalia (mammals)

Order: Carnivora (carnivores)

Suborder: Feliformia (cat-like)

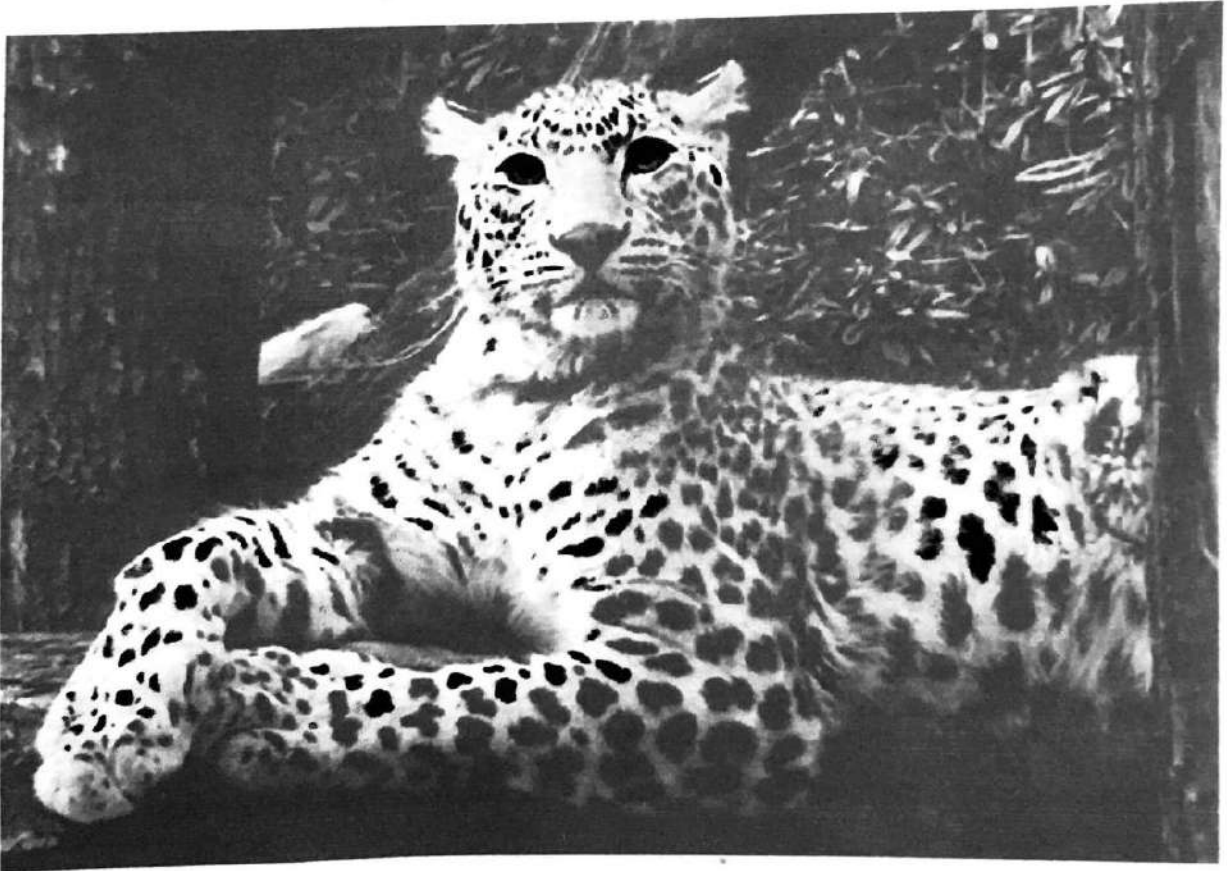
Family: Felidae (cats)

Subfamily: Pantherinae (big cats / pantherine)

Genus: Panthera (big cats)

Species: *Panthera pardus* (leopard)

Subspecies: *Panthera pardus delacouri*



Comments :-

- ❖ Leopards inhabit a variety of terrain. They are most populous in mesic woodlands, grassland savannas, and forests.

- ❖ Body size and color patterns of leopards varies geographically and probably reflects adaptations to particular habitats.
- ❖ Leopards have short legs relative to their long body.

Reference:-

- ❖ Teacher Guidance
- ❖ Books
- ❖ Internet
- ❖ Library