

## International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

**Prelims** - Current events of national Importance | General issues on Bio-diversity.

**Mains (GS III)** - Conservation.

### Why in News?

*The Ministry of External Affairs recently announced that Indian Government and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) signed 'Headquarters Agreement' to establish the alliance's headquarters and secretariat in India.*

- It is a **multi-country, multi-agency** coalition.
- **Launched on** - April 9, 2023 by India during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of 'Project Tiger'.

*Project Tiger was Launched in 1973 by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to protect the India's tiger population.*

- **Aim** - To conserve **7 big cats** tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards, cheetahs, jaguars and pumas worldwide.
- **Partnership** - The IBCA aims to bring together 97 range countries (where these big cats live), non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners, and scientific organizations.
- **Headquarters & Secretariat** - India.
- **Objective** - To ensure cooperation for the conservation of 7 big cats by arresting decline in population and reverse the trend.
- To establish a **central repository** for knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, advocacy, finance and support research.

### Big Cats

- **Big Cat** - A term that is used in informal speech to apply to **any large species of the family Felidae**.
- Usually, it applies to the members of the genus Panthera but 2 other cats Puma (Puma concolor) and Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) are also usually included in listings of 'big cats'.
- **7 Big cats** - Lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard, jaguar, and puma.



#### IUCN STATUS

Lion - Vulnerable  
 Jaguar - Near Threatened  
 Leopard - Vulnerable  
 Cougar - Least Concern  
 Tiger - Endangered  
 Cheetah - Vulnerable  
 Snow Leopard - Vulnerable

*The Indian subcontinent has been historically home to the Bengal tiger, Asiatic lion, Indian leopard, Indian/Asiatic cheetah as well as Snow leopard.*

- **In India** - 5 out of 7 cats except jaguar and puma are found here.
- While cheetah was declared extinct in 1952, it is now reintroduced as a part of Cheetah reintroduction project.

*Cheetah reintroduction project involves translocating cheetahs from Africa to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh and other suitable habitats.*

## Reference

[Economic Times](#) | [International Big Cat Alliance](#)