International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | International Organisations*

Why in News?

Ahead of the Global Big Cat Summit by IBCA, India is drafting a New Delhi Declaration, set to become the first international declaration on big cat conservation if adopted.

- **IBCA –** It is the *first-of-its-kind* multi-country, multi-agency coalition with an interest in big cat conservation.
  - **7 Big Cats –** Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- **Launch** – Initiated by India in April 2023, marking 50 years of Project Tiger.
- **Vision** – To cultivate a global ecosystem where big cats thrive in harmony, achieved through international collaboration, scientific research, and community involvement.
- **Headquarters** – New Delhi, India.
- **Partnership –** It brings together 97 range countries (where these big cats live), non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners, and scientific organisations.
- **Objectives**
  - To ensure cooperation for the conservation of 7 big cats by arresting the decline in population and reversing the trend.
  - To establish a central repository for knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, advocacy, finance and support research.
- **Membership** – *Open to all UN member states*, including "range" and "non-range" countries; currently, it has *22 member countries*, including India, Bhutan, Nepal, Russia, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malaysia, and others.
  - **Ratified Members** - India, Nicaragua, Eswatini, Somalia, and Liberia
  - **Observers** - Kazakhstan, Namibia, Thailand.
  - **Recently Joined** - Nepal (August 2025) and Russia (December 2025).
- **Structure** – General Assembly (apex decision-making body), A Standing Committee (governance and recommendation), & A Secretariat headed by a Director-General.

Quick Fact

Big Cat	IUCN Red List	WPA (India)	CITES
Tiger *(*Panthera tigris)	Endangered	Schedule I	Appendix I

Big Cat	IUCN Red List	WPA (India)	CITES
Asiatic Lion (Panthera leo persica)	Endangered	Schedule I	Appendix I
Leopard (Panthera pardus)	Vulnerable	Schedule I	Appendix I
Snow Leopard (Panthera uncia)	Vulnerable	Schedule I	Appendix I
Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus)	Vulnerable (global); Extinct in the wild in India until 2022	Schedule II (special provisions for reintroduction)	Appendix I
Global Big Cat Summit 2026 • It will be convened on June 1, 2026, in New Delhi. • **Aim** - To promote habitat connectivity, wildlife crime prevention, financial mobilisation, and an integrated "One Health" approach. • **Declaration** - The New Delhi Declaration will be adopted, becoming the first-ever International Declaration on Big Cats (all 7 big cats).			

*India is collaborating with African nations for **cheetah reintroduction** (imported from Namibia, South Africa, Botswana) & with Cambodia for **translocating tigers**, marking intercontinental wildlife conservation partnerships.*

References

1. Indian Express | IBCA
2. IBCA | IBCA

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