

India to launch International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

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In news– India has proposed to launch a mega global alliance under its leadership to protect big cats and assured support over five years with guaranteed funding of \$100 million (over Rs 800 crore).

About IBCA-

- Proposed alliance will work towards the **protection and conservation of the seven major big cats** – tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah.
- Its purpose is to **provide a platform for dissemination of information on benchmarked practices**, capacity building, resources repository, research and development, awareness creation etc.
- **Its major activities will include** advocacy, partnership, knowledge e-portal, capacity building, eco-tourism, partnerships between expert groups and finance tapping.
- The IBCA's governance **structure will comprise a General Assembly consisting of all member countries**, a council of at least seven but not more than 15 member countries elected by the General Assembly for a term of 5 years, and a Secretariat.
- Upon the recommendation of the Council, **the General Assembly will appoint the IBCA Secretary General for a specific term.**
- After the first five years, which will be supported by India's total grant assistance of \$100 million, the IBCA is expected to sustain itself through membership fees, and contributions from bilateral and multilateral institutions and the private sector.
- **Membership to the alliance will be open to 97 range countries**, which contain the natural habitat of these

big cats, as well as other interested nations, international organisations, etc.

- **The alliance is inspired by the arrival of cheetahs in 2022 from Namibia.**