

Project Tiger and International Big Cats Alliance

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What's in today's article?

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- About the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)
- What is Project Tiger?
- Tiger Census - All India Tiger Estimation (5th cycle)

Why in News?

- The PM recently launched the **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)**, inaugurated the programme '**Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger**', and released the summary report of **All India Tiger Estimation** (5th cycle).

About the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):

- In 2019, the PM of India called for an **Alliance of Global Leaders** to obliterate demand and firmly **curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Asia**.

- Taking the message of the PM forward, the International Big Cats Alliance is being launched which will **focus on the protection and conservation of seven major big cats** of the world (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and Cheetah).
- The Alliance will have a **membership of the range countries** harbouring these species.

What is Project Tiger?

- It is a tiger conservation programme launched in **1973** as a **centrally sponsored scheme** by the Government of India and administered by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
- It aims at
 - **Ensuring a viable population of the Bengal tiger** ('endangered') in its natural habitats,
 - Protecting it from extinction,
 - **Preserving areas of biological importance** as a natural heritage that represent the diversity of ecosystems across the tiger's range in the country.
- For tiger conservation, **Tiger Reserves** were set up in 1973 and are governed by Project Tiger.
 - Initially, the Project covered **nine tiger reserves** spread over 18,278 sq km.
 - Now, the project includes **54 tiger reserves** sprawling over around 75,000 sq km of the region.
- The monitoring system **M-STrIPES** (Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) – is a software-based monitoring system developed (by NTCA in 2010) **to assist patrol and protect tiger habitats**.

Tiger Census - All India Tiger Estimation (5th cycle):

Q1) What is M-STrIPES?

M-STrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) is a software-based monitoring system launched across Indian tiger reserves by the Indian government's National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in 2010.

Q2) What is a centrally sponsored scheme?

This is a scheme that is implemented by state governments of India but are largely funded by the Central Government with a defined State Government share. Some examples are MGNREGA, Project Tiger, etc.

Source: [PM arrives in Mysore to commemorate 50 years of Project Tiger, launch International Big Cats Alliance](#) | [TH](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/project-tiger-and-international-big-cats-alliance/>

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