

Minutes of the Meeting held with Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs,
Govt of India on 27.5.2024 at South Block, New Delhi

Exchanging the pleasantries, the Interim Director General, International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) briefed His Excellency Secretary (East) Ministry of external Affairs (MEA), Government of India about establishment of International Big Cat Alliance, with Hqrs in India. It was informed that the Union Cabinet, Republic of India, in its meeting held on 29.2.2024 approved the establishment of IBCA and now a secretariat has started functioning.

IBCA is established with a Mission and Vision to provide platform for partnership and cooperation among big cat range countries so as to ensure a viable population of big cats. It was also informed that India has five (5) out of seven (7) big cats and is global leader in Tiger, Lion, Leopard and Snow Leopard conservation. India has also demonstrated successful intercontinental wild to wild Cheetah translocation from African countries and its reintroduction in India. In view of this, India has a lot to offer (best practices and expertise) to other range countries for conservation of big cats. IBCA would be a platform through which the expertise and best practices could be shared with all the range countries.

The Interim DG, IBCA sought cooperation and support of MEA in approaching and seeking support from countries, especially in Indo-Pacific and Latin American countries to join IBCA.

It was informed that the IBCA is mandated to:

- To create synergy through a collaborative platform for increased dissemination of benchmarking big cat conservation best practices.
- To Provide access to central common repository of technical know-how and corpus of funds to enhance the status of habitats, prey and big cats in order to secure our ecological future and mitigate adverse effects of climate change.
- The IBCA's multi-pronged approach will enhance linkages, promote knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, advocacy, finance,

research, technical support, insurance against failures, education, awareness, employment, and sustainable local livelihoods.

His Excellency, Mr Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East) was handed over a booklet containing background of formation of IBCA, its activities and programmes etc. He requested to send sufficient number of the booklets, which will be sent to Indian Missions abroad for briefing the authorities in the respective countries about activities of IBCA and the expected benefits for range countries in joining IBCA. Secretary (East) informed that he is Nodal Officer of the Committee of Secretaries (CoS), where among other items, the expansion of membership of IBCA is also an agenda item. He assured that MEA will provide all necessary help and support to take forward the objectives of IBCA with other range countries to join IBCA.

The Interim DG, IBCA also thanked His Excellency Secretary (East) and his team for their support in shaping up the IBCA.

List of participant-MEA

- (i) Mr. Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East)

List of participants- IBCA

- (i) Dr S.P. Yadav, Interim DG, IBCA
- (ii) Dr Soumitra Dasgupta, Director (Programme)
- (iii) Mr. Juglal Singh, Admn & Communication Analyst