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1 International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) (Source: The Hindu)

It is a global initiative for the conservation of the world's seven big cats: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma (Cougar/Mountain Lion), Jaguar and Cheetah.

- Launched on 50th anniversary of Project Tiger by India.

Objectives:

- Promote conservation & protection of big cats and their habitats.
- Strengthen global collaboration, research, and knowledge sharing.
- Ensure sustainable practices in big cat range countries.
- Mobilise financial & technical support for conservation projects.
- Build capacity in law enforcement to tackle wildlife crime & poaching.



Implementation

- IBCA was established through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Headquarters

- New Delhi, India.

Membership: Membership is open to all UN Member States, including:

- Range countries, where big cats naturally occur.
- Non-range countries that are interested in supporting global conservation of big cats.

Funding

- The Indian government has committed ₹150 crore as one-time budgetary support for the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) for five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.



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2 Governor Role in Government Formation (Source: The Indian Express)

Constitutional Framework

- **Article 164:** The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor, and other ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.

Governor's Role in Different Scenarios

- **Clear Majority:** If a single party or a pre-poll alliance secures an absolute majority in the state elections, the Governor's role is purely formal. They must invite the leader of that majority party/alliance to form the government and administer the oath of office.
- **Hung Assembly:** When no single party or pre-poll alliance wins a clear majority, the Governor exercises situational discretion under Article 163 to decide who is best suited to provide a stable government.

Outcome of Various Cases

- **S.R. Bommai v. Union of India, 1994:** The Governor can appoint a Chief Minister based on prima facie satisfaction but must mandate a Floor Test within a strict, short timeframe (usually 7 to 15 days) to prove the majority.
- **Rameshwar Prasad Case (2006):** The Supreme Court held that the Governor cannot shut out a post-poll alliance claiming a majority by assuming that horse-trading or floor-crossing will take place. Ideological differences between combining parties are not grounds for the Governor to reject their claim.
- **Nabam Rebia Case (2016):** The Supreme Court re-emphasized that the Governor's discretionary powers under Article 163 are limited and cannot be exercised arbitrarily or capriciously.

Core Roles

- **Administering the Oath:** Administering the oath of office and secrecy to the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers.
- **Appointing a Pro-tem Speaker:** Appointing a temporary Speaker to administer oaths to newly elected MLAs before the floor test.
- **Setting the Timeline:** Determining a reasonable window for the newly appointed executive to prove their majority via a Vote of Confidence.



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3 India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) (Source: The Indian Express)

It was launched in 2021 with aim to provide financial support for investments in semiconductor fabrication, display manufacturing & chip design strengthening India's integration into global electronics value chains.

- Under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Main Focus Areas

- Set up Chip Manufacturing plants(fabs).
- Create packaging and testing units.
- Supporting startups in chip design.
- Training young engineers.
- Bring Global companies to invest in India.

Sub Schemes

- **Semiconductor Fabs Scheme:** Provides up to 50% fiscal support for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication (fab) units.
- **Display Fabs Scheme:** Offers financial assistance of up to 50% of project cost to set up display fabrication units.
- **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:** Promotes semiconductor design startups and Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by offering financial support across product development stages.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0

- Announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.
- ISM 2.0 focuses on producing domestic semiconductor equipment and materials like wafers, chemicals, and gases to cut import dependence. It emphasizes full-stack Indian IP design via expanded Design Linked Incentives (DLI) for fabless startups, alongside supply chain fortification amid global tensions. The mission also prioritizes industry-led R&D and training centers for technology and skilled workforce development.

