



# **TODAY'S ANALYSIS**

## **(07 February 2025)**

### **TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

- **IMPROPER USE OF THE STATE EMBLEM OF INDIA**
- **INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE BECOMES A TREATY  
BASED ORGANISATION**
- **EXTREMELY LARGE TELESCOPE**
- **MCQs**

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# IMPROPER USE OF STATE EMBLEM OF INDIA



सत्यमेव जयते

## Overview:

- The **Union Home Ministry** has issued a directive to all **State governments** to ensure the proper usage and **depiction of the State Emblem of India**.
- The Ministry has **expressed concerns** regarding the improper representation and **misuse of the emblem**, specifically the **omission of the motto "Satyamev Jayate"** in **Devanagari script**.
- This message was **conveyed through a letter** addressed to all **Chief Secretaries of the States**.

## KEY POINTS

- **The Importance of the Motto "Satyamev Jayate":**

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- The Home Ministry highlighted that the **State Emblem of India is incomplete without the inscription of the motto "Satyamev Jayate"** in Devanagari script.
- This motto, meaning **"Truth Alone Triumphs,"** is an integral part of the emblem and must be included wherever the emblem is displayed.
- The omission of this motto is considered a violation of the **State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005**, which outlines the regulations for the correct use of the emblem.
- **Misuse of the State Emblem:**
  - The Ministry has **noticed that various government agencies**, while using the State Emblem on **stationery, publications, vehicles, websites, buildings, etc.**, have been **displaying only the profile of the Lion Capital without the accompanying motto.**
  - Furthermore, these representations of the emblem do not always adhere to the specific design outlined in the **State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005**, particularly regarding its **dimensions, placement, and detailed elements.**

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE EMBLEM

The **State Emblem of India** is an adaptation of the **Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka**. It

features:

- **3 lions mounted on an abacus**, symbolizing power, courage, and confidence.
- A **Dharma Chakra** (wheel of law) in the center of the abacus.
- A **bull** on the right, and a **galloping horse** on the left, both representing various elements of Indian culture and values.
- The **motto "Satyamev Jayate"** inscribed in Devanagari script beneath the profile of the lions.
- State emblem, **adopted by the Government of India on 26 January 1950**, only 3 lions are visible, the **fourth being hidden from view**.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- The use of the State Emblem is regulated by the **State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005**, and the **State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007**.

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- These **laws restrict the use of the emblem to authorized individuals and institutions.**
- The Ministry has emphasized that **strict action** should be taken against government officials responsible for the improper display of the emblem and **against unauthorized individuals or organizations** using the emblem on items such as stationery, vehicles, etc.

## CALL FOR COMPLIANCE

- The Home Ministry has urged state authorities to ensure that the **complete and accurate version** of the State Emblem is used, following the guidelines set out in the relevant Acts and Rules.
- Authorities are also reminded to take necessary action against unauthorized use of the emblem and incomplete depictions by any entities.

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# INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE BECOMES A TREATY BASED ORGANISATION



## INTERNATIONAL **BIG CAT** ALLIANCE

- Cabinet approves establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India
- One-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore for a period of five years till 2027-28

- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** officially came into force as a full-fledged treaty-based inter-governmental organization on **January 23, 2025**.
- This marks a significant milestone in global conservation efforts aimed at protecting seven iconic big cat species: **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**.
- The IBCA, with its headquarters in India, aims to bring together countries and organizations to collaborate on conserving these species.

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## CONSERVATION STATUS

Big Cat	IUCN Status	CITES Status	Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
<b>Tiger</b> ( <i>Panthera tigris</i> )	Endangered	Appendix I	Schedule 1
<b>Lion</b> ( <i>Panthera leo</i> )	Vulnerable	Appendix I	Schedule 1
<b>Leopard</b> ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> )	Vulnerable	Appendix I	Schedule 1
<b>Snow Leopard</b> ( <i>Panthera uncia</i> )	Vulnerable	Appendix I	Schedule 1
<b>Cheetah</b> ( <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> )	Vulnerable	Appendix I	Schedule 1
<b>Jaguar</b> ( <i>Panthera onca</i> )	Near Threatened	Appendix I	Not found in India

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- **Formation of IBCA:**
  - The **Framework Agreement** establishing the IBCA has officially come into force, transitioning the alliance into an international legal entity.
  - The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** of India, which is the depository of the Framework Agreement, confirmed that **5 countries** have ratified the agreement and become formal members:
    - **Republic of Nicaragua**
    - **Kingdom of Eswatini**
    - **Republic of India**

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- **Federal Republic of Somalia**
- **Republic of Liberia**
- As of now, **27 countries**, including India, have consented to join the IBCA.
- **Launch and Approval:**
  - The IBCA was initially launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **April 9, 2023**, during an event commemorating **50 years of Project Tiger**.
  - The **Union Cabinet** of India approved the establishment of IBCA in **February 2024**, with the organization headquartered in India.
  - The establishment of IBCA is a concerted effort by the **Government of India**, with the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** and the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)** playing key roles.
- **IBCA's Mission and Goals:**
  - The main objective of the IBCA is the conservation of **7 major big cat species** that are either endangered or vulnerable.
  - The alliance aims to facilitate collaboration among nations and stakeholders, consolidating successful conservation practices and expertise to work toward the **global protection of big cats**.

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- It aims to halt the decline in big cat populations and reverse the current negative trends, with a focus on reducing threats like habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict.

## KEY FEATURES & FUNCTIONING

- **Collaboration and Synergy:** IBCA serves as a collaborative platform for governments, wildlife organizations, and conservation experts to share knowledge, research, and resources.
- **Global Repository:** The alliance will provide a central repository for **best practices**, **technical know-how**, and **financial support** for big cat conservation projects.
- **Strengthening Existing Platforms:** IBCA will strengthen existing species-specific intergovernmental platforms, networks, and transnational initiatives focused on conservation and protection.
- **Climate Change Mitigation:** The alliance is also focused on mitigating the effects of **climate change** on big cat habitats and ensuring long-term ecological sustainability.

## SCOPE OF MEMBERSHIP

- The IBCA invites all **UN member countries**, especially those that are **range countries** (countries where these big cats are found) and **non-range countries** (countries

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historically not home to these species but supportive of big cat conservation), to join the initiative.

- The alliance will also collaborate with national and international organizations already working in wildlife conservation.



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## EXTREMELY LARGE TELESCOPE



- The **Extremely Large Telescope (ELT)** is set to become **one of the most advanced astronomical observatories ever built.**
- Currently under construction in **northern Chile**, this **\$1.51 billion project** by the **European Southern Observatory (ESO)** is expected to revolutionize our understanding of the universe.
- Once completed, it **will be capable of answering some of the most profound questions in astronomy**, including the search for life on exoplanets and the **study of the universe's earliest stars and galaxies.**

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## KEY FEATURES

- **Purpose and Scientific Goals:**

- The ELT is designed to **explore a wide range of astronomical phenomena**, including searching for signs of life on exoplanets and peering into the **earliest galaxies and stars that formed after the Big Bang**.
- Its research aims to advance the study of **exoplanets**, specifically examining their **atmospheres** for potential signs of life.
- The ELT will also enable scientists to **study distant stars and galaxies**, improving our understanding of their formation and evolution over time.

- **Completion and Timeline:**

- The telescope is currently **about 60% complete**, with its first **scientific observations** expected to begin by **the end of 2028**.
- Upon completion, it will become the **largest optical-infrared telescope** in the world, providing groundbreaking insights into the cosmos.

- **Design and Structure:**

- The ELT will feature a **giant primary mirror** composed of **798 smaller mirrors**, which together will form a mirror **39.3 meters** in diameter.

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- The **telescope's size and design will allow it to collect more light than any other optical telescope** currently in existence, enabling it to observe distant objects with unparalleled clarity and detail.
- **Location:**
  - The ELT is being constructed on **Armazones Hill**, located in the **Atacama Desert** of northern Chile, **one of the best sites on Earth for astronomical observation** due to its dry climate and high altitudes.
  - Positioned about **3 kilometers above sea level**, the location offers optimal conditions for clear skies and minimal atmospheric interference.
- **Impact on Astronomy:**
  - According to Itziar de Gregorio, an astrophysicist from ESO in Chile, the **ELT will greatly impact many areas of astronomy, including studying the first galaxies** and the stars in other galaxies.
  - It will also help us learn more about exoplanets and their habitability.

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## ABOUT EUROPEAN SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY (ESO)

<b>Type</b>	Intergovernmental science and technology organization in astronomy
<b>Supported by</b>	<b>16 countries:</b> <u>Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom</u>
<b>Main Programme</b>	Design, construction, and operation of powerful ground-based observing facilities for astronomy
<b>Role in Research</b>	Promotes and organizes cooperation in astronomical research
<b>Observing Sites</b>	<b>La Silla, Paranal, and Chajnantor in Chile</b>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<b>Garching, Germany</b>



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## MCQs

1. With reference to the State Emblem of India and its usage, consider the following statements:

1. The omission of the motto "Satyamev Jayate" in Devanagari script from the State Emblem violates the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.
2. The State Emblem of India was adopted on 26 January 1951.
3. The legal framework governing the use of the State Emblem includes the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007, which permit its use only by government agencies in strict adherence to design guidelines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

**Ans. (B)**

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2. With reference to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), consider the following statements:

1. The IBCA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 9, 2023, during an event commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger.
2. The alliance aims to protect 7 iconic big cat species, all of which are endangered or vulnerable.
3. As of now, 27 countries have ratified the IBCA Framework Agreement, making them formal members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

**Ans. (A)**

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3. With reference to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), consider the following statements:

1. The IBCA officially came into force as a treaty-based inter-governmental organization on January 23, 2025, with its headquarters located in India.
2. The Jaguar is classified as "Endangered" under the IUCN Red List and is found in India.
3. The Framework Agreement for the IBCA has been ratified by 5 countries, including India, which became formal members of the alliance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

**Ans. (A)**

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4. With reference to the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT), consider the following statements:

1. The ELT is under construction in northern Chile and, upon completion, will be the largest optical-infrared telescope in the world.
2. The ELT will feature a primary mirror composed of 798 smaller mirrors, collectively forming a mirror 39.3 meters in diameter.
3. The European Southern Observatory (ESO) is supporting the ELT project with contributions from 16 countries, including Brazil and the United Kingdom.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3
- (d) 1 only

**Ans. (C)**

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