



Official Guidelines

Maharashtra State Wildlife Photography Competition 2026

International Tiger Day Special Edition

Organised by the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve on behalf of the Maharashtra Forest Department

1. Vision & Objectives

This competition is a celebration of biodiversity, ethical field craft, and conservation storytelling. Our goal is to create a high-quality visual archive that highlights the beauty of our natural habitats while inspiring citizens to appreciate, respect, and protect wildlife and ecosystems.

2. Competition Categories

Participants are invited to submit their visual narratives under one or more of the following themes:

- **Animal Behaviour:** Images documenting natural wildlife behaviour, including hunting, feeding, courtship, parenting, or interaction.
- **Animals in Their Habitat:** Photographs showcasing wildlife as an integral part of its natural environment, focusing on landscape, mood, light, and ecological storytelling.
- **Conservation Focus:** Powerful images that highlight positive conservation initiatives, human-wildlife coexistence, rescue work, and the dedicated efforts of frontline forest staff.

3. Eligibility & Submission Limits

- The competition is open to all Indian citizens, warmly welcoming both amateur and professional photographers.
- Participants may submit a maximum of **six photographs** in total, divided across categories as they choose.
- To celebrate local natural heritage, photographs captured within Maharashtra will be given preference.

4. How to Submit

Please submit your photographic entries via email to: ccffdtatr@gmail.com

When emailing your submission, ensure you include the following details for each photograph to help us properly catalog your work:

- Name of the Photographer, Postal address, Mobile Number, and Email ID.
- Photograph Title, the Category entered, and Species Name (if known).
- Location and Date of Capture
- Camera Make and Model
- A brief description of the Photograph (maximum 100 words).

5. Ethical Photography Standards

We champion an ethical approach to photography. The welfare of wildlife and respect for forest habitats must always come before the image.

- ❌ Ensure no animal is disturbed, chased, baited, or provoked for a photograph.
- ❌ Protect habitats by never disturbing nests, dens, burrows, or breeding sites.
- ❌ Avoid the use of playback, flash, or artificial light in ways that disrupt wildlife.
- ❌ Strictly follow all protected area rules, forest regulations, and safe safari practices at all times.

6. Technical Specifications & Editing

To ensure your images are presented beautifully for exhibition and print, please follow these technical parameters:

- **File Format & Size:** Submit images in JPEG format (RGB or sRGB), with a preferred file size of 5 MB to 20 MB per image.
- **Resolution:** Images must have a minimum resolution of 4000 pixels on the longer side.
- **Presentation:** Ensure images are sharp, well-exposed, and free of borders, signatures, logos, or watermarks.
- **Editing:** Basic post-processing (such as exposure correction, white balance, cropping, sharpening, and noise reduction) is permitted to maintain a truthful representation of the scene.
- **Integrity:** The addition or removal of elements, AI generation, and misleading digital manipulation are not permitted. Please retain your metadata, as the Jury may request the original RAW/unedited file to verify authenticity.

7. Awards, Exhibition & Recognition

Winning this competition is an opportunity to contribute directly to conservation awareness.

- **The Prizes:** The top three winners will be rewarded with complimentary wildlife photography trips to the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, featuring 5 Gypsy safaris (First Prize), 3 Gypsy safaris (Second Prize), and 2 Gypsy safaris (Third Prize).
- **Felicitation:** Winners will be honoured at the State-level International Tiger Day programme at IIM Nagpur, with awards proposed to be presented by the ***Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra.***
- **Exhibition:** Shortlisted photographs will be beautifully displayed in a curated wildlife photography exhibition on 29 July 2026, and may be utilised across official platforms to promote conservation education (with full copyright remaining with the photographer).

8. Important Dates to Remember

Last Date for Submission: 20 July 2026

Announcement of Award via Email: 25 July 2026

Photo Exhibition & Prize Distribution: 29 July 2026

For any further queries and feedback email on: ccffdtatr@gmail.com