

F. No. 15-7/2025-NTCA
भारत सरकार
Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
राष्ट्रीय व्याघ्र संरक्षण प्राधिकरण
National Tiger Conservation Authority

F. No. 15-7/2026-NTCA

Dated: 22.06.2026

MEETING NOTICE

The 29th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is scheduled to be held on July 09, 2026 (Thursday) from 1430 hours onwards at Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), RS Puram, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu under Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change / Chairman, NTCA. The agenda items shall be shared shortly.

It is requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the same.

Digitally signed by
Sanjayan Kumar
Date: 22-06-2026
18:57:36

(Dr. Sanjayan Kumar)
Inspector General (NTCA)
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Distribution:

All NTCA Members (as per list enclosed)

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC
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5. The PCCF&HoFF, Tamil Nadu
6. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu
7. The Principal, (CASFOS), RS Puram, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
8. All officers of NTCA, Hqrs and Regional Office, Bengaluru/ Guwahati & Nagpur.
9. PS to ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA)

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B-1 Wing, 7th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003

Computer No. E-302018
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
National Tiger Conservation Authority

F. No. 15-7/2026-NTCA

Date: 09.09.2026

Sub: Minutes/ summary record of the 29th meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority - reg.

Please find enclosed herewith the Minutes/Summary Record of the 29th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change on 09.07.2026 at the Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

This is for your kind information and perusal, please.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully

Digitally signed by

Pawan Jeph

Date: 09-09-2026

17:44:32
(Pawan Jeph)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests (NTCA)

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Distribution:

All NTCA Members (as per list enclosed)

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8. All officers of NTCA, Hqrs and Regional Office, Bengaluru/ Guwahati & Nagpur.
9. PS to ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA)

Summary Records of the 29th meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority held under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Date: 09 July 2026

Venue: Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

The 29th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change on July 9, 2026 at the Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The meeting was attended by members as listed at Annexure I. Leave of absence was granted to three Members, namely, Dr. Madhu Verma, Chief Economist, IORA and Expert Member (Dr. H.S. Negi, Expert Member; and Dr. P.K. Malik, Expert Member), with the approval of the Chairman, NTCA.

Shri Sanjay Kumar, ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA) welcomed the Hon'ble Union Minister and all Members of the Authority and briefed them on the agenda items placed for consideration.

Presentations by the Field Directors of Tiger Reserves: The Field Directors of Anamalai, Parambikulam, Mudumalai and Bandipur Tiger Reserves made presentations highlighting the salient features of their respective Tiger Reserves, with particular emphasis on best management practices, community participation, and the use of modern technology in conservation and management.

The details of agenda-wise deliberations are as below:

Agenda No. 1: Release of NTCA Publications

Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairperson, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), released the following publications of the NTCA:

i. **Roadmap to Rescue: Strategic Roadmap for Establishment of Temporary/Transit Facilities for Rescue-Rehab-Release of Wild Animals in Tiger Landscapes**, which provides a strategic framework for establishing Temporary/Transit Rescue-Rehab-Release (RRR) facilities across tiger landscapes, including recommendations on minimum infrastructure, veterinary support, equipment, and operational requirements.

ii. **STRIDES 2026: Status of Tiger Reserves – Infrastructure, Development, Ecological & Social Parameters**, which presents an assessment of key governance and management indicators across all 58 Tiger Reserves, including habitat management, community participation, and conservation interventions, while identifying priority gaps and opportunities for strengthening tiger conservation.

Agenda No. 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the 28th Meeting

The minutes of the 28th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority were confirmed.

Agenda No. 3: Action Taken on the Decisions of the 28th Meeting

The Authority took note of the action taken on the decisions of the 28th meeting.

Agenda No. 4: Approval of the NTCA Annual Report 2024-25

The Authority approved the NTCA Annual Report 2024-25.

Agenda No. 5: Approval of the Technical and Administrative Committee meetings of the NTCA

The Authority approved the recommendations of the 17th, 18th and 20th Technical Committees. It also approved the recommendations of the Administrative Committee meeting held on 27.04.2026.

Agenda No. 6: Approval of the 6th Cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves

The Authority took note of the proposed 6th Cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves and approved a budget of ₹1.73 crore for undertaking the exercise, to be funded either through N-CAMPA or NTCA grant.

Agenda No. 7: Proposal for organizing Tiger Conclave

The Authority took note of the proposal for organizing a Tiger Conclave as a national platform to mobilize partnerships and financial resources, through National Tiger Conservation Authority Fund, NTCA, for strengthening tiger conservation through the participation of Government agencies, Public Sector Undertakings, corporates, industries, banks and financial institutions, and international organizations. The Authority approved the proposal.

Agenda No. 8: Proposal for organizing Annual Research Symposium

The Authority took note of the proposal for organising Annual Research Symposium- STRIPES (Symposium on Tiger Research, Innovation, Policy, Ecology & Sustainability) in Tiger Landscapes. The symposium will serve as a platform for showcasing cutting-edge research, promoting interdisciplinary collaborations, encouraging innovation, strengthening science-policy interfaces, and fostering partnerships among academia, governments and conservation practitioners. The Authority approved the proposal.

Apart from the scheduled agenda items, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Member, National Tiger Conservation Authority, made a presentation on the water scenario in tiger landscapes. The discussions focused on the challenges arising from depleting groundwater tables and explored measures to enhance water availability through scientific planning, habitat management, watershed conservation, and the restoration of natural water bodies. Hon'ble member also emphasized for tapping the fund from Ministry of Jal Shakti, by the NTCA, to supplement/complement the funding requirements for various activities of the NTCA, and also stressed the importance of establishing long-term

scientific monitoring of watershed, water bodies, rivers, etc. within tiger reserves jointly by the Jal Shakti/ Irrigation Department and the NTCA.

Inputs from Members:

The inputs received from each member are as below-

1. **Shri Rajiv Pratap Ruddy, Member of Parliament**, suggested that a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) be developed to facilitate the effective involvement of local communities as stakeholders in management decision-making and ecotourism initiatives in and around Tiger Reserves. He further recommended that the existing Water Atlas be revised to comprehensively incorporate all aspects of water sources, water availability and water management in Tiger Reserves. Hon'ble Member also pointed out that his name was missed out in the acknowledgement section and impressed upon appropriately acknowledging in the revised/updated Atlas. The Member also emphasized the need to include groundwater monitoring as an integral component of policy and management planning and suggested that a dedicated budget for water management be provided to Tiger Reserves through the NTCA.
2. **Shri Harish Chandra Meena, Member of Parliament**, observed that in Tiger Reserves such as Sariska and Ranthambhore, local communities have shown limited interest in alternative livelihood opportunities. He suggested that local residents should be encouraged and permitted to establish and operate guest houses, homestays and other small-scale hospitality facilities, rather than allowing the tourism sector to be dominated by large hotels established by external entities. He further emphasized that environment-friendly communities such as the Bishnois, with their longstanding tradition of conservation, should be supported and their sustainable practices promoted. The Hon'ble Member also stressed the need to encourage local youth to take up government service opportunities, thereby strengthening their socio-economic participation while fostering greater community involvement in conservation.
3. **Shri S. S. Srivastava, Expert Member** observed that although groundwater surveys and studies are undertaken periodically, the findings of such studies are often not adequately disseminated. He suggested that the data generated through these studies should be compiled, shared and effectively utilized for conservation planning, hydrological assessments, and scientific management of Tiger Reserves.
4. **Shri Rahul Bhatnagar, Expert Member** emphasized that while maintaining inviolate spaces remains fundamental to effective tiger conservation, it is equally important to make local communities active partners in conservation efforts. He also highlighted the need to recognize and appropriately value the diverse ecosystem services provided by Tiger Reserves, including water security.
5. **Shri Ravi Singh, Secretary General, WWF-India & Expert Member** emphasized the need for systematic mapping of groundwater availability

across Tiger Reserves, and informed that groundwater status data for five Tiger Reserves is already available with WWF-India. He further observed that several agricultural institutions and industry bodies possess expertise in groundwater mapping and undertake assessments at the field, village and district levels. He suggested that the NTCA may collaborate with such institutions to undertake scientific assessment and mapping of groundwater status in Tiger Reserves and to leverage their technical expertise for informed water resource management.

6. **Dr. Roop Narayan Mandwe, Expert Member** observed that the rainwater harvesting capacity of tiger reserves differs significantly from that of adjoining non-forest areas. The need for a comprehensive assessment of water resources and hydrological functions in tiger reserves was emphasized, considering its potential to significantly strengthen conservation planning and water security. He also stressed the importance of local knowledge and expertise of local communities for policy formulation and implementation.
7. **Smt. Neena Grewal, CWLW, Uttarakhand** observed that rivers flowing through Tiger Reserves may also carry pollutants and waste discharged by upstream settlements, thereby affecting downstream ecosystems and water quality within protected areas. She emphasized that Tiger Reserves provide a wide range of critical ecosystem services, including water security, and therefore require integrated watershed management. It was further informed that Uttarakhand has constituted River Rejuvenation Authorities and has initiated programmes for the rejuvenation of rivers, streams and nallahs in forested landscapes, while noting that the outcomes of such initiatives would become evident over time.
8. **Shri Prem Kumar Jha, CWLW, Odisha** observed that the large-scale construction of waterbodies in protected areas over the past two decades has, in some cases, led to unintended ecological consequences, including altered wildlife movement and behaviour, with elephants remaining around water sources for prolonged periods. He emphasized that the creation of waterbodies in tiger reserves should be undertaken only after scientific assessment, based on site-specific requirements, and with appropriate monitoring.
9. **Shri K.C.A. Arun Prasad, CWLW, Rajasthan** informed that there is presently no specific policy framework to regulate water extraction and usage by large hotels and other commercial establishments located in and around Tiger Reserves. He emphasized the need to develop appropriate policy interventions to promote sustainable water use and ensure that commercial activities do not adversely affect the water security of tiger habitats and surrounding communities.
10. **Shri Ramesh Pandey, ADG (WL), MoEF&CC**, suggested that proposals for radio-collaring of wildlife, as mandated under Section 12 of the Wild Life (Protection) ACT, 1972, should be undertaken with the approval of MoEF&CC. He further recommended that studies on the human dimensions of wildlife conservation and social ecology, including the collection and analysis of qualitative socio-ecological data, be undertaken in project mode in

collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

He also suggested undertaking studies on hydrological regime changes, with a focus on groundwater recharge and aquifer health in tiger landscapes, and stressed the need for convergence between the NTCA and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

11. **Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi, DGF & SS, MoEFCC** observed that declining groundwater tables in many landscapes could be attributed to factors such as increased surface runoff and excessive extraction of groundwater. Referring to the experience of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, he informed that during the British era, several deep observation wells were established within forested areas to monitor groundwater levels, and that water levels in these wells were assessed annually. He suggested that similar groundwater monitoring mechanisms may be instituted across Tiger Reserves to facilitate scientific assessment and informed water resource management.
12. **Shri Tanmay Kumar, Secretary, MoEFCC** observed that strengthening water monitoring mechanisms would not only benefit Tiger Reserves but also improve water security for local communities. He noted that catchment area treatment programmes in forested landscapes often face implementation challenges and emphasized the need to undertake river and watershed rejuvenation works on a larger scale. He further suggested that a standardized water monitoring tool, such as a piezometer, may be installed in all Tiger Reserves for regular monitoring. The Member also recommended closer coordination among Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and other concerned stakeholders to address issues relating to river pollution, drinking water management, and sustainable water resource conservation in and around Tiger Reserves.

Directions of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman, NTCA

In his remarks, the Hon'ble Chairperson directed the NTCA to undertake the following actions:

1. NTCA shall undertake a comprehensive study to assess the change in the socio-economic dynamics of communities living in and around Tiger Reserves. The study may analyse the changing aspirations and socio-economic profile of local communities using the 1960s as the baseline, followed by assessments for 2010 and 2026, with projections up to 2047. It may also incorporate socio-ecological parameters such as income levels, landholding size, family structure, change in mindset and other relevant indicators to facilitate evidence-based planning and policy interventions. The study shall incorporate the aspirations and expectations of local communities that have evolved significantly over a period and ensure that capacity-building initiatives are aligned with these changing aspirations to ensure sustainable conservation outcomes.

2. Tiger-range States to promote community-based ecotourism in and around Tiger Reserves through skill development initiatives, capacity building and financial support to local communities.
3. All Tiger Reserves to prepare and maintain Village Biodiversity Registers (VBRs) to systematically document local biodiversity, associated traditional knowledge and conservation practices, while strengthening community participation in biodiversity conservation and management.
4. Future meetings of the National Tiger Conservation Authority should be structured to include dedicated sessions on policy decisions, field innovations and success stories from Tiger Reserves, in addition to the regular agenda items.
5. Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar to hold discussions with Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Member, NTCA, and prepare a detailed proposal for the declaration of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve.
6. All Tiger Reserves/NTCA to make well documented films, documentaries, etc. which shall help in disseminating the information and awareness to the common citizens, scientific communities and other stakeholders. The filming of Kuno National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve has to be taken up.
7. Environment Education Division and National Museum of Natural History, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, to mandatorily register and support the Eco-Clubs in and around all Tiger Reserves, to strengthen environmental awareness and conservation education.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all the participating members.

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Annexure I

29th meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority

09 July 2026

Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

List of Participants

1. Sh. Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister, MoEF&CC
2. Sh. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Parliament
3. Sh. Harish Chandra Meena, Member of Parliament
4. Sh. Tanmay Kumar, Secretary, MoEF&CC
5. Sh. Sushil Kumar Awasthi, DGF & SS, MoEF&CC
6. Sh. Ramesh Pandey, ADG (WL), MoEF&CC
7. Sh. Sanjay Kumar, ADG (PT) & MS (NTCA)

8. Sh. S.S. Srivastava, Expert Member
9. Sh. Rahul Bhatnagar , Expert Member
10. Sh. Ravi Singh, Secretary General WWF-India & Expert Member
11. Dr. Roop Narayan Mandwe, Expert Member
12. Sh. R. Srinivas Reddy, PCCF (HoFF), Tamil Nadu
13. Sh. Arun Prasad, CWLW, Rajasthan
14. Sh. Prem Kumar Jha, CWLW, Odisha
15. Sh. Rakesh Kumar Dogra, CWLW, Tamil Nadu
16. Smt. Neena Grewal, CWLW, Uttarakhand
17. Sh. M.Z. Singson, CWLW, Mizoram
18. Dr. Manoj Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice
19. Dr. Sanjayan Kumar, IGF, NTCA
20. Sh. Shivakumar C.M., IGF South, NTCA
21. Ms Harini Venugopal, AIG, NTCA
22. Sh. Md. Sajid Sultan, AIG, NTCA
23. Sh. Nandish, Field Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve
24. Smt. T Uma, Field Director, Parambikulam Tiger Reserve
25. Sh. Kirubashankar, Field Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
26. Sh. Venkatesh, Field Director, Anamalai Tiger Reserve
27. Sh. Rajkumar, Field Director, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve