



The 8th Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards & B2B Sustainable Travel Trade Show



Celebrating 21 years of Responsible Tourism

Friday 12th December 2025 | Bikaner House, New Delhi

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The **8th TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards 2025**, organised by TOFT in association with Sanctuary Nature Foundation, successfully brought together leaders from the tourism, hospitality, and conservation sectors to celebrate excellence in responsible and nature-positive tourism. The theme for the awards, “Rewilding Tourism: Sustaining Nature, Empowering Communities, highlighted the growing role of tourism in supporting ecological restoration while strengthening local livelihoods.

The Awards recognised tourism initiatives that demonstrated a strong commitment to wildlife conservation alongside meaningful community engagement. Honoured projects reflected a thoughtful integration of conservation with community-led habitat restoration, indigenous stewardship, sustainable livelihood creation, and nature-positive tourism models that support long-term ecological and social resilience.

In addition to the Awards Ceremony, the Trade Show provided a dynamic platform for engagement among state tourism boards, hospitality brands, eco-focused accommodations, and conservation organisations. Participants exchanged insights, explored innovative tourism offerings, and identified opportunities for collaboration aimed at strengthening India’s sustainable travel movement.

The event reinforced the belief that responsible tourism can serve as a powerful tool for environmental regeneration and socio-economic empowerment. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards 2025 fostered dialogue, partnership, and shared commitment toward ensuring that tourism development aligns with conservation priorities and community well-being.

The success of this year’s Awards underscored the importance of continued collaboration across sectors to advance rewilding efforts through tourism. TOFT and Sanctuary Nature Foundation extend their appreciation to all participants, partners, and award recipients for their contributions to creating a more sustainable and inclusive future for wildlife and communities.

Panel Discussions: Driving Change through Dialogue

Two thought-provoking panel discussions addressed critical aspects of responsible tourism. Watch the complete discussions here:



Session 1: Birding in Tiger Land

The panel brings together strong voices from wildlife and birding backgrounds, highlighting the untapped potential of birding in India's tiger reserves, landscapes rich in avian diversity but known mainly for big cats. The discussion will examine why birding remains underdeveloped, the gaps limiting its growth, and how

stakeholders, from forest managers to local communities, can harness it to enhance visitor experiences, support year-round tourism, and boost conservation outcomes.

[Click here for Video](#)

Session 2: Valuing Carbon in the Age of Climate Crisis: The Tourism Opportunity

The panel “Valuing Carbon in the Age of Climate Crisis: The Tourism Opportunity” brings experts together to show how carbon valuation can reshape tourism amid accelerating climate risks.

By treating carbon as a real cost and embracing reductions, regenerative practices, and nature-based solutions, the sector can enhance efficiency, innovation, and credibility while transforming from a climate contributor into a driver of environmental restoration. The discussion will highlight practical pathways for operators, policymakers, and travellers toward a low-carbon, high-impact tourism future.



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Keynote Speaker



Bittu Sahgal - Editor, Sanctuary Asia

Bittu Sahgal is the Editor of Sanctuary Asia, Founder of the Sanctuary Nature Foundation, and leads India's one-million-strong Kids for Tiger programme. He has spent over four decades advocating for wildlife protection, conservation awareness, and community-driven ecological initiatives across India.

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Messages from TOFT Founders



Julian Matthews - Founder & Ambassador - TOFT

Julian Matthews worked for two decades across the Indian Subcontinent advocating sustainable tourism as a partner in tiger conservation and the rewilding of Indian forests through the TOFT campaign, while encouraging sustainability within the global travel trade.

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Vishal Singh - Co-Founder and Director of TOFT

Vishal Singh addressed the importance of sustainable tourism in the global context, emphasizing the need for responsible and resilient tourism models. He highlighted India's strong potential in the sustainable tourism market, driven by its rich biodiversity and well-established conservation practices.

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We are delighted
to announce the

Winners of the 8th TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards 2025!

**The John Wakefield
Memorial Award for Most
Inspirational “Rising Star”
Eco Lodge 2025**

**Kathoni
Kaziranga, Assam**

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The John Wakefield Memorial Award for Most Inspirational Eco Lodge of the Year 2025

Outstanding Pug Rating Lodge



**Spice Village,
A CGH Earth Experience**

[Click here for Video](#)

Quality Pug Rating Lodge



**Denwa Backwater Escape
Lodge at Satpura**

[Click here for Video](#)

Outstanding Footprint Rating Lodge



Hotel Barahi, Kathmandu

[Click here for Video](#)

Quality Footprint Rating Lodge



**After The Rains Rainforest
Lodge, Wayanad, Kerala**

[Click here for Video](#)

Sustainable Homestay Award 2025

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SAGG Eco Village - Ganderbal, Kashmir

[Click here for Video](#)

Wildlife Conservation Photography Award 2025

Sponsored by



Erwin Agnel D'Rose

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Wildlife Conservation Documentary Award 2025

Joint Winners

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**Roar Of The Tiger
By Tushar Bhojwani**

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**A Harmless Snake Trapped In
Illegal Trade And Superstitions
By Shatabdi Chakrabarti**

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Wildlife and Tourism Initiative Award 2025

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Sonam Wangchuk Lepcha
Village Noam Panang, Sikkim

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Wildlife Tourism Community Initiative Award 2025

Sponsored by



Godwar Raika Camel Breeders
(Camel Charisma) - Rajasthan

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Champion of the Forest Award 2025

Sponsored by



Rajesh Kumar Patel

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Climate Guardian Award 2025

Sponsored by



ISN - Indian School of Nature

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Conservationist Of The Year 2025

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Doma Paudel

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International Wildlife Tour Operator of the Year 2025



Holidays in Rural India

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Wildlife Promotion Company of the Year 2025



Abercrombie and Kent India Pvt. Ltd.

[Click here for Video](#)

Wildlife Harmony Homestay Award 2025



Svanir Wilderness Homestay

[Click here for Video](#)



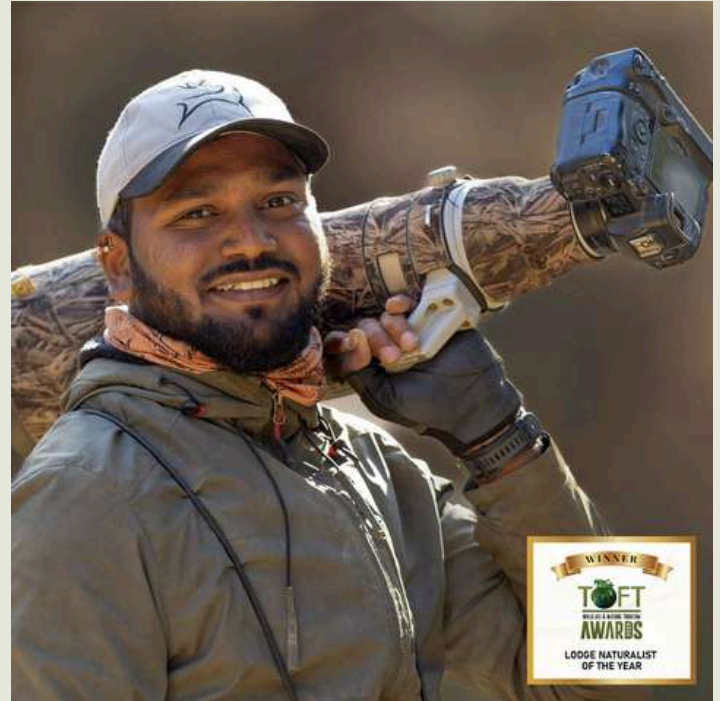
Lodge Naturalist of the Year 2025

Joint Winners

[Click here for Video](#)



Shaik Shaheen
Waghoba Eco Lodge, Pugdundee Safaris



Shubham Kamlakar Alave
Bori Safari Lodge

Kailash Sankhala Visitor Friendly Wildlife National Park of the Year 2025

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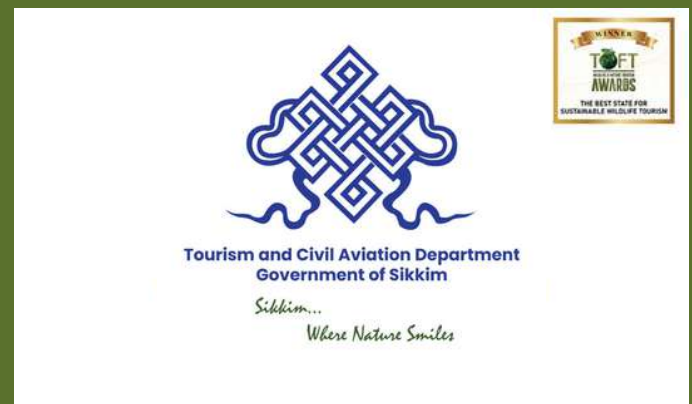


Sanctuary Asia Award for Best State for Sustainable Wildlife Tourism of the year 2025



**Satpura Tiger Reserve,
Madhya Pradesh**

[Click here for Video](#)



Sikkim

[Click here for Video](#)



The Billy Arjan Singh Memorial Award for Wildlife Guide of the Year 2025

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Bitupan Kalita (East)



Reeshna Pardhi (Central)



Shahanaz Suleman Baig (West)



Harish Sharma (North)

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