

Call of the wild

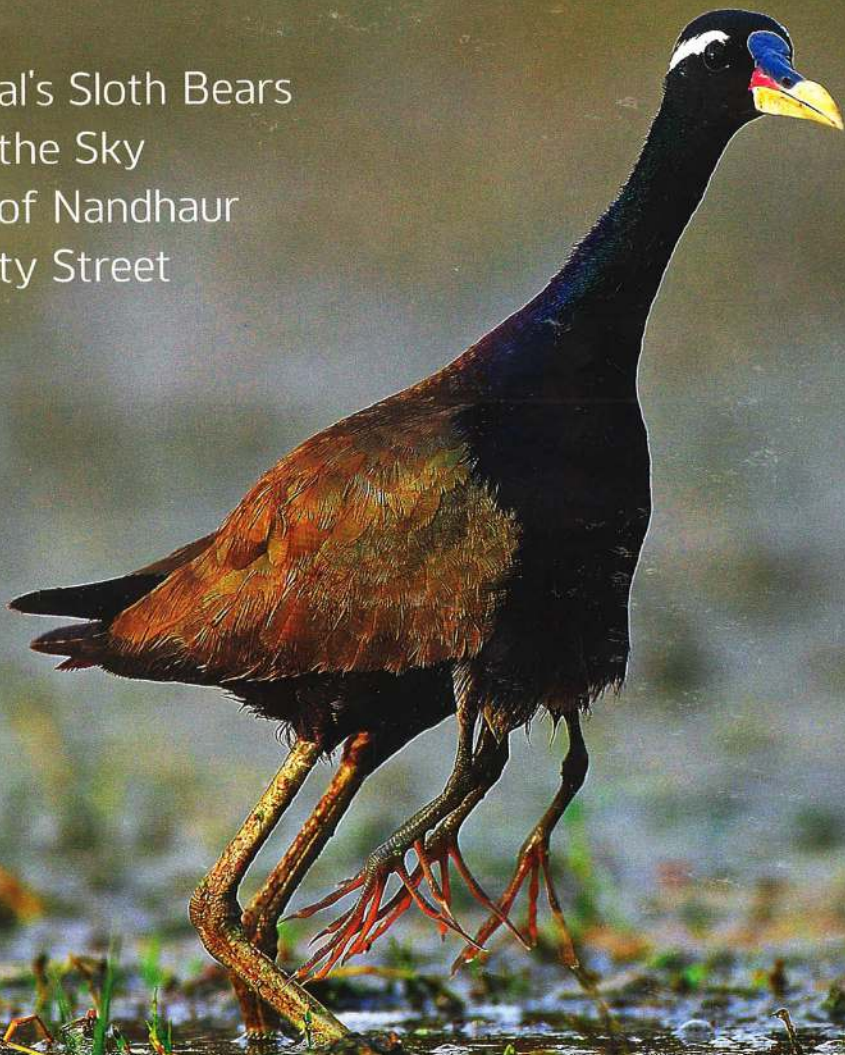
# Sanctuary

A S I A

108

Vol. XXXIV No. 5, October 2014

Chambal's Sloth Bears  
Eye in the Sky  
Tigers of Nandhaur  
Stupidity Street



National  
Wildlife  
Week  
October  
2014

**ON THEIR SHOULDERS**  
In praise of forest guards



#### TRAVEL OPERATORS FOR TIGERS (TOFTIGERS)

TOFTigers is an international partnership formed in 2004 that galvanises those most active players in the Indian nature and wildlife travel industry to promote best operating practices. TOFTigers engages with global travel and tourism operators, Indian destination management companies and local wildlife lodges and resorts. It helps them to adopt practices that promote sustainable business, community-support and tiger conservation. Use their members when booking your wildlife lodge and travel. Visit [www.toftigers.org](http://www.toftigers.org) and download a copy of the Good Wildlife Travel Guide and an up-to-date list of their members.

Sanctuary  
ASIA  
[www.sanctuaryasia.com](http://www.sanctuaryasia.com)

TOFTigers  
Sustaining the wild  
[www.toftigers.org](http://www.toftigers.org)

## Wildlife Tourism AWARDS 2014

Sanctuary Asia and the nature tourism action charity, TOFTigers, jointly organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sanctuary TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Awards 2014. The objective was to highlight and reward the very best in the nature tourism field; those individuals, businesses, service providers and community enterprises who are ahead of the pack, to demonstrate best practices in wilderness destinations in India and Nepal. Nature tourism is a far from perfect practice in most wilderness destinations. However, it is our belief that the potential of tourism to turn into a valuable conservation tool cannot be understated. This we know will only happen when tourism actually finances wildlife and ecosystem protection and restoration and local communities become the first beneficiaries of the return of biodiversity.

The jury was chaired by well-known nature film-maker Mike Pandey and included Sanctuary Asia Editor Bittu Sahgal, Indian Forest Service officer Rajiv Bhartari, wildlife tourism pioneer K. K. Singh and TOFTigers founder Julian Matthews. Awards were presented at the residence of the British High Commissioner in New Delhi on September 19, 2014.



#### Sanctuary and TOFTigers would like to thank the Awards' sponsors:

##### Co-Supporters



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Incredible India

##### Award Category Sponsors



Mysteries of India  
Tours and Holidays for Growing Families

## THE BILLY ARJAN SINGH MEMORIAL AWARD FOR WILDLIFE GUIDE OF THE YEAR 2014

Sponsored by Indian Wildlife Experiences (IWX)

**WINNER: Ramesh Suyal, Corbett, Uttarakhand**

An outstanding local guide who has gone the extra mile to use his passion to enthuse others - visitors and community alike - about wildlife and conservation. Harboured the basics of responsible tourism, he has helped to bring employment to others, and supports local projects and communities.

## LODGE NATURALIST OF THE YEAR 2014

Sponsored by Mysteries of India

**WINNER: David Raju, Forsyth Lodge, Satpura, Madhya Pradesh**

Hailed as one of the most enthusiastic and inspirational naturalists in India, David is an excellent communicator inspiring all ages and his neighbouring communities with his passion for wildlife. He is also a well published researcher and is called on by forest staff to help ID numerous species.

[www.forsythlodge.com](http://www.forsythlodge.com)

## VISITOR FRIENDLY WILDLIFE DESTINATION OF THE YEAR 2014

Sponsored by Ashok Piramal

**WINNER: Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh**

Satpura has set an extraordinary example in its approach, planning for tourism early in its opening to visitors, working in partnership with tourism owners, seeking alternative activities to the usual game drives, and enabling canoeing, camping safaris and guided walks in some of Central India's most fabulous landscapes. A superb example of how with vision and foresight one can offer nature travellers exceptional experiences in the natural world, while enhancing conservation objectives.

[dirstatpuranp@moforest.org](mailto:dirstatpuranp@moforest.org)

## WILDLIFE AND TOURISM INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR 2014



**WINNER: SAI (Save Animals Initiative) Sanctuary, Karnataka**  
Dubbed Noah's Ark due to its rich biodiversity, this 300+acre not for profit sanctuary serves the dual purpose of protecting the rapidly vanishing biodiversity of the Western Ghats and encouraging its visitors to value nature. A first class example of how the hard work and dedication of one couple, Dr. Anil and Mrs. Pamela Malhotra, combined with holistic and sustainable ecotourism can play a role in India's nature conservation efforts.

[www.saisanctuary.com](http://www.saisanctuary.com)

## WILDLIFE TOURISM RELATED COMMUNITY INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR 2014



**WINNER: Corbett Foundation, Corbett, Kaziranga, Kanha, Bandhavgarh**  
An outstanding NGO dedicated to wildlife conservation, forest dependent communities and environmental

sustainability founded by the owner of Infinity Resorts. This award recognises the Corbett Foundation's great efforts in skills development amongst almost 1,500 local men and women bordering tiger reserves over the last two years, and its work with more than 350 villages helping to build a world where man and nature can live in harmony.

[www.corbettfoundation.org](http://www.corbettfoundation.org)

## INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE TOUR OPERATOR OF THE YEAR 2014

**WINNER: Wildlife Trails, U.K.**

With its own NGO, The Tiger Trails Foundation, U.K.-based Wildlife Trails provides direct support to communities around Ranthambhore, works with expert local guides and is applauded for its attention to detail and local knowledge in organising tours. A long-time supporter of TOFTigers, Wildlife Trails also has 5 stars from AITO for sustainable tourism.

[www.wildlifetrails.co.uk](http://www.wildlifetrails.co.uk)

## WILDLIFE PROMOTION COMPANY OF THE YEAR 2014

**WINNER: Pugdundee Safaris**

This wildlife safari operator founded in 2009 on a strong sustainable tourism foundation, has helped put India firmly on the world map as an unparalleled nature tourism destination. Together with its five lodge operations in Madhya Pradesh, all of which pass TOFTigers' PUG eco-certification, and team employing over 150 people, it has also pioneered wildlife camping and walking safaris in buffer zones and supported conservation and community development through its dedicated Conservation Cell.

[www.pugdundeefaris.com](http://www.pugdundeefaris.com)

## THE JOHN WAKEFIELD MEMORIAL AWARD FOR MOST INSPIRATIONAL ECO LODGE OF THE YEAR 2014



**JOINT WINNER:**

**Orange County, Kabini, Nagarhole, Karnataka**

Inspired by local architecture, Orange County with an Outstanding TOFTigers PUG eco-rating, combines high quality hospitality and service with respect

for the environment and active involvement with its local farmers. Innovative thinking and planning has meant it set aside acres for a butterfly sanctuary, a unique interpretation centre and local cooperative for selling locally made handicrafts to its visitors.

[www.orangecounty.in/kabini-resorts/](http://www.orangecounty.in/kabini-resorts/)



**JOINT WINNER:**

**Kipling Camp, Kanha, Madhya Pradesh**

Kipling, one of the oldest wildlife lodges in India set up by some of the pioneers in India's conservation movement, has transformed what was a bare patch of land

in the 1980s into a forest of trees and yet a haven of old world hospitality in which wildlife and birdlife once again flourishes. Decades of hard work have won the owners unique support amongst its local tribal communities, earning this lodge huge respect locally and opening doors to critical wildlife protection intelligence nobody else can match. TOFTigers PUG eco-rated Outstanding.

[www.kiplingcamp.com](http://www.kiplingcamp.com)

Visit [www.toftigers.org](http://www.toftigers.org) for further information on Award winners and a full list of PUG eco-rated lodges and TOFTigers members to use for your travel.