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Coverage for the 8th Annual TOFT Wildlife and Nature Tourism Awards 2025



The Times of India

Post-Event Article:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/tadaoba-guide-shahnaz-wins-toft-award/articleshow/125966046.cms>

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Today's ePaper

News / Tadaoba Guide Shahnaz Wins TOFT Award

Tadaoba guide Shahnaz wins TOFT Award

Mazhar Ali / Dec 15, 2025, 00:57 IST



Chandrapur: Shahnaz Suleman Baig, a woman tourist guide at Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve etched her name in history by winning the Billy Arjan Singh Award for Best Wildlife Guide of the Year – West India at 8th TOFT (Travel Operators for Tigers) Wildlife and Nature Tourism Awards 2025.

Chosen from eight shortlisted nominees across West India, this honour is a landmark achievement not only for Shahnaz Baig but also for Maharashtra's wildlife tourism sector. She was also formally recognised as the state's first tourist lady guide of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, a milestone moment for women in conservation-based tourism.

The prestigious award was presented by Julian Matthews, Founder and Ambassador of TOFT, along with distinguished jury members Vishal Singh, Co-Founder and Director of TOFT, and Bittu Sahgal, Founder of Sanctuary Asia.

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www.toftigers.org

The Hindu

Post-Event Article:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/uttar-pradesh/indian-school-of-nature-wins-climate-guardian-award-at-toft-2025/article70395554.ece#google_vignette

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Indian School of Nature wins Climate Guardian Award at TOFT 2025

Agra-based institution recognised for work in climate action and sustainable tourism

Published – December 14, 2025 11:14 pm IST – Lucknow

MAYANK KUMAR

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The Agra-based Indian School of Nature (ISN), an institution engaged in education and research in climate action, sustainable tourism, and environment-compatible agriculture, has won the Climate Guardian Award 2025 at the Tour Operators for Tigers (TOFT) Wildlife

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The Telegraph India

Post-Event Article:

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/global-pat-for-sikkims-wildlife-tourism-states-sustainability-focus-wins-sanctuary-asia-award-prnt/cid/2137896>

The Telegraph online

Wednesday, 17 December 2025



HOME OPINION INDIA KOLKATA WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS MY KOLKATA ENTERTAINMENT EDUGRAPH MORE



Home / West Bengal / Global pat for Sikkim's wildlife tourism, state's sustainability focus wins Sanctuary Asia Award

Global pat for Sikkim's wildlife tourism, state's sustainability focus wins Sanctuary Asia Award

The award acknowledges Sikkim's sustained commitment to protecting biodiversity while promoting ethical and sustainable tourism. TOFT is a leading organisation promoting responsible wildlife and nature tourism in India and South Asia, working in partnership with the Sanctuary Nature Foundation

Bireswar Banerjee | Published 15.12.25, 08:14 AM



Officials of Sikkim tourism and civil aviation department receive the Sanctuary Asia Award 2025 in New Delhi on December 12. Picture courtesy: Sikkim government



The Sikkim tourism department has won the Sanctuary Asia Award 2025 for Best State for Sustainable Wildlife Tourism, presented by Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT) in recognition of the Himalayan state's conservation-led, community-

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Sanctuary Nature Foundation (Sanctuary Asia)

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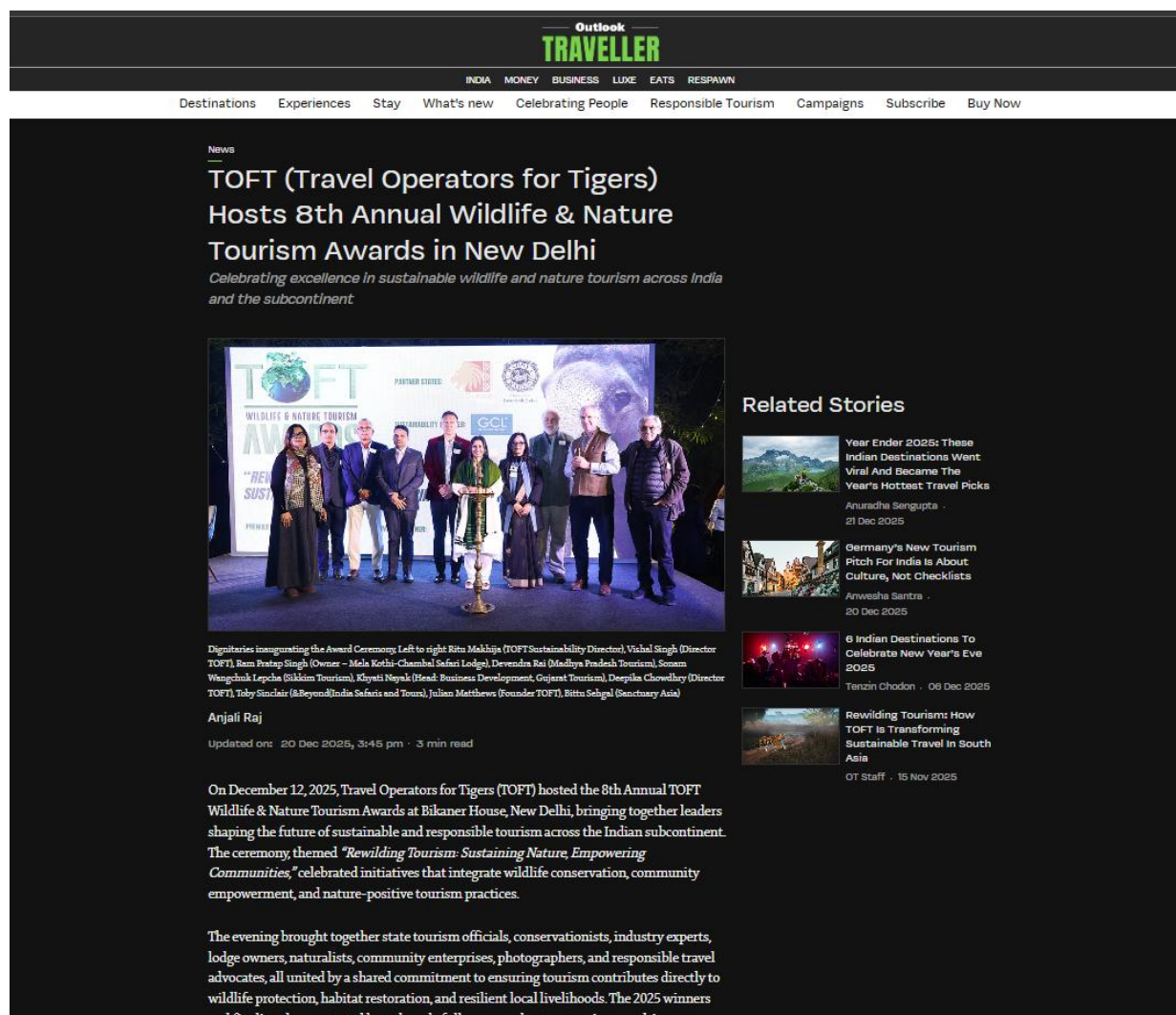
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Outlook Traveller & Outlook Responsible Tourism

Post-Event Article:

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TOFT (Travel Operators for Tigers) Hosts 8th Annual Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards in New Delhi

Celebrating excellence in sustainable wildlife and nature tourism across India and the subcontinent

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- Rewilding Tourism: How TOFT is Transforming Sustainable Travel in South Asia

Dignitaries inaugurating the Award Ceremony Left to right Rita Mukhija (TOFT Sustainability Director), Vishal Singh (Director TOFT), Ram Pratap Singh (Owner - Mala Kotli-Chambal Safari Lodge), Devendra Rai (Madhya Pradesh Tourism), Somam Wangchuk Lepcha (Sikkim Tourism), Khyati Nayak (Head- Business Development, Gujarat Tourism), Deepika Chowdhury (Director TOFT), Toby Sinclair (SBeyond India Safaris and Tours), Julian Matthews (Founder TOFT), Bittu Sehgal (Sanctuary Asia)

Anjali Raj
Updated on: 20 Dec 2025, 3:45 pm · 3 min read

On December 12, 2025, Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT) hosted the 8th Annual TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards at Bikaner House, New Delhi, bringing together leaders shaping the future of sustainable and responsible tourism across the Indian subcontinent. The ceremony, themed *"Rewilding Tourism: Sustaining Nature, Empowering Communities"*, celebrated initiatives that integrate wildlife conservation, community empowerment, and nature-positive tourism practices.

The evening brought together state tourism officials, conservationists, industry experts, lodge owners, naturalists, community enterprises, photographers, and responsible travel advocates, all united by a shared commitment to ensuring tourism contributes directly to wildlife protection, habitat restoration, and resilient local livelihoods. The 2025 winners and finalists demonstrated how thoughtfully managed nature tourism can drive

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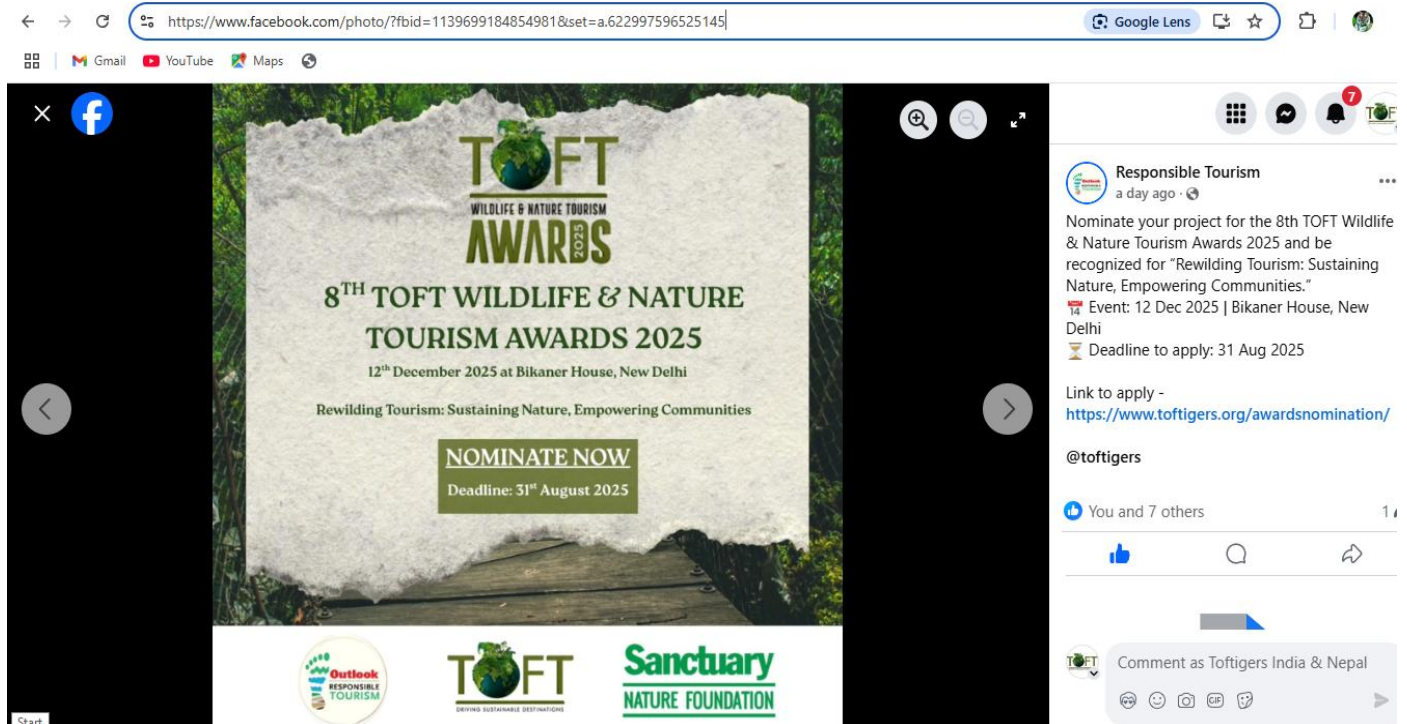




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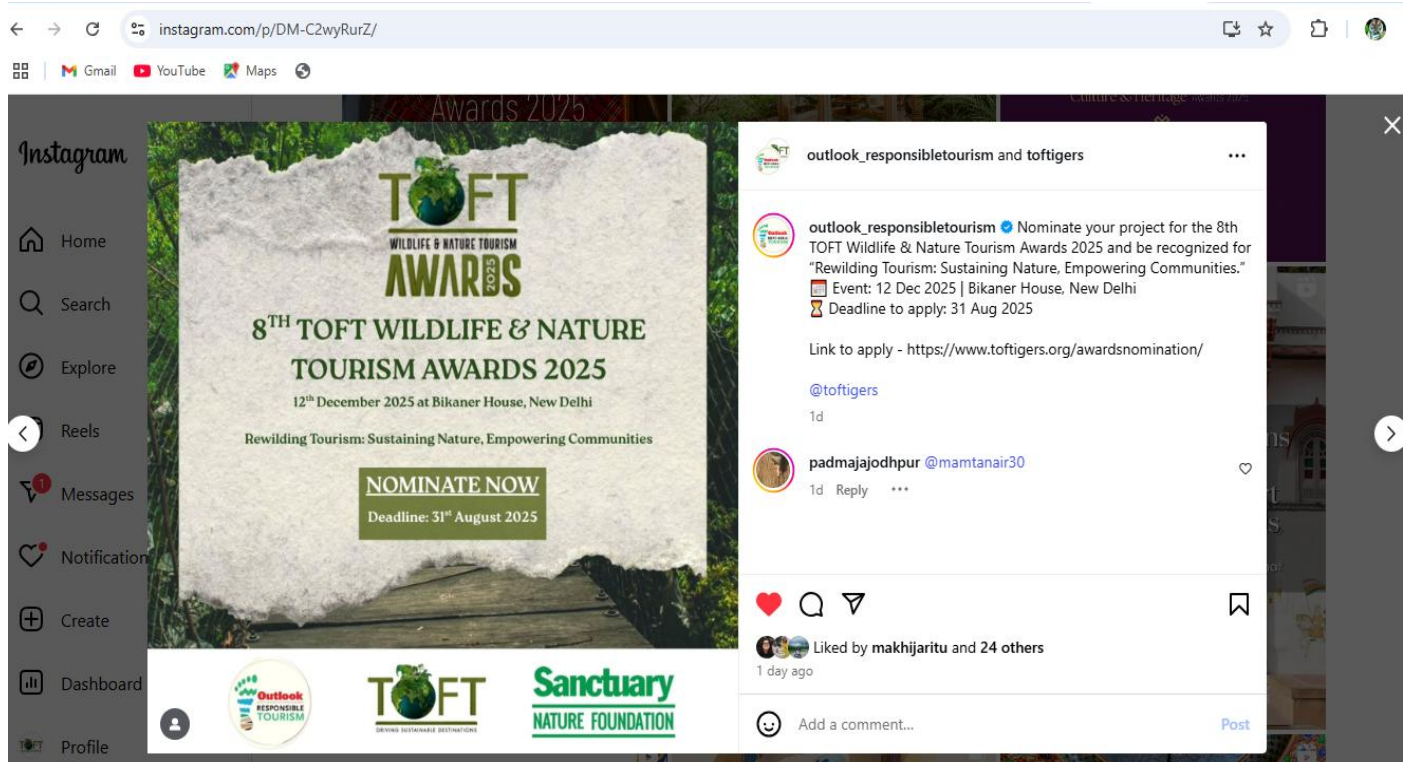
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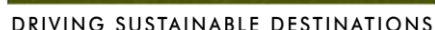
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NEWS

Rewilding Tourism: How TOFT Is Transforming Sustainable Travel In South Asia

For nearly two decades, TOFT has shown that responsible tourism can help regenerate ecosystems, empower communities, and protect wildlife across India and Nepal



Tigers represent the very wilderness that regenerative tourism seeks to safeguard Shutterstock

OT Staff


Updated on: 15 Nov 2025, 1:15 pm · 3 min read

In a world where travel can either regenerate or degrade the natural environments we admire, rewilding tourism has moved from idealism to urgent necessity. At the forefront of this shift stands TOFT, a pioneering force that has spent nearly 20 years demonstrating that tourism, when conducted responsibly, can be a powerful agent of conservation across India and Nepal.


A Global Recognition Of Vision

This year has marked an important milestone for TOFT, which was honoured as a Sustainable Travel Innovator at a leading awards ceremony, earning a place among 25 global leaders redefining ethical travel. Later, TOFT also won the Good Travel Frontrunner award, cementing its reputation as a leader in responsible tourism.


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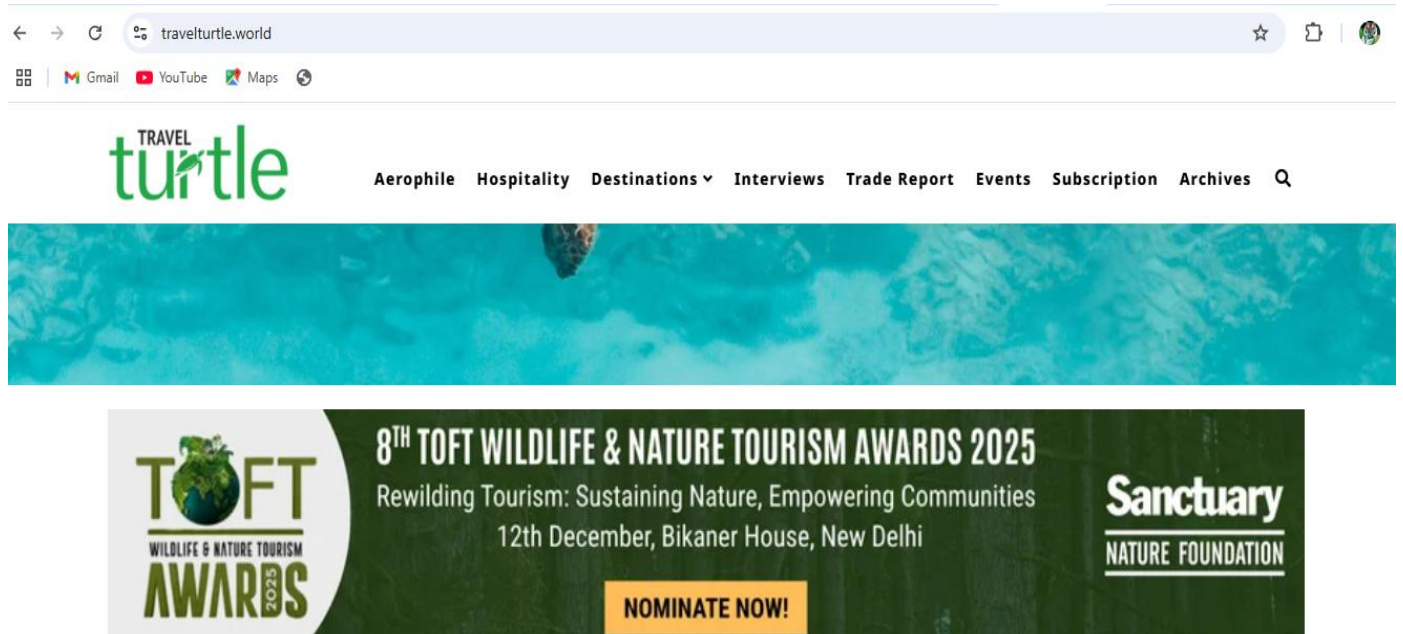




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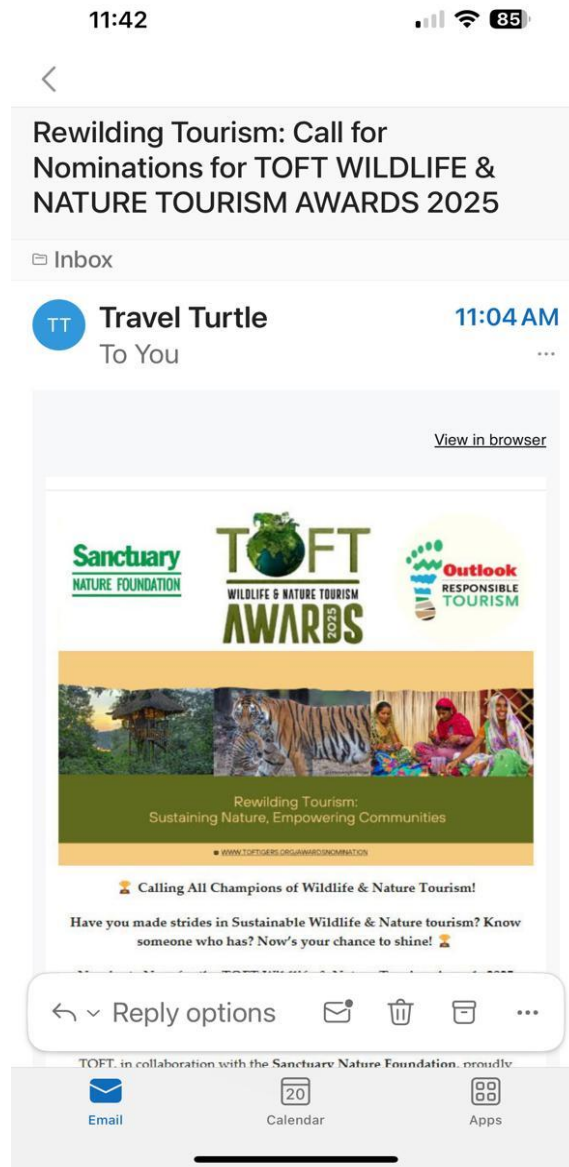
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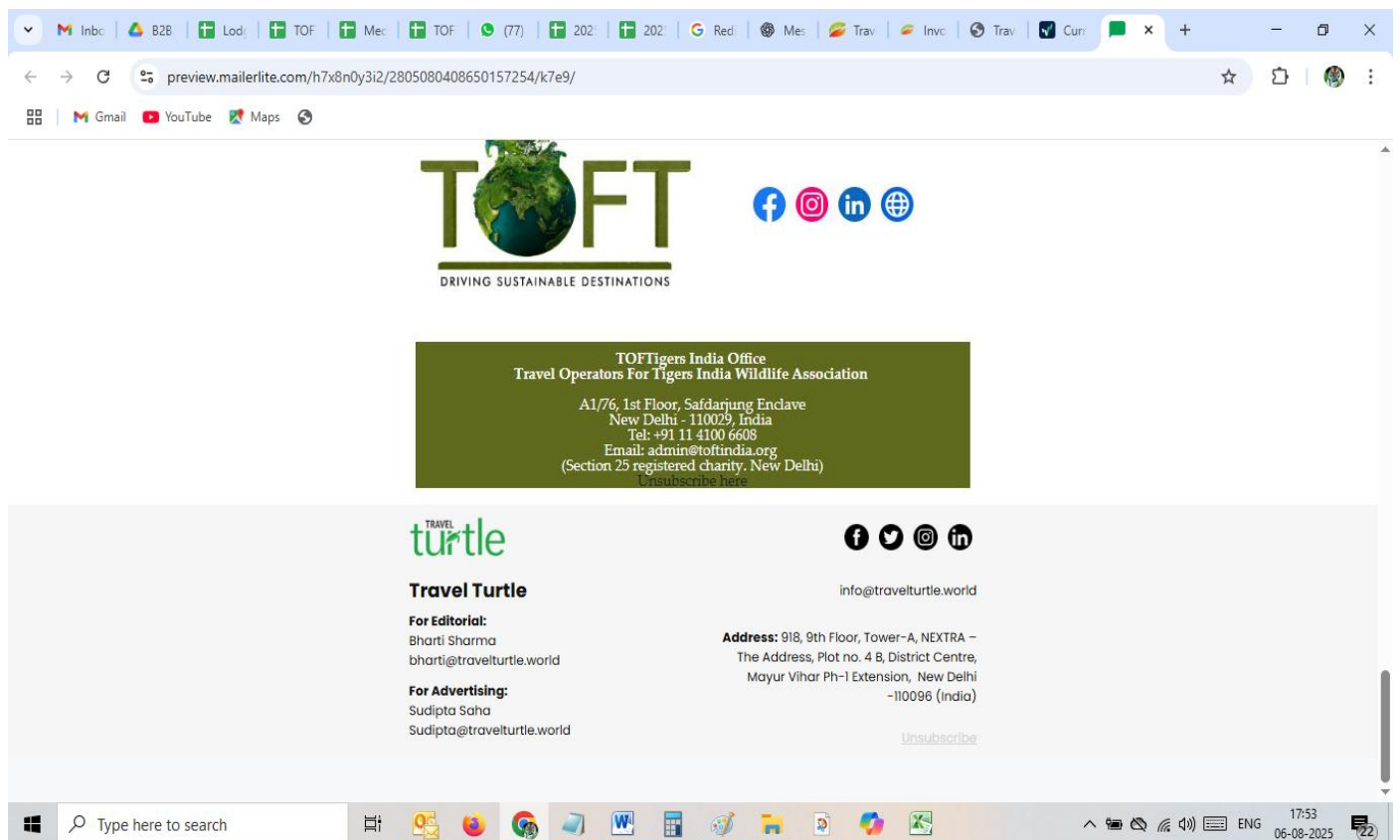
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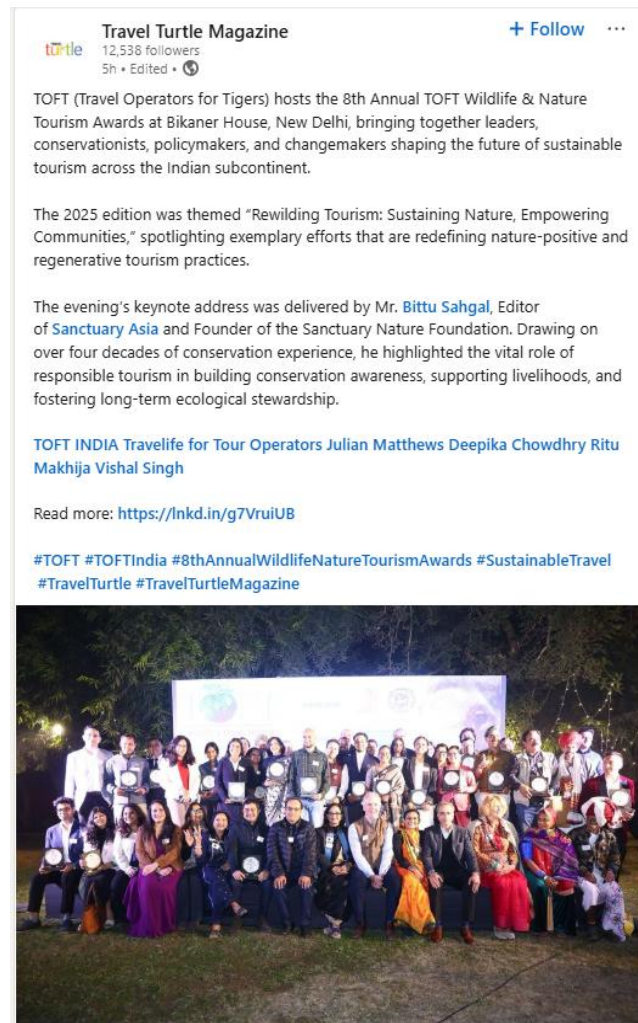
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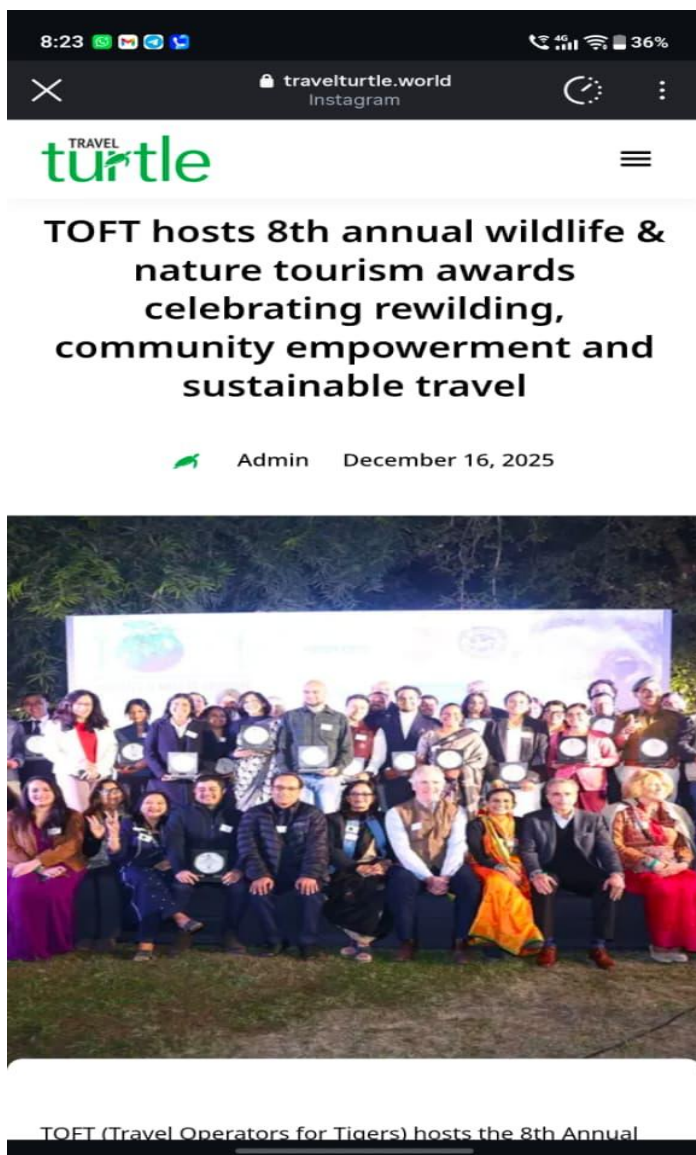
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Post-Event Article:

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1. The John Wakefield Memorial Award for Most Inspirational Outstanding Eco Lodge
2. The John Wakefield Memorial Award for Most Inspirational Quality Eco Lodge
3. The John Wakefield Memorial Award for Most Inspirational Footprint Eco Lodge
4. Lodge Naturalist
5. Wildlife Promotion Company
6. International Wildlife Tour Operator
7. Wildlife Harmony Homestay Award

TOFT Environment & Forest Awards


1. The Billy Arjan Singh Memorial Award for Wildlife Guide
2. Champion of the Forest (New)
3. Best Conservationist (New)
4. Climate Guardian of the Year

TOFT Wildlife Awards

1. Most Inspirational "Rising Star" Eco Lodge under the category
2. Wildlife Tourism Community Initiative
3. Wildlife and Tourism Initiative
4. Sustainable Homestay Award
5. Wildlife Conservation Photography Award
6. Wildlife Conservation Documentary Award

TOFT Jury Awards

1. Kailash Sankhala Visitor Friendly Wildlife National Park
2. Sanctuary Asia Award for "Best State for Sustainable Wildlife Tourism"




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www.toftigers.org/AwardsNomination
 Nominations closing midnight 31st August 2025.

TOFT, in partnership with The Sanctuary Nature Foundation and Outlook Traveller, announces the 8th Wildlife Tourism Awards. Under the theme "Rewilding Tourism: Sustaining Nature, Empowering Communities," the Awards recognise eco-lodges, wildlife guides, tourism operators, community initiatives, photography & documentary experts and Climate guardians in India and Nepal for their leadership in sustainable tourism and conservation. With over 200 global members, TOFT continues to drive a vision where tourism actively supports the preservation of wildlife and natural heritage.

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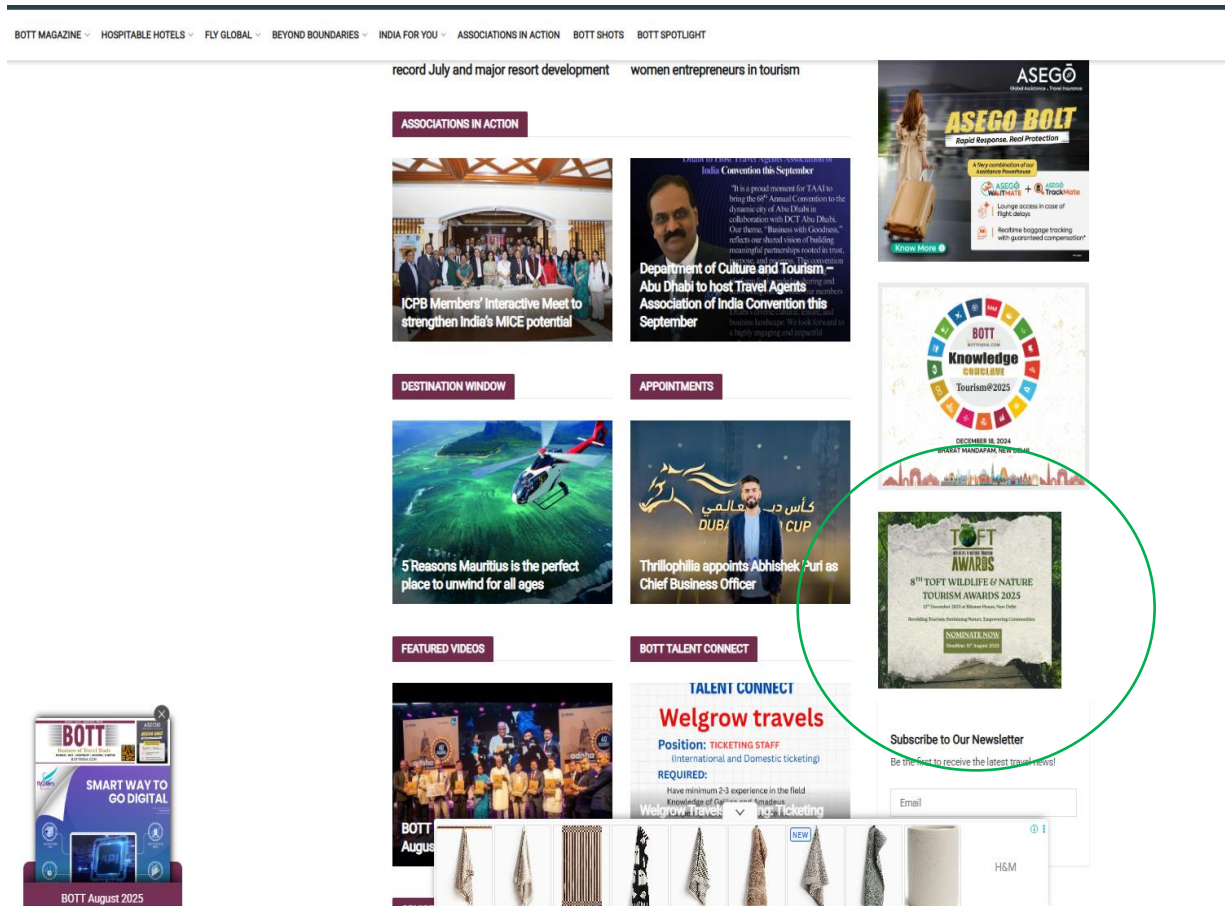
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8th TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards 2025

TOFT hosted the 8th Annual TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards at Bikaner House, New Delhi, bringing together leaders and changemakers shaping the future of sustainable travel across the Indian subcontinent.

by **Nitin Konde** — December 16, 2025 in Events Corner



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TravelBiz Monitor

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8th TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards 2025 recognises sustainable travel across 19 categories

BY TBM STAFF - MUMBAI - DECEMBER 16, 2025

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


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Travel Heights:

Article:

<https://travelheights.org/toft-announces-8th-wildlife-nature-tourism-awards/>

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the article 'TOFT ANNOUNCES 8TH WILDLIFE & NATURE TOURISM AWARDS' on the Travel Heights website. The article is dated May 27, 2025, and is authored by admin. The main image of the article is the TOFT logo, which features a globe with a tiger on top, with the text 'TOFT' and 'WILDLIFE & NATURE TOURISM' below it. To the right of the article, there is a 'MOST RECENT' section with six items, each with a small image and a brief description. The items are: 'AI and Tourism: A New Era of Travel Experience', 'DT Minich, President and CEO of Experience Kissimmee, Appointed to VISIT FLORIDA Board of Directors', 'Kanoo Travel Partners with QuadLabs to Launch "eo" Corporate Travel Solution', 'Chalet Hotels Limited announces its results for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2026 ending June 30, 2025', 'Raise A Toast to Friendship With Curated Sunday Brunch at Novotel Vijayawada Varun', and 'The Westin Goa appoints Ankita Bhide as the Training and Quality Manager'.

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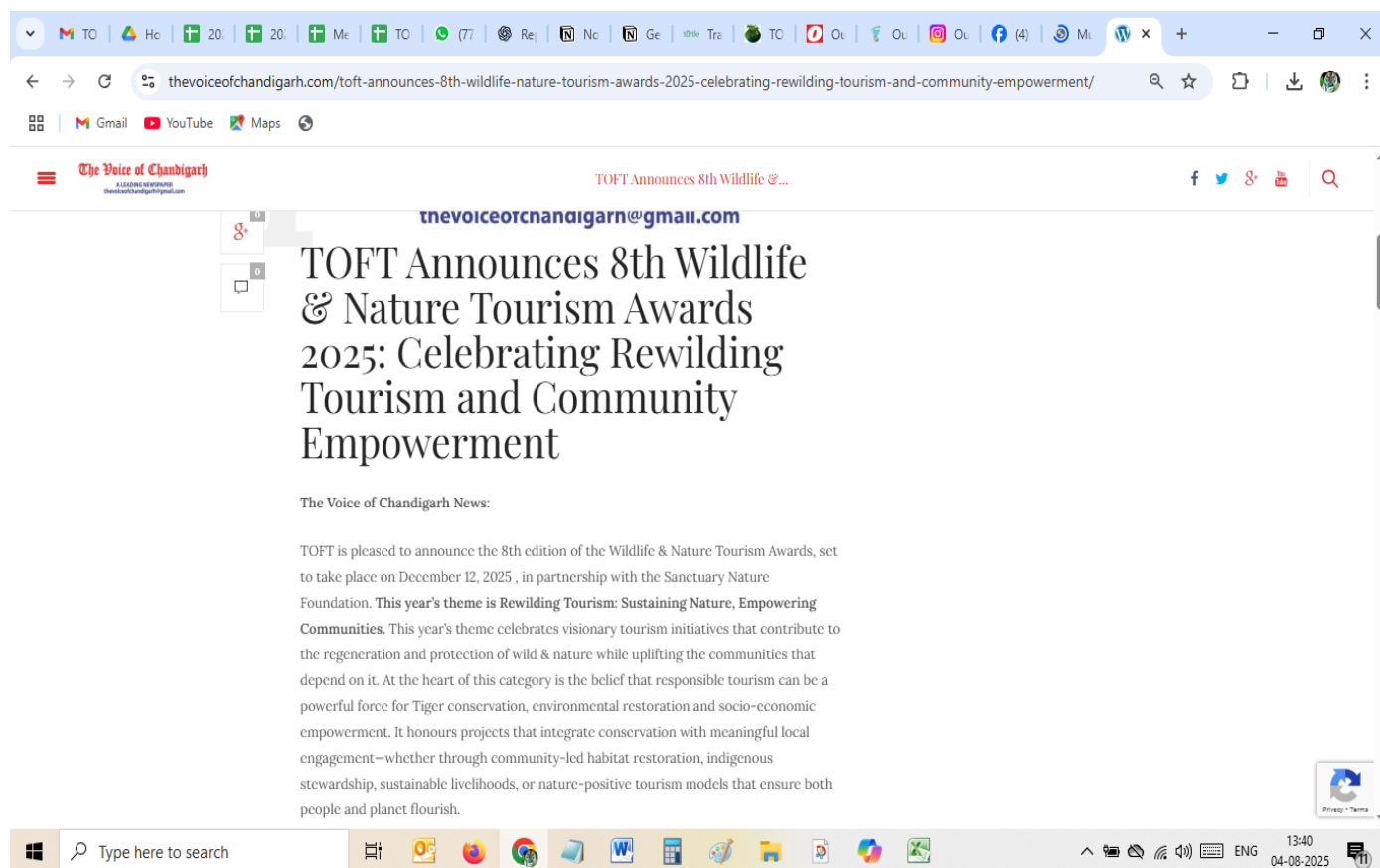




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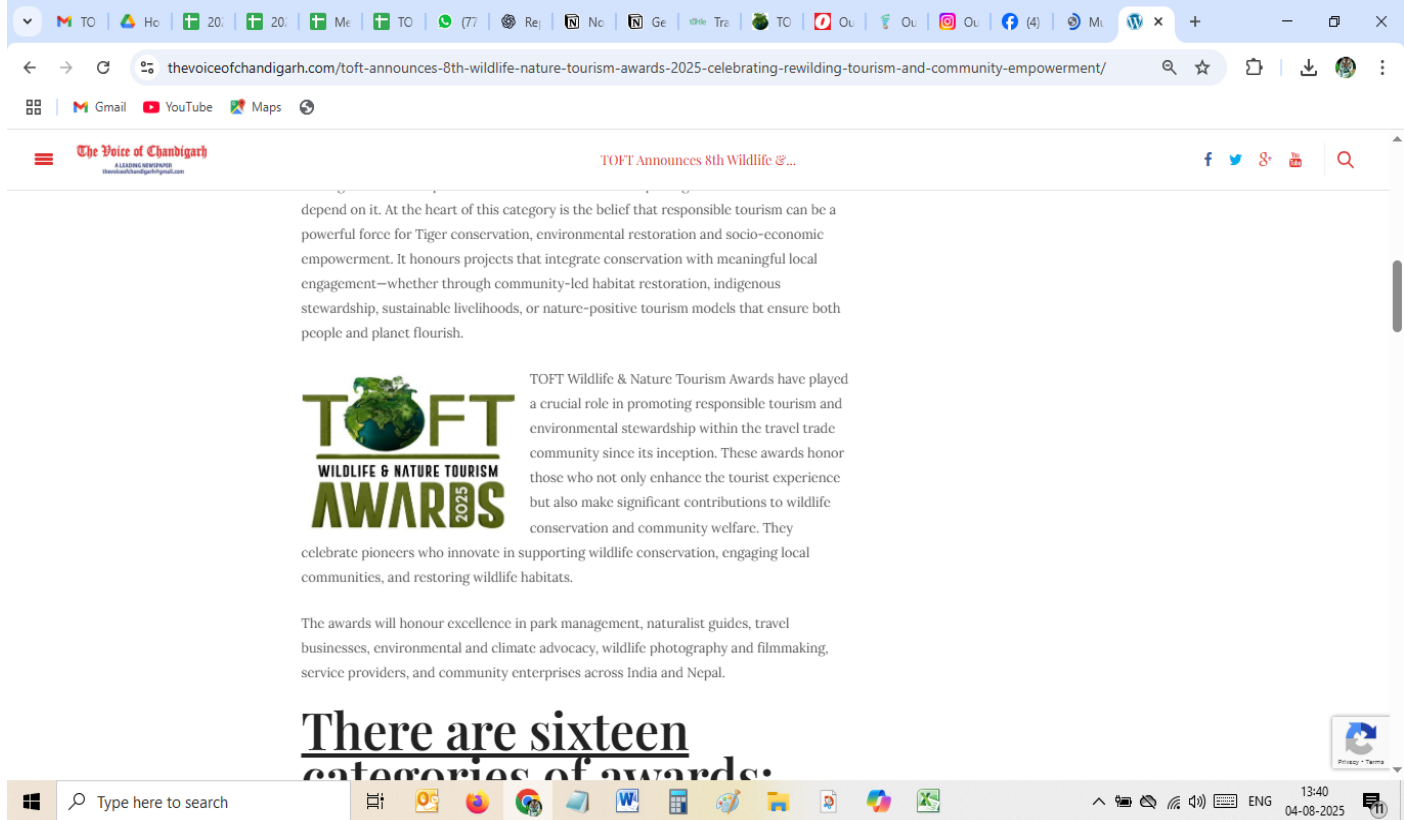
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Chandigarh, Vol. 25, Issue 22, 17 Dec. 2025
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TOFT Hosts 8th Annual Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards 2025

Rewilding Tourism: Sustaining Nature, Empowering Communities



The Voice of Chandigarh | Travel Trade Reporter

TOFT (Travel Operators for Tigers India) successfully hosted the 8th Annual TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards at Bikaner House, New Delhi, bringing together leaders and changemakers shaping the future of sustainable tourism across the Indian subcontinent.

The 2025 ceremony, themed “Rewilding Tourism: Sustaining Nature, Empowering Communities,” celebrated exemplary efforts in conservation-focused tourism and recognised organisations and individuals setting new benchmarks for regenerative, nature-positive practices.

A Collective Vision for Conservation

The evening witnessed participation from state tourism officials, conservationists, lodge owners, naturalists, photographers, community enterprises, and responsible travel advocates, united by a shared commitment to ensuring tourism actively contributes to:

- Wildlife protection
- Habitat restoration
- Community livelihoods
- Long-term ecological stewardship

From pioneering sustainability innovations to community-led conservation models, the 2025 finalists and winners demonstrated how well-managed nature tourism can be a powerful force for ecological restoration and rural empowerment.

Legacy of the TOFT Awards

Established in 2010, the TOFT Wildlife Tourism Awards have grown steadily in prominence and

industry impact, offering meaningful recognition to those demonstrating excellence in sustainable tourism. Through these awards, TOFT continues to inspire wider adoption of practices that protect wildlife, safeguard habitats, and strengthen resilient ecosystems across India and the region.



DRIVING SUSTAINABLE DESTINATIONS

Keynote Address

The ceremony featured **Mr. Bittu Sahgal**, Editor of *Sanctuary Asia* and Founder of the *Sanctuary Nature Foundation*, as the **Keynote Speaker**. Drawing on over four decades of conservation experience, Mr. Sahgal underscored:

- The critical role of **responsible tourism** in conservation awareness
- The importance of **supporting local livelihoods**
- The urgent need for **ecological restoration amid climate instability**

He also paid tribute to the late **Mr. Valmik Thapar**, one of India's most respected wildlife conservationists, whose legacy continues to inspire generations.

Reflecting on lessons from *Gir* and other wilderness landscapes, Mr. Sahgal emphasised that forests, wildlife, and the communities protecting them are **life-support systems for our collective future**, urging the sector to reconnect younger generations with India's natural heritage.

TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards 2025 – Winners

1. Most Inspirational Eco Lodge: Spice Village, Thekkady (Outstanding) | Denwa Backwater Escape, Satpura (Quality)
2. Lodge Naturalist of the Year: Shubham Alave & Shaik Shaheen
3. Wildlife Promotion Company: Abercrombie & Kent India
4. International Wildlife Tour Operator: Holidays in Rural India (UK)
5. Wildlife Harmony Homestay: Svanir Wilderness Ecotay, Odisha
6. Wildlife Guide of the Year: Harish Sharma, Reeshna Pardi, Shahanaz S. Baig, Bitupan Kalita
7. Champion of the Forest: Rajesh Kumar Patel
8. Conservationist of the Year: Doma Paudel
9. Climate Guardian: Indian School of Nature
10. Rising Star Eco Lodge: Kathon, Kaziranga
11. Community Initiative: Godwar Raika Camel Breeders
12. Tourism Initiative: Sonam Wangchuk Lepcha
13. Sustainable Homestay: SAGG Eco Village, Kashmir
14. Photography Award: Erwin Agnel D’Rose
15. Documentary Award: Roar of the Tiger & A Harmless Snake...
16. Visitor-Friendly National Park: Satpura Tiger Reserve
17. Best State for Sustainable Wildlife Tourism: Sikkim



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Sanjay Pahwa's post



Sanjay Pahwa is with The Voice of Chandigarh and 2 others.

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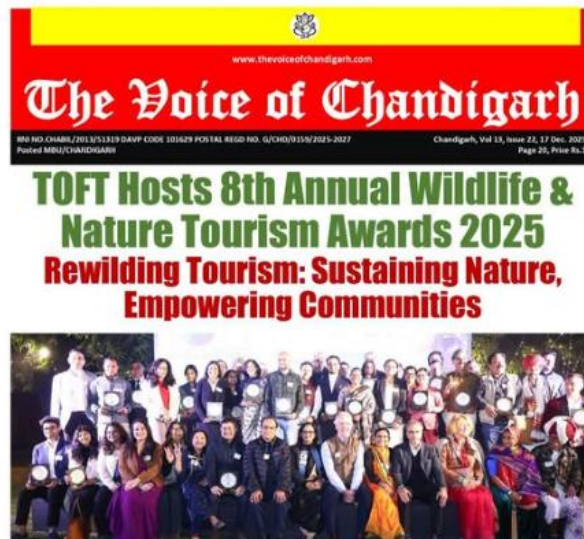
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TOFT Honours Leaders of Responsible Tourism at 8th Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards

TOFT hosted the 8th Annual TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards on December 12, 2025, at Bikaner House, New Delhi, celebrating excellence in sustainable and nature-positive tourism. Held under the theme "Rewilding Tourism: Sustaining Nature, Empowering Communities," the ceremony brought together tourism officials, conservationists, lodge owners, guides and community leaders from across India and the subcontinent. The awards recognised outstanding contributions in wildlife conservation, eco-lodges, community initiatives, guiding, photography and climate action. Veteran conservationist Bittu Sahgal delivered the keynote address, highlighting the role of responsible tourism in protecting ecosystems and supporting local livelihoods, while paying tribute to the late Valmik Thapar. Established in 2010, the TOFT Awards continue to promote regenerative tourism and long-term stewardship of natural heritage.

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written by Travel Mail | December 19, 2025 | 1 minutes read

TOFT Hosts 8th Annual Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards in New Delhi

TOFT proudly hosted the **8th Annual TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards** at **Bikaner House, New Delhi**, bringing together leaders and changemakers shaping the future of sustainable travel across the Indian subcontinent. This year's ceremony, themed **"Rewilding Tourism: Sustaining Nature, Empowering Communities,"** honoured exemplary efforts in conservation-focused tourism and recognised those setting new benchmarks for regenerative, nature-positive practices.

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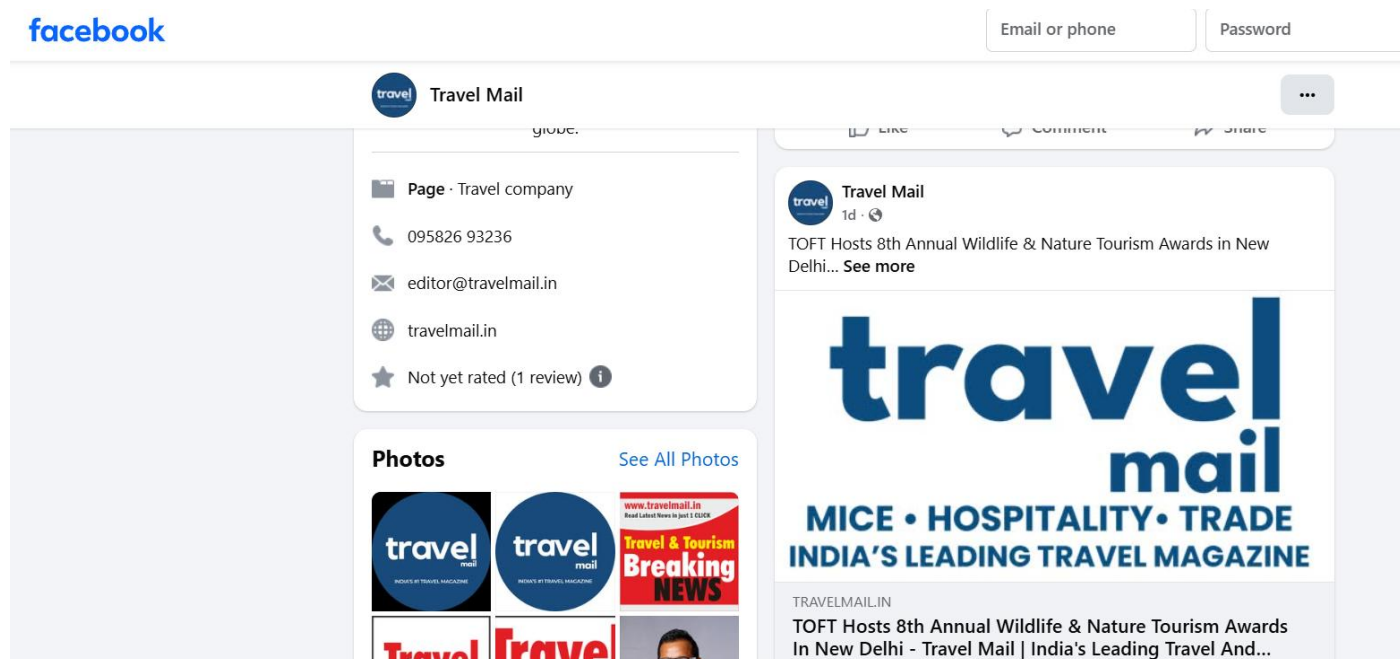
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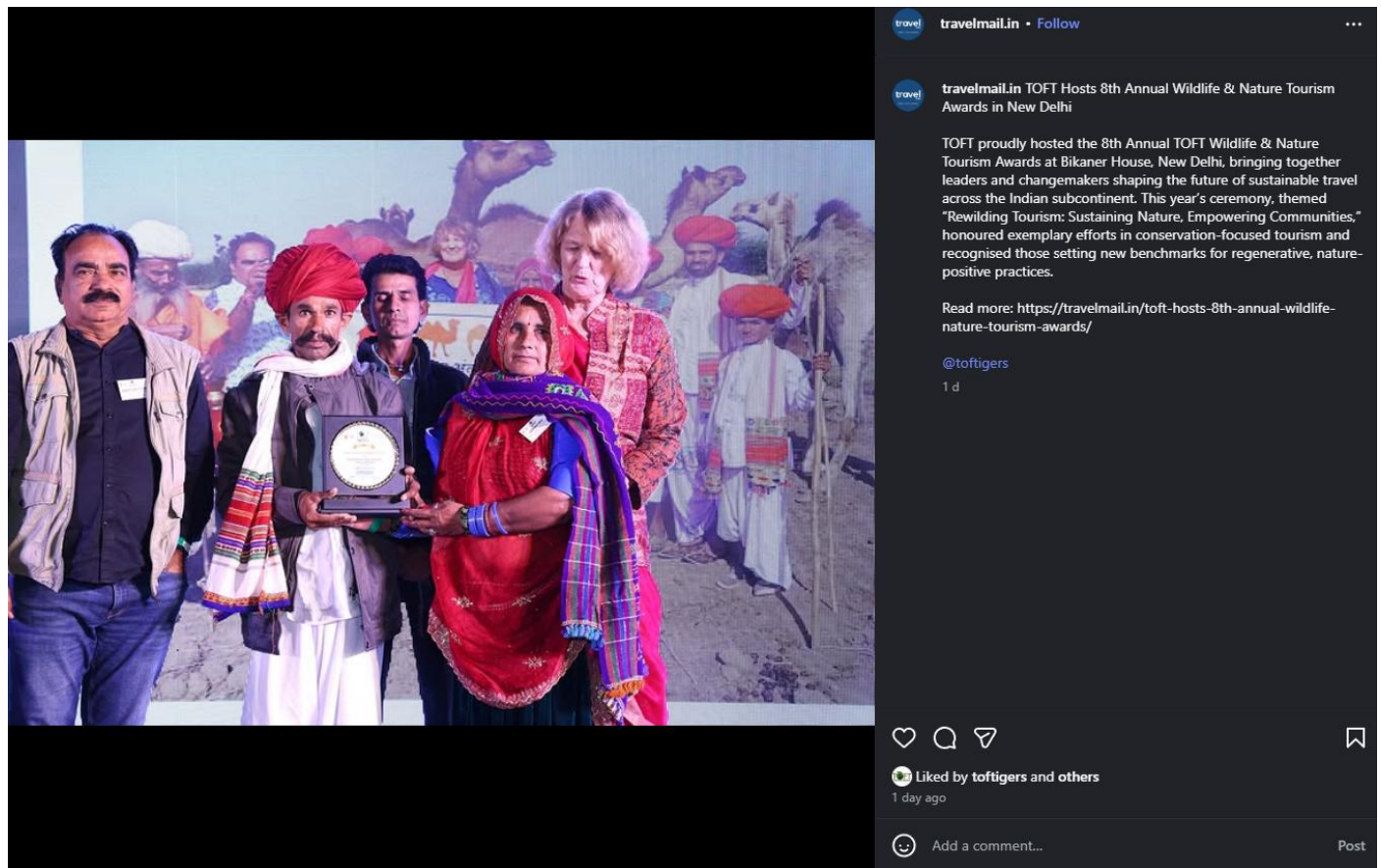
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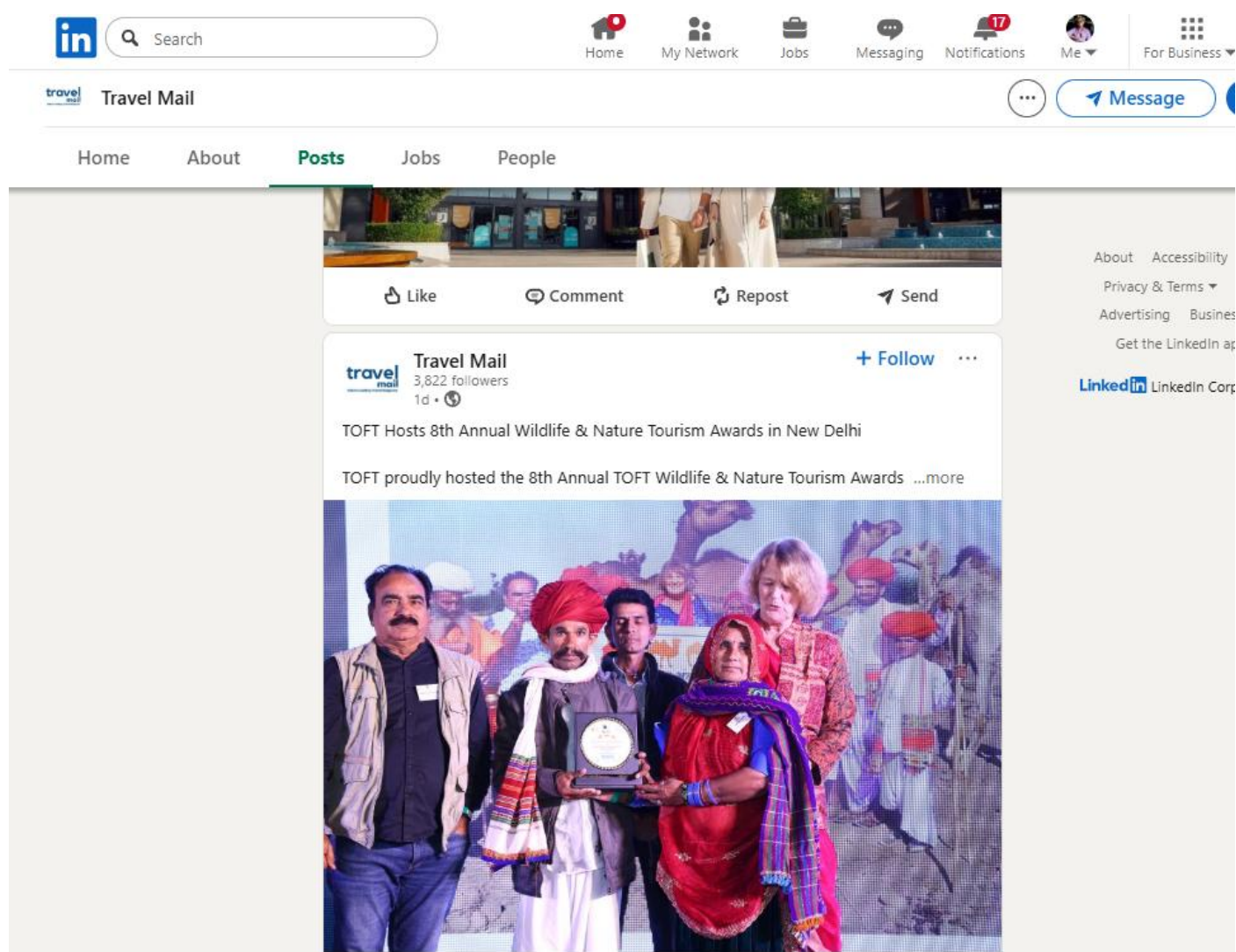
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The Week

Post-Event Article:

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2025/12/14/des27-env-toft-awards.amp.html>



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December 17, 2025 TNH Global

TOFT's 8th Annual Awards Spotlight Rewilding and the Future of Sustainable Tourism

TOFT proudly hosted the 8th Annual TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards at Bikaner House, New Delhi, bringing together leaders and changemakers shaping the future of sustainable travel across the Indian subcontinent. This year's ceremony, themed "Rewilding Tourism: Sustaining Nature, Empowering Communities," honoured exemplary efforts in conservation-focused tourism and recognised those setting new benchmarks for regenerative, nature-positive practices.



The evening brought together state tourism officials, conservationists, industry experts, lodge owners, naturalists, community enterprises, photographers, and responsible travel advocates, united by a shared mission to ensure that tourism contributes directly to protecting wildlife, restoring habitats, and uplifting local communities.

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SAGG Eco Village wins Gold at TOFT Wildlife and Nature Tourism Awards 2025

By KL News Network - 10:00 pm December 13, 2025



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SRINAGAR: SAGG Eco Village, Kashmir's pioneering regenerative eco-village enterprise, has been awarded Gold in the Sustainable Homestay category at the TOFT Wildlife and Nature Tourism Awards 2025, held at Bikaner House in New Delhi.

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By Online Editor — Last updated Dec 13, 2025

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Indian School of Nature Wins 2025 Climate Guardian Award for Tourism Innovation

The Indian School of Nature received the Climate Guardian Award 2025 at the TOFT Wildlife and Nature Tourism Awards for its contributions to climate accountability in nature-based tourism. Their 'Carbon Balance Sheet' tool aids tourist lodges in climate performance measurement and emission reduction, reinforcing ecosystem regeneration and community empowerment.

Devdiscourse News Desk | New Delhi | Updated: 14-12-2025 16:38 IST | Created: 14-12-2025 16:38 IST



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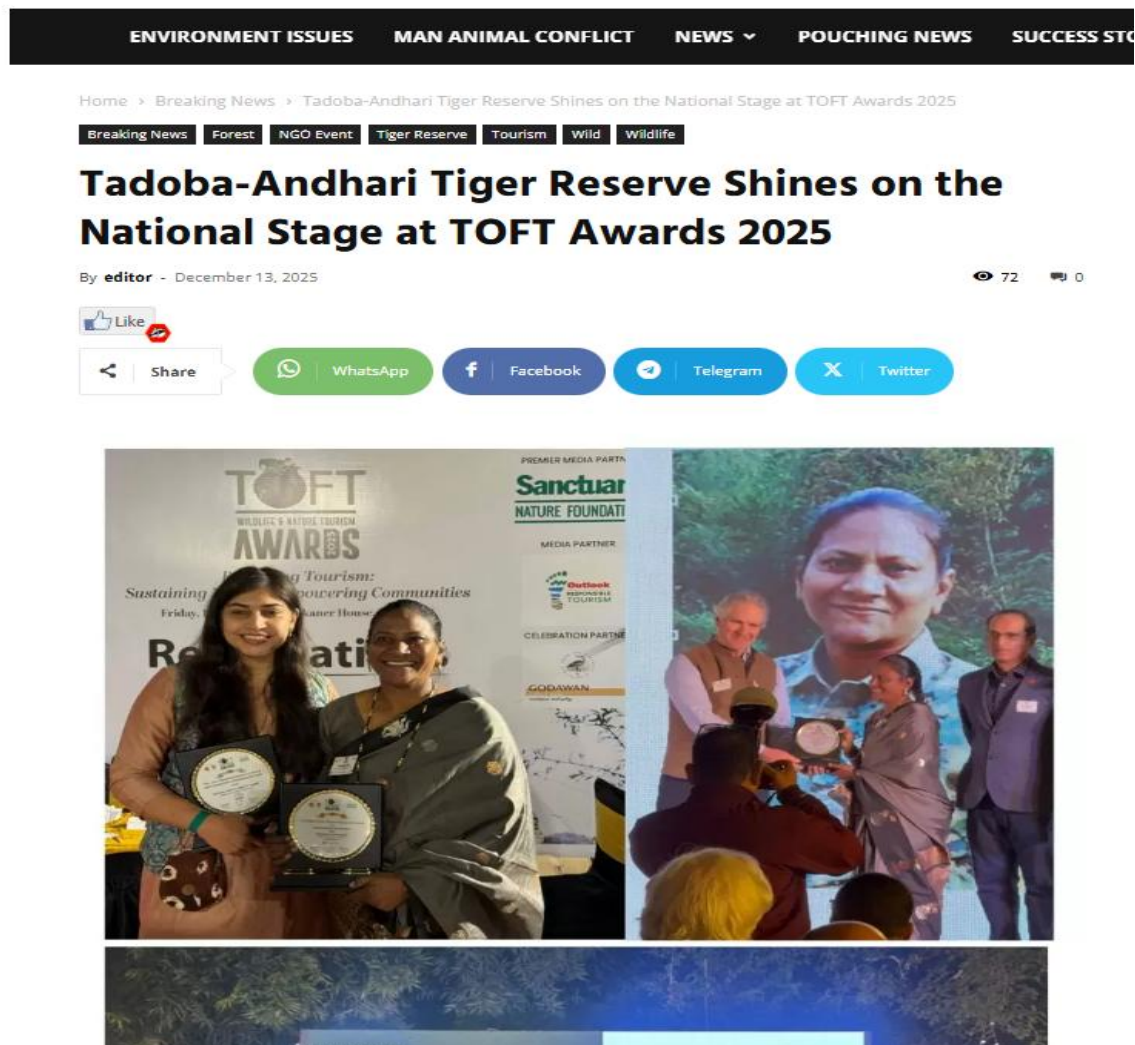
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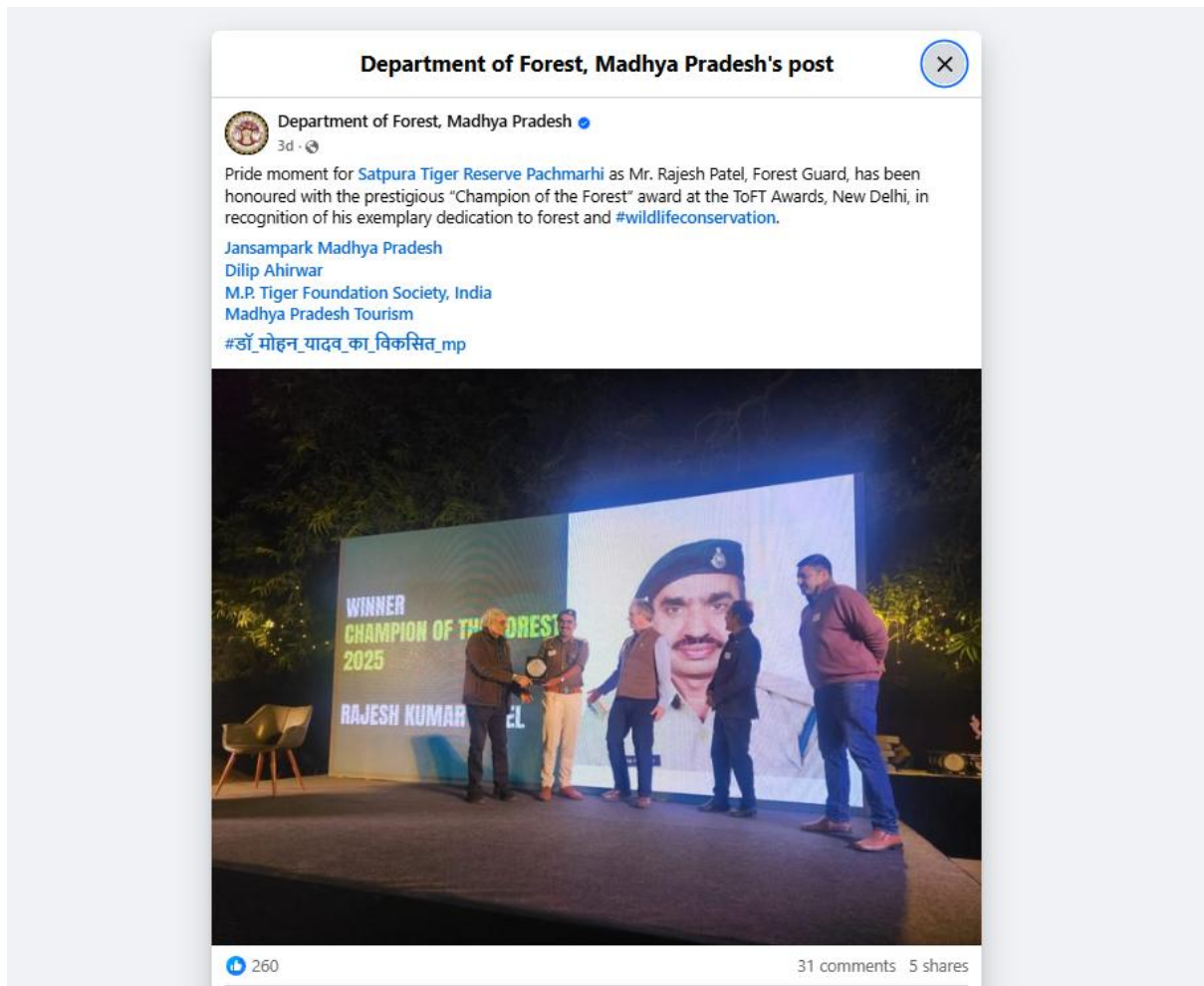
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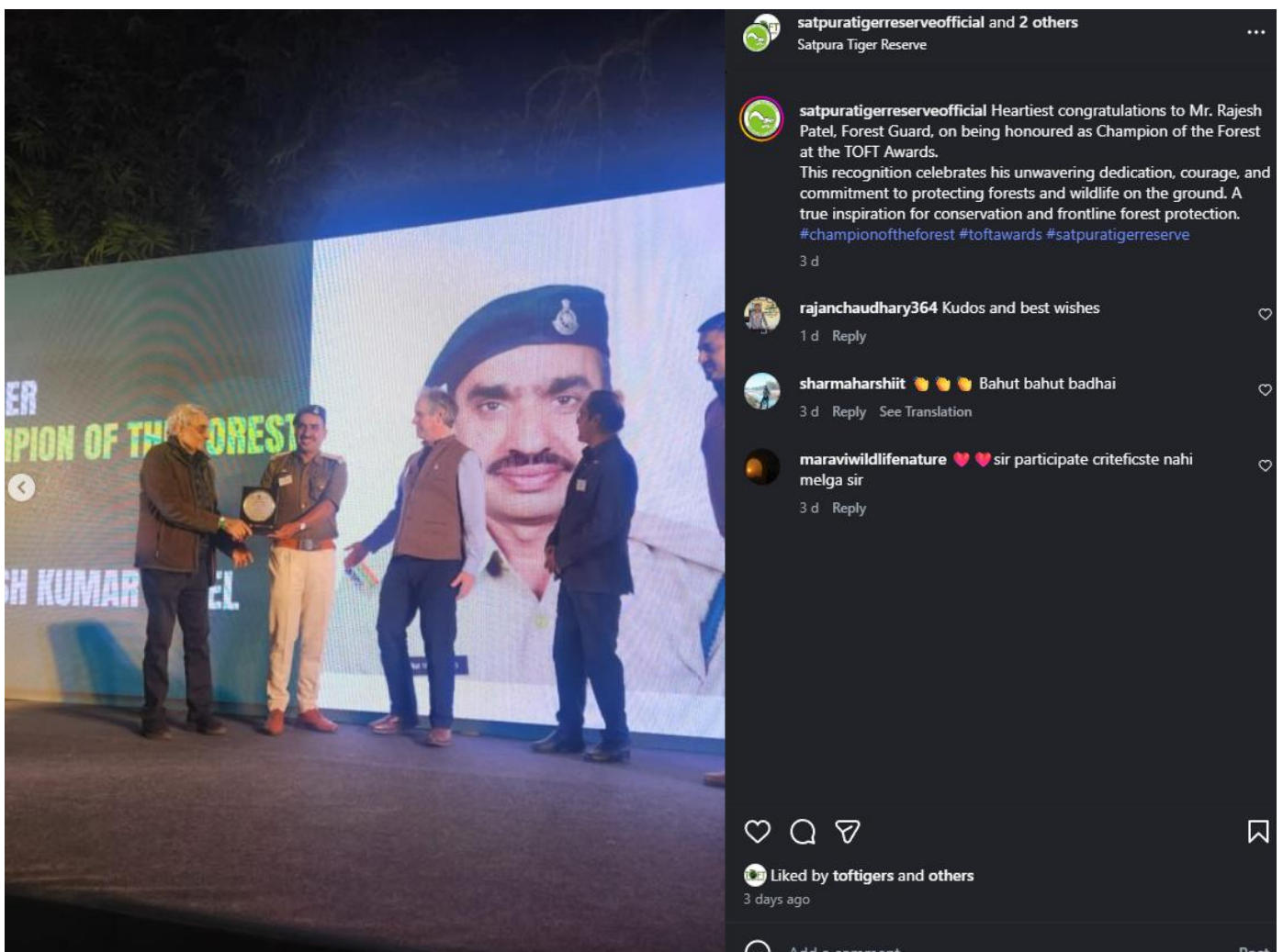
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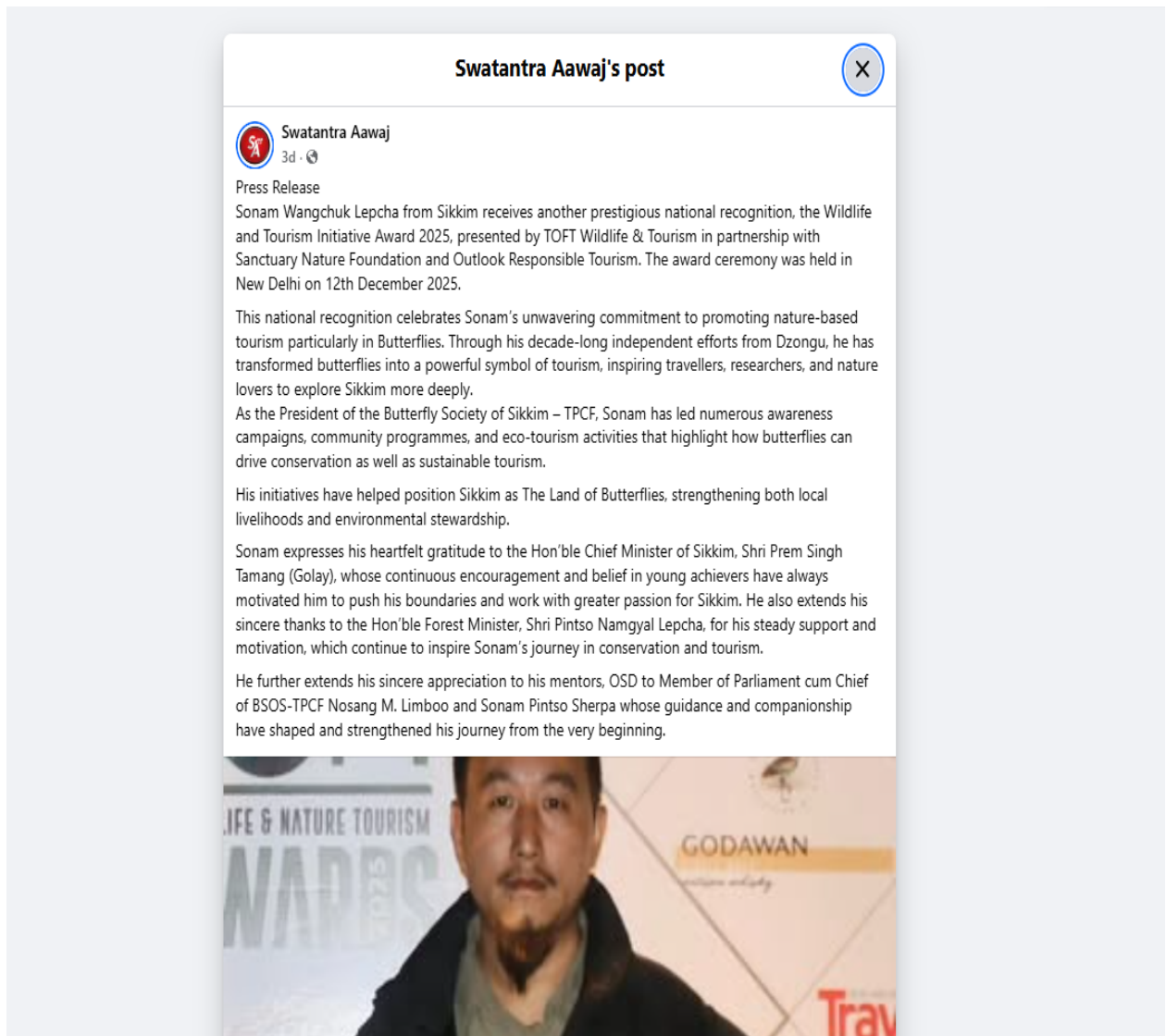
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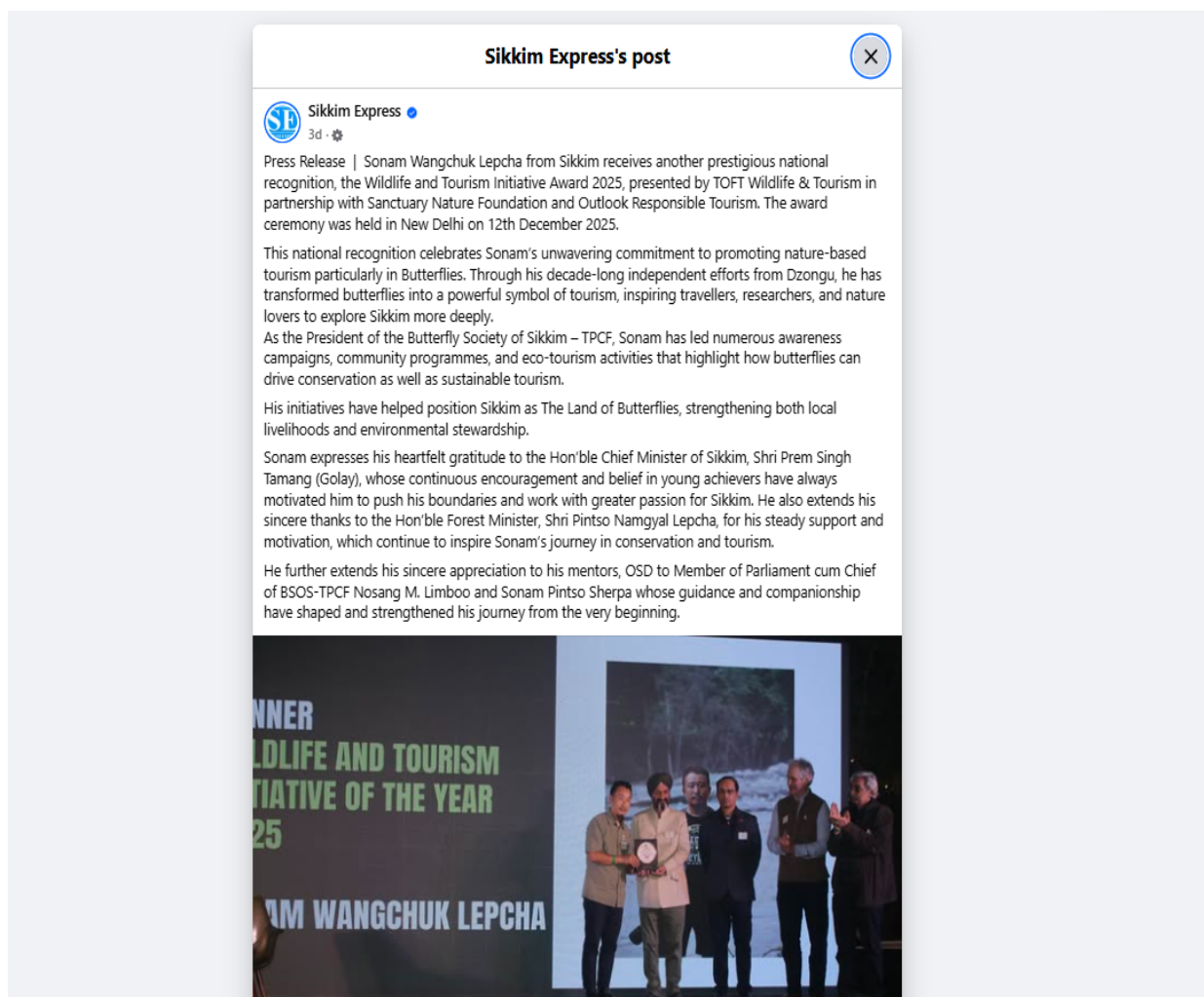
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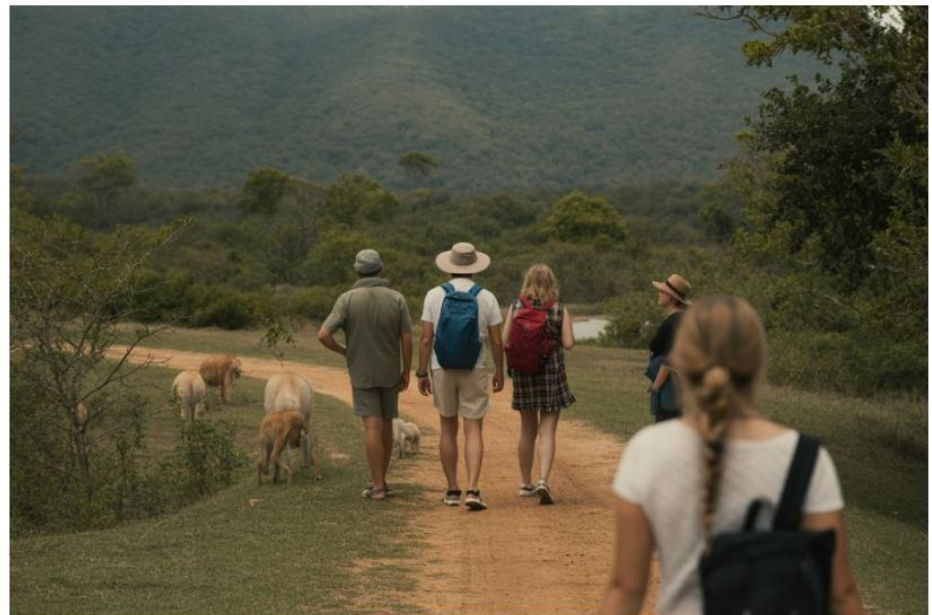


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India And Nepal Set To Showcase Nature-Positive Travel At TOFT Wildlife & Nature Tourism Awards 2025

Published on December 17, 2025



India and Nepal appeared as major representatives of nature-positive tourism at the **eighth TOFT**

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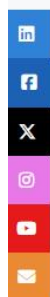


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The 8th Annual TOFT Wildlife and Nature Tourism Awards 2025 was successfully convened by

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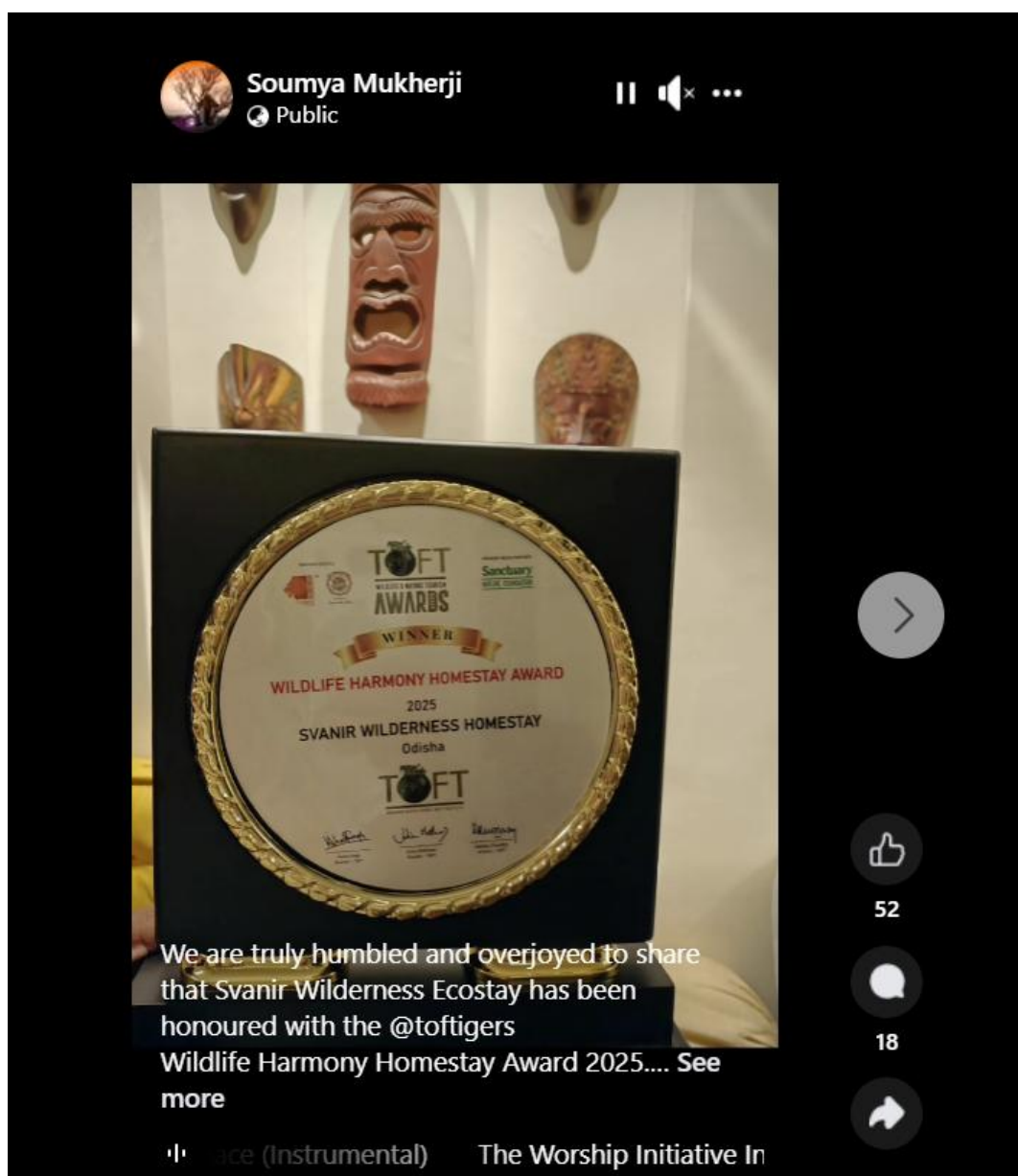
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