

### BAGH MITRAS felicitated by WWF India

#### and PATA

WWF-India in collaboration with the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) felicitated the winners of the WWF-PATA Bagh Mitra 2018 on 19 December in New Delhi. Mr. Runeep Sangha, Executive Director, PATA Foundation, Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF India and Dr. Siddhanta Das, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change felicitated the winners yesterday at the award ceremony. The event was also attended by

representatives from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change of Govt. of India, Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Global Tiger Forum and WWF-India staff.

The WWF-PATA Bagh Mitra Awards ceremony was instituted in 1999. It recognizes and honours the numerous stories of persistence, courage and conviction demonstrated by local forest staff, community members and organizations working towards tiger conservation.

The winners were presented the awards for their contribution towards tiger conservation in the year 2018.

#### INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY



Ms. S. Senbagapriya, IFS, Deputy Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve



Mr. A. T. Poovaiah, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forest Mobile Squad, Karnataka



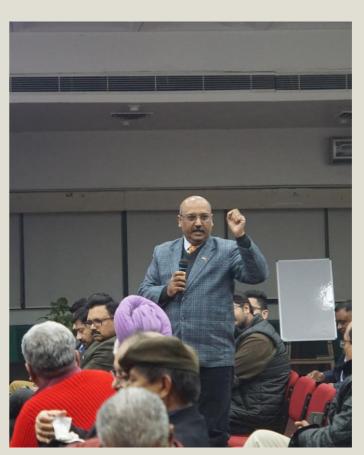
State Tiger Strike Force, Madhya Pradesh



M.P. Tiger Foundation Society



Western Circle, Haldwani, Uttarakhand





Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ravi Singh, Secretary General & CEO, WWF-India, said, "All through the world, it is India that is known for its wildlife and for its tiger conservation. There is a strong linkage between humans and animals, a special bond... a feeling that reverberates with India."

Dr. Siddhanta Das, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said, "We must link the fate of the tiger to the state of our water and our water catchments. The tiger is an indicator species, and in that sense, is equally indicative of how secure we are, as a country, with our water."

Mandeep Singh Soin, Founder President, Ecotourism Society of India in his address said that the primary goal is to get tourism and conservation to go hand in hand, and to work together.

#### **MEDIA STORIES**

#### TIMES OF INDIA, DEHRADUN

# Western circle of Uttarakhand forest dept wins prestigious national award

Shivani Azad | TNN | Dec 21, 2019, 4:22 IST











Dehradun: The western circle of Uttarakhand forest department has been awarded 'Baagh Mitra', the best institution of the country, at the Pacific Asia Tourism Awards (WWF-PATA) in Delhi on Thursday for its "remarkable tiger conservation efforts".

Western circle comprise of five forest divisions - Terai East, Terai West, Terai Central,

Ramnagar division and Haldwani division. It has recorded a remarkable presence of "125 to 150 tigers alone in its five divisions". The <u>award</u> was received by Dr Parag Madhukar Dhakate, conservator of forests, western circle-Nainital, on behalf of Uttarakhand forest department by DGF (MoEF), Siddhanta Das.



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## Nagarahole DCF rewarded for tiger conservation work

Poovaiah, who has 32 years experience in wildlife protection, has worked in forests of Nagarhole, Bandipur, Pushpagiri, to name a few.



BENGALURU: Deputy conservator of forests, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve A T Poovaiah, was felicitated and awarded on Thursday with the national-level WWF PATA Bagh Mitra Award in New Delhi for his work towards tiger conservation in Karnataka.

Poovaiah, who has 32 years experience in wildlife protection, has worked in forests of Nagarhole, Bandipur, Pushpagiri, to name a few. His fearless defence of the wildlife in Karnataka from the face of determined poaching gangs, timber mafias, encroachers and land sharks, was recognised and honoured.