## Supporting Information

for

# Enhancing barrier height for Yb (III) single-ion magnets by modulating axial ligand fields 

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## Experimental Section

Instruments and Methods: All the reactions were performed at ambient reaction conditions. Fourier-transform infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum One spectrometer using KBr diluted pellets. The ESI-MS studies were carried out on Bruker MaXis impact mass spectrometer. Microanalyses were performed on a Thermo Finnigan (FLASH EA 1112) microanalyzer. Powder X-ray diffractions were recorded on a Philips X'pert Pro (PANalytical) diffractometer using Cu K $\alpha$ radiation ( $\lambda=1.54190 \AA$ ). The magnetic properties of the polycrystalline samples were measured using a Quantum Design MPMS-XL SQUID magnetometer equipped with a 7 T magnet in the temperature range 2-300 K . The magnetic properties of 1-3 were measured on phase pure polycrystalline powder samples. The data were corrected for the background diamagnetic contribution and the diamagnetic contribution of the compounds were corrected using Pascal's constants. Alternating current (ac) susceptibility measurements were performed with an oscillating ac field of 3.5 Oe oscillating at indicated frequencies between 0.1 and 1500 Hz . The solid state X-band EPR measurements were made on Bruker spectrometers, at IIT Bombay, with a helium gas-flow cryostat. The X-band measurements were carried out at 5 K .

Materials: Commercial grade solvents were purified by employing conventional procedures ${ }^{1}$. $\mathrm{YbX}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{xH}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ were prepared from $\mathrm{Yb}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ (Alfa Aesar) by digesting in the respective acid, ( $\mathrm{HX}=$ $\mathrm{HNO}_{3}(1), \mathrm{TfOH}(2)$ and $\mathrm{HI}(3)$ followed by drying under vacuum. Triphenylphosphine oxide (Sigma Aldrich) was used as received. The hydroiodic acid (laboratory grade, containing traces of $\mathrm{HBr} / \mathrm{HCl}$ ) was used as received to prepare $\mathrm{YbX}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{xH}_{2} \mathrm{O}$.

## Synthesis and characterisation of $\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right] \cdot \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH} \quad\right.$ (1) and $\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{OTf})_{2}\right][\mathrm{OTf}] \cdot\left(\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right)_{0.5}(2)$

To a hot ethanolic solution ( 20 mL ) of $\mathrm{YbX}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{xH}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NO}_{3}(\mathbf{1})\right.$ and $\mathrm{OTf}(\mathbf{2})$ ) ( 0.25 mmol ) was added a ethanolic solution of $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}(347 \mathrm{mg}, 1.25 \mathrm{mmol})$ under reflux condition. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 4 h and cooled down to room temperature. The solution was then filtered and the filtrate was kept for crystallization at room temperature. Colourless block shaped crystals were obtained within 24 hours. The product has been washed 2-3 times with cold ethanol.
$\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right] \cdot \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH}(1)$ : Yield: $0.310 \mathrm{~g}(84.2 \%$, based on ligand), $\mathrm{FT}-\mathrm{IR}(\mathrm{KBr}$,
 1155 (vs), 1121 (s), 1092 (m), 1030 (w), 997 (w), 928 (w), 815 (w), 747 (m), 724 (vs), 693 (s), 541 (vs). ESI-MS: 1410.2789; [M- $\left.\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right]^{\text {] }}$. Elemental analysis (in \%) found (Calculated) for $\mathrm{C}_{74} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{14} \mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{Yb}_{1}$ : C, 58.60 (58.54); H, 4.033 (4.38); N 2.67 (2.77).
$\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{OTf})_{2}\right][\mathrm{OTf}] \cdot\left(\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right)_{0.5}$ (2): Yield: $0.335 \mathrm{~g}(77 \%$, based on ligand), $\mathrm{FT}-\mathrm{IR}(\mathrm{KBr}$, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3232 (b), 3063 (s), 1613 (w), 1590 (m), 1486 (m), 1438 (vs), 1333 (s), 1278 (m), 1207 (m), 1136 (vs), 1122 (vs), 1081 (s), 1030 (s), 998 (w), 928 (w), 850 (w), 748 (m), 726 (vs), 693
(s), 636 (vs), 542 (vs), 519 (w). ESI-MS : 1584.2034; [M-OTf]-. Elemental analysis (in \%) found (Calculated) for $\mathrm{C}_{76} \mathrm{H}_{63} \mathrm{~F}_{9} \mathrm{O}_{13.5} \mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{~S}_{3} \mathrm{Yb}_{1}$ : C, 52.35 (51.97); H, 3.50 (3.62); S 5.53 (5.48).

## Synthesis and characterisation of 3

To a hot ethanolic solution ( 20 mL ) of $\mathrm{Ybl}_{3} \cdot \mathrm{xH}_{2} \mathrm{O}(0.25 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added a ethanolic solution $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ of $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}(347 \mathrm{mg}, 1.25 \mathrm{mmol})$ under reflux condition. Yellow precipitate was formed within 10 minutes, the reaction is allowed to reflux for 1 hour. 30 mL Dichloromethane has been added to the reaction mixture and heated under reflux for 2 hours for complete dissolution of the product. The light red solution was then filtered and the filtrate was kept for crystallization at room temperature. Dark brown block shaped crystals were obtained within 1-2 weeks. The crystals have been washed two times with cold ethanol. With the help of crystallography studies, the product was identified as $\left.\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{I}_{0.53} \mathrm{Br}_{0.47}\right)\left(\mathrm{I}_{0.38} \mathrm{Cl}_{0.62}\right)\right]\left[\mathrm{I}_{3}\right]$ $\cdot \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH}$ rather than the expected $\left.\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{I})_{2}\right]\right]_{3}$. The presence of chloride and bromide impurities in the molecule was further confirmed by ESI Mass studies producing additional peaks at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 1448$ for $\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{I})(\mathrm{Cl})\right]\left[\mathrm{I}_{3}\right]$ and at $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 1357$ for $\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{Cl})_{2}\right]\left[I_{3}\right]$. (Figure S2b).
$\left.\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{I}_{0.53} \mathrm{Br}_{0.47}\right)\left(\mathrm{I}_{0.38} \mathrm{Cl}_{0.62}\right)\right]\left[\mathrm{I}_{3}\right] \cdot \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH}(3): \mathrm{FT}-\mathrm{IR}\left(\mathrm{KBr}, \mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right)$ : Yield: $0.28 \mathrm{~g}(67 \%$, based on ligand), 3173 (b), 3053 (s), 1589 (m), 1484 (m), 1437 (s), 1313 (w), 1280 (w), 1186 (w), 1144 (vs), 1121 (vs), 1086 (s), 1026 (w), 997 (w), 928 (w), 851 (w), 746 (m), 724 (vs), 691 (s), 542 (vs). ESI-MS: m/z= 1540 for $\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{I})_{2}\right]^{+}, 1448$ for $\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{I})(\mathrm{Cl})\right]^{+}$and 1357 for $\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{Cl})_{2}\right]^{+}$. Elemental analysis for single crystals (in \%) found (Calculated) for $\mathrm{C}_{74} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{Br}_{0.47} \mathrm{Cl}_{0.62} \mathrm{I}_{3.91} \mathrm{O}_{5} \mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{Yb}_{1}$ : $\mathrm{C}, 45.49$ (46.93); $\mathrm{H}, 3.23$ (3.28). The elemental analysis of bulk, polycrystalline sample, showed minor variations from the calculated values due to varying amounts of chloride and bromide impurities in place of axial iodide ligands (see Fig. S33b-c)


Figure S1. FTIR spectra of the complexes 1-3 as disc diluted with KBr .


Figure S2a. Molecular ion peaks in the ESI-MS spectrum of 1, and $\mathbf{2}$ in methanol


Figure S2b. ESI-MS of single crystalline $\mathbf{3}$ in acetonitrile solution, showing molecular ion peaks the three species indicated above, confirming the presence of other halo-impurities along with iodide.

## Single Crystal X-ray Crystallography

Suitable blocked shaped single crystals of 1-3 were selected and mounted on a Rigaku Saturn 724+ CCD diffractometer at 150 K using Paratone oil for unit cell determination and three dimensional intensity data collection. Data integration and indexing was carried out using CrysAlisPro. The crystal was kept at 150 K during data collection. Using Olex2 ${ }^{2}$, the structure was solved with the ShelXT ${ }^{3}$ structure solution program using Intrinsic Phasing and refined with the ShelXL ${ }^{4}$ refinement package using Least Squares minimisation.

Table-S1. Crystal data and structure refinement details for 1-3.

| Identification code | 1 (Yb_1) | 2(Yb_2) | 3 (Yb_3) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CCDC number | 1985219 | 1985220 | 1985221 |
| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{74} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{14} \mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{Yb}_{1}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{152} \mathrm{H}_{126} \mathrm{~F}_{18} \mathrm{O}_{27} \mathrm{P}_{8} \mathrm{~S}_{6} \mathrm{Yb}_{2}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{C}_{74} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{Br}_{0.47} \mathrm{Cl}_{0.62} \mathrm{I}_{3.91} \mathrm{O} \\ & { }_{5} \mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{Yb}_{1} \end{aligned}$ |
| Molecular formula | $\begin{aligned} & {\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right]} \\ & . \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & {\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}(\mathrm{OTf})_{2}\right][\mathrm{OTf}] .} \\ & \left(\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH}\right)_{0.5} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{I}_{0.53} \mathrm{Br}_{0.47}\right)\left(\mathrm{I}_{0}\right. \\ & \left.\left..38 \mathrm{Cl}_{0.62}\right)\right]\left[\mathrm{l}_{3}\right] \cdot \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{OH} \end{aligned}$ |
| Formula weight | 1518.21 | 3512.72 | 1884.24 |
| Temperature/K | 150(2) | 100(2) | 123(2) |
| Crystal system | orthorhombic | triclinic | triclinic |
| Space group | Pccn | P-1 | P-1 |
| a/Å | 15.9815(4) | 13.6979(2) | 13.9941(2) |
| b/Å | 16.5996(3) | 14.6330(2) | 15.4903(3) |
| c/Å | 26.6002(6) | 19.8834(2) | 17.7810(4) |
| $\alpha /{ }^{\circ}$ | - | 94.599(1) | 89.738(2) |
| $\beta /{ }^{\circ}$ | - | 108.159(1) | 84.044(2) |
| $\gamma /{ }^{\circ}$ | - | 90.614(1) | 80.588(1) |
| Volume/Å ${ }^{3}$ | 7056.7(3) | 3772.1(1) | 3781.7(1) |
| Z | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| $\rho_{\text {calcg }} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}$ | 1.429 | 1.546 | 1.655 |
| $\mu / \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 1.482 | 1.493 | 3.231 |
| F(000) | 3092 | 1772 | 1822 |
| Crystal size/mm ${ }^{3}$ | $0.088 \times 0.06 \times 0.04$ | $0.15 \times 0.06 \times 0.03$ | $0.12 \times 0.075 \times 0.07$ |
| Radiation / Å | MoKa ( $\lambda=0.71073$ ) | MoKa ( $\lambda=0.71073$ ) | MoKa ( $\lambda=0.71073$ ) |
| Theta range for data collection | 2.340 to $24.996^{\circ}$. | 2.492 to $24.998^{\circ}$ | 2.519 to $26.000^{\circ}$ |
| Index ranges | $\begin{aligned} & -19<=h<=13 \\ & -19<=k<=19 \\ & -31<=\mid<=31 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -16<=h<=16 \\ & -17<=k<=17 \\ & -23<=\mid<=23 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -17<=h<=17 \\ & 19<=k<=19-21<=\mid<=21 \end{aligned}$ |
| Reflections collected | 32667 | 143550 | 121805 |
| Independent reflections | 6204 [ R (int) = 0.0550] | 13224 [R(int) = 0.0496] | 14849 [R(int) = 0.0949] |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least squares on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$ | Full-matrix least-squares on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$ | Full-matrix squares on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$$\quad$ least- |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 6204 / 22 / 461 | 13224 / 73 / 1024 | 14849 / 211 / 852 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$ | 1.076 | 1.087 | 1.078 |
| Final R indexes [ $1>=2 \sigma(\mathrm{I})$ ] | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { R1 }=0.0377, \\ & \text { wR2 }=0.0936 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { R1 }=0.0375, \\ & \text { wR2 }=0.0933 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { R1 }=0.0606, \\ & \text { wR2 }=0.1284 \end{aligned}$ |
| Final R indexes [all data] | $\begin{aligned} & \text { R1 }=0.0486, \\ & \text { wR2 }=0.1008 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { R1 }=0.0394, \\ & \text { wR2 }=0.0955 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { R1 }=0.0833, \\ & \text { wR2 }=0.1404 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| Largest diff. peak/hole /eÅ ${ }^{-3}$ | 1.301 / -0.746 | 1.182/-1.009 | 1.219/-0.493 |



Figure S3(A) : (Left) Molecular structure of 1. Hydrogen atoms, lattice nitrate anion and lattice ethanol molecules are omitted for clarity. (Right) Coordination environment of Yb (III) ion in 1.


Figure S3(B) : ORTEP plot of the cationic part of 1 representing thermal ellipsoid with $50 \%$ probability. Hydrogen atoms, lattice nitrate anion and lattice ethanol molecules are omitted for clarity.

Table S2: Selected bond lengths ( $\AA$ ) and bond angles ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) in 1

| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1) \# 1$ | $2.213(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $89.50(15)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $2.213(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3) \# 1$ | $75.39(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | $2.245(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3) \# 1$ | $77.66(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2) \# 1$ | $2.245(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $130.37(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3) \# 1$ | $2.407(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $79.93(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $2.407(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $77.67(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $2.439(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $75.39(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4) \# 1$ | $2.439(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $141.12(13)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | $95.37(10)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $77.54(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | $154.23(10)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $79.23(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2) \# 1$ | $154.23(10)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $128.23(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2) \# 1$ | $95.37(10)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $77.18(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2) \# 1$ | $91.16(14)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $142.38(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3) \# 1$ | $79.93(10)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $52.89(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3) \# 1$ | $130.36(9)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4) \# 1$ | $79.23(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4) \# 1$ | $77.54(9)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4) \# 1$ | $77.18(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4) \# 1$ | $128.22(10)$ | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4) \# 1$ | $147.07(13)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(3) \# 1-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4) \# 1$ | $52.89(9)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4) \# 1$ | $142.38(9)$ |



Fig
ure S4: Lattice arrangement in the crystal of 1. The bulky aryl groups and the presence of nitrate anion in the lattice leads the $\mathrm{Yb}(\mathrm{III})$ centres placed away from each other at a distance of $11.745 \AA \AA$. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.


Figure-S5(A): (Left) Molecular structure of 2, Only one part of the disordered coordinated triflate anion is shown for clarity. Hydrogen atoms, lattice triflate anion and lattice ethanol molecules are omitted for clarity. (Right) Coordination environment of $\mathrm{Yb}(I I I)$ ion in 2.


Figure-S5(B) : ORTEP plot of cationic part of 2 representing thermal ellipsoid with 50\% probability. Only one part of the disordered coordinated triflate anion is shown for clarity. Hydrogen atoms, lattice triflate anion and lattice ethanol molecules are omitted for clarity.

Table S3: Selected bond lengths ( $\AA$ ) and bond angles ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) in 2

| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | $2.172(2)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $89.32(9)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $2.189(2)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $87.72(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $2.198(2)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(8)$ | $92.41(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $2.203(2)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(8)$ | $94.21(11)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(8)$ | $2.224(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(8)$ | $91.75(11)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(5)$ | $2.248(3)$ | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(8)$ | $85.98(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $91.06(10)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(5)$ | $88.58(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $92.08(9)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(5)$ | $86.54(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $173.15(9)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(5)$ | $87.45(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $178.37(9)$ | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(5)$ | $93.02(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(8)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(5)$ | $178.75(10)$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |



Figure S6: Lattice arrangement in the crystal of 2. The bulky aryl groups and the presence of triflate anion in the lattice leads the Yb (III) centres placed away from each other at a distance of 11.99 Å. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.


Figure S7(A): (Left) Molecular structure of 3, Hydrogens and lattice anions are omitted for clarity. (Right) Coordination environment of $\mathrm{Yb}(\mathrm{III})$ ion in 3. Hydrogen atoms and lattice triiodide anion are omitted for clarity.


Figure-S7(B) : ORTEP plot of cationic part of 3 representing thermal ellipsoid with $50 \%$ probability. Hydrogen atoms and lattice triiodide anion are omitted for clarity.

Table S4: Selected bond lengths ( $(\mathrm{A})$ and bond angles $\left(^{\circ}\right.$ ) in 3

| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $2.169(4)$ | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $88.6(5)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $2.182(4)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $89.1(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | $2.187(4)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $91.5(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $2.200(4)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Br}(1)$ | $87.5(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $2.598(12)$ | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Br}(1)$ | $93.1(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Br}(1)$ | $2.899(9)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Br}(1)$ | $89.2(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(2)$ | $2.970(6)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Br}(1)$ | $89.0(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(1)$ | $2.973(4)$ | $\mathrm{Cl}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Br}(1)$ | $178.2(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $1.504(4)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(2)$ | $89.5(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | $1.508(4)$ | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(2)$ | $90.0(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $1.493(4)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(2)$ | $87.8(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $1.505(4)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(2)$ | $93.8(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $93.07(16)$ | $\mathrm{Br}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(2)$ | $175.8(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | $90.13(16)$ | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(1)$ | $89.27(15)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | $176.12(15)$ | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(1)$ | $92.56(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $175.14(15)$ | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(1)$ | $89.68(13)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $90.51(15)$ | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(1)$ | $87.29(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | $86.43(15)$ | $\mathrm{Cl}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(1)$ | $178.3(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $91.9(4)$ | $\mathrm{I}(2)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{I}(1)$ | $177.19(19)$ |







Figure S8: Lattice arrangement in the crystal of 3. The bulky aryl groups and the presence of triiodide anion in the lattice leads the Yb (III) centres placed away from each other by a distance of $10.976 \AA$. H atoms are omitted for clarity.


Figure 59: The coplanarity of the equatorial $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}$ ligands are represented for 1-3. (a) The four O atoms of $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}$ ligands are not in the same plane due to the presence of two nitrate anions coordinated to Yb (III) centers via chelation in case of 1. (b-c) The four oxygen atoms of $\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PO}$ are coplanar along with $\mathrm{Yb}(\mathrm{III})$ in case of 2 and $\mathbf{3}$. (Yb, orange; O , red; P , pink; N , blue; S , yellow; F , bright green; Cl , dark green; Br , tan; I , violet and C , black)

Table S5. Continuous Shape measures ${ }^{5}$ of the coordination polyhedra of eight coordinated $\mathrm{Yb}(\mathrm{III})$ in 1.

| Label | Symmetry | Shape | Deviation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| OP-8 | D8h | Octagon | 28.736 |
| HPY-8 | C7v | Heptagonal pyramid | 24.723 |
| HBPY-8 | D6h | Hexagonal bipyramid | 13.026 |
| CU-8 | Oh | Cube | 11.881 |
| SAPR-8 | D4d | Square antiprism | 4.759 |
| TDD-8 | D2d | Triangular dodecahedron | 2.791 |
| JGBF-8 | D2d | Johnson gyrobifastigium J26 | 9.627 |
| JETBPY-8 | D3h | Johnson elongated triangular bipyramid J14 | 25.302 |
| JBTPR-8 | C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism J50 | 3.752 |
| BTPR-8 | C2v | Biaugmented trigonal prism | 3.531 |
| JSD-8 | D2d | Snub diphenoid J84 | 2.326 |
| TT-8 | Td | Triakis tetrahedron | 12.709 |
| ETBPY-8 | D3h | Elongated trigonal bipyramid | 22.898 |

Table S6. Continuous Shape measures of the coordination polyhedra of six-coordinated Yb(III) in $\mathbf{2}$ and 3.

| Label | Symmetry | Shape | Deviation <br> in 2 | Deviation <br> in 31 | Deviation <br> in $\mathbf{3 1 B r}$ | Deviation <br> in 3ICl | Deviation <br> in 3ClBr |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HP-6 | D6h | Hexagon | 32.287 | 33.664 | 33.868 | 33.583 | 33.143 |
| PPY-6 | C5v | Pentagonal <br> pyramid | 27.972 | 28.283 | 28.083 | 28.573 | 28.346 |
| OC-6 | Oh | Octahedron | 0.146 | 2.325 | 2.185 | 1.591 | 1.405 |
| TPR-6 | D3h | Trigonal <br> prism | 14.907 | 17.131 | 16.692 | 16.936 | 16.706 |
| JPPY- <br> 6 | C5v | Johnson <br> pentagonal <br> pyramid J2 | 31.558 | 30.936 | 30.739 | 31.275 | 31.080 |



Figure S10.
Simulated
(black) and experimental (red) PXRD pattern of 1-3.




Figure S11. The temperature-dependence of magnetization data for $\mathbf{1}$ (a), $\mathbf{2}$ (b) and $\mathbf{3}$ (c) at different temperatures at 0.1 T




Figure S12. The field-dependence of magnetization data for $\mathbf{1}$ (a), $\mathbf{2}$ (b) and $\mathbf{3}$ (c) at different temperatures ( $2 \mathrm{~K}, 4 \mathrm{~K}, 6 \mathrm{~K}$ and 8 K ).


Figure S13: Frequency dependence of (a) in-phase ( $\chi^{\prime}$ ) and (b) out-of-phase ( $\chi^{\prime \prime}$ ) molar magnetic susceptibility for complex $\mathbf{1}$ in the presence of various dc fields at 1.8 K .


Fi
gure S14: Frequency dependence of (a) in-phase ( $\chi^{\prime}$ ) and (b) out-of-phase ( $\chi^{\prime \prime}$ ) molar magnetic susceptibility for complex $\mathbf{2}$ in the presence of various dc fields at 1.8 K


Figure S15: Frequency dependence of (a) in-phase ( $\chi^{\prime}$ ) and (b) out-of-phase ( $\chi^{\prime \prime}$ ) molar magnetic susceptibility for complex $\mathbf{3}$ in the presence of various dc fields at 1.8 K


Figure S16: (a) Frequency dependence of in-phase molar magnetic susceptibility ( $\chi^{\prime}$ ) for complex 1 under an applied dc field of 2.5 KOe . Solid lines are guides for the eyes. (b) ColeCole plot for $\mathbf{1}$ under an applied dc field of 2.5 KOe . Solid black lines are the best fit to the Debye model.

The Cole-Cole data were fitted by considering single relaxation process using the generalized Debye model, as follows:

$$
\chi_{A C}(\omega)=\chi_{S}+\frac{\chi_{T}-\chi_{S}}{1+(i \omega \tau)^{(1-\alpha)}}
$$

eq. 1
where $\chi_{\mathrm{S}}=$ adiabatic susceptibility, $\chi_{\mathrm{T}}=$ isothermal susceptibility, $\omega=$ angular frequency, $\tau=$ relaxation time, and $\alpha$ reflects the extent of distribution of the relaxation times.

Table-S7. Fitting parameters for Cole-Cole plot for complex 1

| $\mathrm{T} / \mathrm{K}$ | $\chi_{\mathbf{s}}$ | $\chi_{\boldsymbol{T}}$ | $\tau$ | $\alpha$ | Residual |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 1.8 | 0.0189630 | 0.620083 | $0.284381 \mathrm{E}-03$ | 0.119263 | $0.626371 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 2.0 | 0.0184624 | 0.560877 | $0.181048 \mathrm{E}-03$ | 0.111424 | $0.599484 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 2.2 | 0.00857502 | 0.521165 | $0.114522 \mathrm{E}-03$ | 0.117712 | $0.155168 \mathrm{E}-02$ |
| 2.4 | 0.0900189 | 0.473562 | $0.873418 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 0.0294192 | $0.185653 \mathrm{E}-02$ |
| 2.6 | 0.106817 | 0.438657 | $0.576918 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 0.0291069 | $0.431154 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 2.8 | $0.129297 \mathrm{E}-13$ | 0.410521 | $0.232696 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 0.105359 | $0.294226 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 3.0 | 0.184360 | 0.385030 | $0.346972 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 0.0199938 | $0.172327 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 3.2 | 0.222879 | 0.361623 | $0.313728 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 0.00434066 | $0.947230 \mathrm{E}-04$ |



Figure 17 : (a) Frequency dependence of in-phase molar magnetic susceptibility ( $\chi^{\prime}$ ) for complex 2 under an applied dc field of 2 KOe . Solid lines are guides for the eyes. (b) Cole-Cole plot for $\mathbf{2}$ under an applied dc field of 2 KO . Solid black lines are the best fit to the Debye model.
The Cole-Cole plot was fitted by considering two relaxation process using the modified Debye model, as follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
\chi_{A C}(\omega)=\chi_{S 1}+\chi_{S 2}+\frac{\chi_{T 1}-\chi_{S 1}}{1+\left(i \omega \tau_{1}\right)^{\left(1-\alpha_{1}\right)}}+\frac{\chi_{T 2}-\chi_{S 2}}{1+\left(i \omega \tau_{2}\right)^{(1-\alpha 2)}} \tag{eq. 2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Table-S8. Fitting parameters for Cole-Cole plot for complex 3

| T (K) | $\chi_{\text {s,tot }}$ | $\Delta \mathrm{X}_{1}$ | $\tau_{1}$ | $\alpha_{1}$ | $\Delta x^{2}$ | $\tau 2$ | $\alpha 2$ | Residual |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1.8 | 0.692620E-02 | $0.285980 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.305447E-02 | $0.199625 \mathrm{E}+00$ | $0.394385 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.259701E-01 | 0.433038E-01 | $0.659628 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 1.95 | 0.536316E-02 | $0.280657 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.263245E-02 | $0.219798 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.349673E+00 | 0.197655E-01 | 0.328229E-01 | 0.195109E-03 |
| 2.1 | 0.574814E-02 | $0.260901 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.208949E-02 | $0.218306 \mathrm{E}+00$ | $0.324260 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.139663E-01 | 0.237098E-01 | $0.154092 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 2.25 | $0.707352 \mathrm{E}-02$ | $0.198075 \mathrm{E}+00$ | $0.129622 \mathrm{E}-02$ | 0.179174E+00 | $0.350392 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.920587E-02 | 0.413563E-01 | 0.139371E-02 |
| 2.4 | 0.441676E-02 | $0.197040 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.107210E-02 | $0.193512 \mathrm{E}+00$ | $0.320204 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.612081E-02 | 0.280300E-01 | $0.509928 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 2.55 | 0.666777E-02 | $0.122638 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.568762E-03 | $0.132621 \mathrm{E}+00$ | $0.362821 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.364596E-02 | 0.509082E-01 | $0.753604 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 2.7 | 0.805448E-02 | $0.114067 \mathrm{E}+00$ | $0.458982 \mathrm{E}-03$ | $0.114757 \mathrm{E}+00$ | $0.342810 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.246108E-02 | 0.384664E-01 | $0.408081 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 2.85 | 0.114292E-01 | 0.810447E-01 | $0.294456 \mathrm{E}-03$ | $0.151147 \mathrm{E}-01$ | $0.347417 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.164649E-02 | 0.321283E-01 | $0.619901 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 3 | 0.120271E-01 | 0.767899E-01 | 0.252906E-03 | $0.334894 \mathrm{E}-03$ | $0.329961 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.114142E-02 | 0.324363E-01 | 0.198425E-03 |
| 3.2 | 0.980885E-02 | 0.604979E-01 | 0.176771E-03 | 0.545740E-02 | $0.328327 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.781788E-03 | 0.257609E-01 | 0.286838E-03 |
| 3.3 | 0.857915E-02 | 0.585654E-01 | 0.149662E-03 | 0.980848E-02 | $0.314274 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.568671E-03 | 0.297612E-01 | $0.140908 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 3.45 | 0.637159E-02 | 0.651639E-01 | 0.125462E-03 | $0.123814 \mathrm{E}-01$ | $0.292744 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.427022E-03 | 0.166866E-01 | 0.298214E-03 |
| 3.60 | 0.217472E-06 | 0.377389E-01 | 0.600890E-04 | 0.533043E-01 | $0.312468 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.294563E-03 | 0.311813E-01 | 0.880237E-04 |
| 3.75 | 0.796969E-03 | 0.401393E-01 | 0.521206E-04 | 0.251932E-01 | $0.295700 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.230122E-03 | 0.189971E-01 | $0.157916 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
| 4 | 0.588611E-02 | 0.139970E-01 | 0.301067E-04 | 0.351820E-01 | $0.296250 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.145337E-03 | 0.266241E-01 | 0.781187E-04 |
| 4.45 | 0.165215E-02 | 0.183541E-14 | 0.162403E-04 | 0.774519E-03 | $0.280693 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.671323E-04 | 0.304545E-01 | 0.687950E-04 |
| 4.95 | 0.203405E-01 | 0.119753E-14 | 0.925788E-05 | 0.226137E-02 | $0.234159 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.398235E-04 | 0.126610E-01 | 0.425551E-04 |
| 5.45 | 0.162537E-01 | 0.249920E-01 | 0.340466E-05 | $0.111766 \mathrm{E}-01$ | $0.192005 \mathrm{E}+00$ | 0.256485E-04 | 0.393980E-01 | $0.125809 \mathrm{E}-03$ |



Figure S18: (a) Frequency dependence of in-phase molar magnetic susceptibility ( $\chi^{\prime}$ ) for complex $\mathbf{3}$ under an applied dc field of 1 KOe . Solid lines are guides for the eyes. (b) Cole-Cole plot for $\mathbf{3}$ under an applied dc field of 1 KOe . Solid black lines are the best fit to the Debye model. The data were fitted by considering single relaxation process using eq. 1

Table-S9. Fitting parameters for Cole-Cole plot for complex 3

| $\mathrm{T} / \mathrm{K}$ | $\chi_{\mathbf{s}}$ | $\chi_{\boldsymbol{\tau}}$ | $\tau$ | $\alpha$ | Residual |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1.8 | 0.2018 | 0.92681 | 0.0014 | 0.23393 | 0.00274 |
| 1.95 | 0.186648 | 0.86655 | 0.0012 | 0.22893 | 0.00296 |
| 2.1 | 0.175129 | 0.80538 | 0.00102 | 0.22003 | 0.00232 |
| 2.25 | 0.165445 | 0.75678 | $8.86638 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.21335 | 0.00184 |
| 2.4 | 0.158072 | 0.70864 | $7.60574 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.19482 | 0.00246 |
| 2.55 | 0.150977 | 0.66658 | $6.44677 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.18166 | 0.00159 |
| 2.7 | 0.145367 | 0.62947 | $5.46487 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.16846 | 0.00138 |
| 2.85 | 0.139551 | 0.59633 | $4.67216 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.15417 | $9.51012 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 3 | 0.133227 | 0.56703 | $3.95457 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.14526 | $8.39321 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 3.15 | 0.128102 | 0.53959 | $3.34594 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.13311 | $6.70898 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 3.3 | 0.124888 | 0.51545 | $2.86664 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.12173 | $5.59474 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 3.45 | 0.121915 | 0.49295 | $2.44328 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.10833 | $5.23124 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 3.6 | 0.115679 | 0.47316 | $2.08335 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.10544 | $3.65741 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 3.75 | 0.113421 | 0.45431 | $1.79011 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.09095 | $1.95887 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 4 | 0.109848 | 0.42629 | $1.40366 \mathrm{E}-4$ | 0.07899 | $1.30296 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 4.45 | 0.119948 | 0.37949 | $9.5183 \mathrm{E}-5$ | 0.03495 | $1.57871 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 4.95 | 0.116776 | 0.34195 | $6.35832 \mathrm{E}-5$ | 0.02161 | $1.1919 \mathrm{E}-4$ |
| 5.45 | 0.0855024 | 0.31152 | $3.70296 \mathrm{E}-5$ | 0.04508 | $6.38011 \mathrm{E}-5$ |
| 5.95 | 0.111451 | 0.2861 | $3.03908 \mathrm{E}-5$ | 0.02247 | $2.83403 \mathrm{E}-5$ |
| 6.45 | 0.0947135 | 0.26447 | $2.1235 \mathrm{E}-5$ | 0.00842 | $1.13128 \mathrm{E}-4$ |

Table-S10: Comparison of magnetism of 1-3 with other reported mononuclear Yb (III)-based SIMs.

| SI no. | Complex | Coordination number | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \mathrm{H}(\mathrm{dc}) / \\ & \mathrm{Oe} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & U_{\text {eff }} \\ & / K \end{aligned}$ | $\tau_{0} / \mathrm{s}$ | Ref. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | 8 | 2500 | 9.58 | $2.26 \times 10^{-6}$ | This work |
| 2 | 2 | 6 | 2000 | 28.16 | $2.88 \times 10^{-8}$ | This work |
| 3 | 3 | 6 | 1000 | 21.27 | $8.34 \times 10^{-7}$ | This work |
| 4 | $\begin{aligned} & {\left[\mathrm{Yb}^{11 \prime}\left(\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{~L}\right)_{2}\right] \mathrm{Cl}_{3} \cdot 5 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OH} \cdot 2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}} \\ & \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{~L}=\operatorname{tris}(((2 \text { hydroxy-3- } \\ & \text { methoxybenzyl)amino)ethyl)-amine } \end{aligned}$ | 6 | 400 | 6.86 | $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$ | 6 |
| 5 | $\begin{aligned} & {\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{Bmshp}\right)(\mathrm{DMF})_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right] \cdot \mathrm{DMF} \cdot 1.5 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}} \\ & {\left[\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{Bmshp}\right)(\mathrm{DMF})_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right] \cdot \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{Bmshp}} \\ & \left(\mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{Bmshp}=(2,6-\text { bis }[(3 \text {-ethoxysalicylidene })\right. \\ & \text { hydrazinecarbonyl }] \text {-pyridine })) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 7 \\ & 7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1500 \\ & 600 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 14.5 \\ & 38.3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.38 \times 10^{-5} \\ & 7.16 \times 10^{-7} \end{aligned}$ | 7 |
| 6 | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{Yb} \text { (trensal), } \\ & \mathrm{H}_{3} \text { trensal }=2,2^{\prime}, 2^{\prime \prime} \text { - } \\ & \text { tris(salicylideneimino)triethylamine } \end{aligned}$ | 7 | 2000 | 53.2 | $1.5 \times 10^{-8}$ | 8 |
| 7 | $\mathrm{Yb}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{3}(\mathrm{tBu} 3 \mathrm{PO})_{2}$ | 8 | 1000 | 23.0 | $6.8 \times 10^{-7}$ | 9 |
| 8 | $\left[\mathrm{Yb}(\mathrm{tta})_{3}(\mathrm{~L})\right] \cdot 2 \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ | 8 | 1500 | 6 | $1.9 \times 10^{-5}$ | 10 |
| 9 | $\left[\mathrm{Yb}(\mathrm{QR} 1)_{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OH}\right)\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{0.5}$ <br> $\left[\mathrm{Yb}(\mathrm{QR} 1)(\mathrm{tta})_{2}\right]\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OH}\right)$ | $8$ <br> 8 | $\begin{aligned} & 1000 \\ & 1000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5.37 \\ & 16.1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.0 \times 10^{-5} \\ & 1.78 \times 10^{-7} \end{aligned}$ | 11 |
| 10 | $\begin{aligned} & {[\mathrm{Cp} * \mathrm{Yb}(\mathrm{DAD})(\mathrm{THF})] \cdot \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{8}} \\ & \text { enediamido[2,6- } \\ & \text { Me2C6H3NCH } \left.=\mathrm{CHNC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{Me}_{2}-2,6\right]_{2}-\text { (DAD) } \end{aligned}$ | 8 | 1500 | 19.6 | $1.74 \times 10^{-6}$ | 12 |
| 11 | $\left[\mathrm{Yb}(9-\mathrm{Accm})_{2}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)(\mathrm{dmf})_{2}\right]$ | 8 | 750 | 28.9 | $4.6 \times 10^{-8}$ | 13 |
| 13 | $\mathrm{Na}\left[\mathrm{YbDOTA}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)\right] \cdot 4 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ | 9 | 1000 | 29 | $4 \times 10^{-7}$ | 14 |
| 14 | $\begin{aligned} & {\left[\mathrm{Yb}(\mathrm{Tpz})_{2} \mathrm{Bpz}\right] \cdot \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}} \\ & \mathrm{Tpz}=\text { hydrotris }(\text { pyrazolyl)-borate } \\ & \mathrm{Bpz}=\text { dihydrobis(pyrazolyl)borate) } \end{aligned}$ | 9 | 1500 | 28 | $2 \times 10^{-8}$ | 15 |

## Computational Details

Post Hatree-Fock ab initio CASSCF/RASSI-SO/SINGLE_ANISO calculation has been performed using MOLCAS 8.2 programme package ${ }^{16}$. The relativistic effect of Yb has been taken into account by DKH Hamiltonian ${ }^{17}$. The disk space of the two electron integral has been reduced by cholesky decomposition technique ${ }^{18}$. We have used ANO-RCC VTZP basis set for Yb; VDZP basis set for $\mathrm{O}, \mathrm{N}, \mathrm{F}, \mathrm{Cl}, \mathrm{Br}$ and I ; VDZ basis set for $\mathrm{P}, \mathrm{C}$ and H . All the basis sets have been taken from the ANO-RCC library implemented in MOLCAS 8.2 programme package. The CASSCF calculation has been performed with considering thirteen electrons in seven $4 f$ orbitals i.e., using CAS $(13,7)$ active space. We have computed seven doublet CSFs (configuration state functions) using this active space. These CSFs have been mixed by RASSI-SO to compute spin-orbit energy levels ${ }^{19}$. Finally, the g tensor, magnetic susceptibility, molar magnetisation, barrier height for magnetisation reversal have been calculated using the SINGLE_ANISO which interfaced with RASSI-SO energies ${ }^{20}$.


Figure S19: The $g_{z z}$ anisotropy axis of complex 1. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N-blue; Porange; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

Table-S11. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of complex 1.

| Energy $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $g_{x}$ | $g_{y}$ | $g_{z}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 0.939 | 1.264 | 7.007 |
| 90.5 | 0.434 | 2.581 | 4.966 |
| 225.5 | 0.964 | 1.072 | 7.235 |
| 290.5 | 0.504 | 1.150 | 7.297 |



Figure S20: Model for Atom number with LoProp charge of 1. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; Ored; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity. The increase in the LoProp charge along the equatorial plane increases the axiality of this complex compared to 1 which is also reflected in the increase of the $B_{2}^{0}$ value (also see Fig. S23, S24 and Tables S12, S13, S19, S20).

Table-S12. LoProp charge of Yb and coordinated atoms with Yb of complex 1.

| Atom | LoProp charge |
| :---: | :---: |
| Yb | 2.5523 |
| O 78 | -0.6510 |
| O 1 | -0.6426 |
| 079 | -1.0896 |
| O80 | -1.0854 |
| O | -0.6509 |
| O | -1.0894 |
| O | -1.0855 |
| $\mathrm{O7}$ | -0.6426 |



Figure S21: (a) Comparison of the computed magnetic susceptibility of $\mathbf{1}$ with experiment. Black spheres correspond to the experimental magnetic susceptibility data for 1. (b) Comparison of computed molar magnetisation of 1 with experiment. The solid red line corresponds to the ab initio computed value.

Table-S13. The ab initio computed crystal field parameter of complex $\mathbf{1 , 2}$ and $\mathbf{3 I}_{2}$.

| k | q | $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{k}}{ }^{\text {(1) }}$ | $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{k}}{ }^{\text {( }}$ (2) | $\left.\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{k}}{ }^{\text {q }} 3 \mathrm{3l}_{2}\right)$ | $\mathrm{Bk}^{\text {a }}$ (3a) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | -2 | $9.80 \mathrm{E}-01$ | 3.51E-01 | $4.35 \mathrm{E}-01$ | 7.08E-01 |
|  | -1 | $1.71 \mathrm{E}-01$ | -8.97E-01 | $8.31 \mathrm{E}-01$ | 7.05E-02 |
|  | 0 | -5.23E+00 | -8.90E+00 | -1.67E+01 | -5.35E+01 |
|  | 1 | $-1.51 \mathrm{E}+00$ | -3.57E+00 | $2.18 \mathrm{E}-01$ | -8.88E-02 |
|  | 2 | $-2.92 \mathrm{E}+00$ | $3.25 \mathrm{E}+00$ | -4.92E-01 | -4.38E-02 |
| 4 | -4 | -4.96E-01 | 3.61E-01 | -9.95E-01 | -1.45E+00 |
|  | -3 | -6.97E-02 | $1.71 \mathrm{E}-02$ | $5.74 \mathrm{E}-02$ | 2.90E-02 |
|  | -2 | $2.49 \mathrm{E}-02$ | -5.02E-02 | $1.21 \mathrm{E}-02$ | $1.56 \mathrm{E}-02$ |
|  | -1 | -8.42E-03 | 5.14E-02 | -3.39E-02 | 2.02E-03 |
|  | 0 | -3.62E-02 | -2.21E-01 | -1.46E-01 | -1.02E-01 |
|  | 1 | $4.40 \mathrm{E}-02$ | 1.11E-01 | -1.87E-02 | 3.45E-03 |
|  | 2 | -5.46E-02 | -1.28E-02 | -7.52E-03 | -2.90E-03 |
|  | 3 | $1.35 \mathrm{E}-01$ | 2.14E-02 | -3.56E-02 | -4.25E-02 |
|  | 4 | 7.10E-01 | -1.17E+00 | 7.64E-01 | -1.26E-02 |
| 6 | -6 | -2.86E-03 | -1.17E-03 | 7.32E-04 | $1.04 \mathrm{E}-04$ |
|  | -5 | $5.26 \mathrm{E}-03$ | 4.51E-04 | $2.45 \mathrm{E}-03$ | $1.32 \mathrm{E}-03$ |
|  | -4 | -5.84E-04 | $9.32 \mathrm{E}-03$ | -2.23E-02 | -2.90E-02 |
|  | -3 | -2.24E-03 | 8.70E-04 | $1.74 \mathrm{E}-03$ | 6.05E-04 |
|  | -2 | $1.10 \mathrm{E}-03$ | $1.53 \mathrm{E}-04$ | $6.51 \mathrm{E}-04$ | 9.85E-04 |
|  | -1 | -3.01E-03 | -3.48E-03 | $2.93 \mathrm{E}-04$ | -4.77E-04 |
|  | 0 | -2.95E-03 | 9.73E-04 | -1.01E-03 | -2.23E-03 |
|  | 1 | $1.74 \mathrm{E}-02$ | -5.22E-03 | -3.31E-04 | -1.96E-04 |
|  | 2 | -1.40E-03 | $2.38 \mathrm{E}-03$ | -4.18E-04 | -1.21E-04 |
|  | 3 | $4.64 \mathrm{E}-03$ | 5.76E-04 | -6.66E-04 | 1.03E-04 |
|  | 4 | $3.40 \mathrm{E}-03$ | -2.67E-02 | $1.72 \mathrm{E}-02$ | -9.14E-04 |
|  | 5 | -8.85E-03 | 3.53E-03 | $3.42 \mathrm{E}-03$ | 3.03E-03 |
|  | 6 | $1.75 \mathrm{E}-03$ | $1.10 \mathrm{E}-03$ | $8.92 \mathrm{E}-05$ | -6.87E-04 |



Figure S22: (a) The $\mathrm{g}_{z z}$ anisotropy axis of complex 2. (b) The $\mathrm{g}_{z z}$ anisotropy axis of $\mathbf{3 I}_{2}$. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; I-cyan; O-red; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

Table-S14. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of complex $\mathbf{2}$.

| Energy $\mathbf{( c m}^{\mathbf{- 1}} \mathbf{)}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 0.188 | 0.890 | 6.882 |
| 329.3 | 0.329 | 1.665 | 5.516 |
| 392.1 | 0.337 | 1.905 | 5.660 |
| 567.1 | 4.368 | 3.576 | 1.251 |

Table-S15. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of $\mathbf{3 I}_{\mathbf{2}}$.

| Energy (cm $\left.\mathbf{c m}^{\mathbf{- 1}}\right)$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 0.129 | 0.172 | 7.663 |
| 447.5 | 3.630 | 3.541 | 3.025 |
| 663.4 | 5.056 | 3.688 | 0.793 |
| 691.9 | 4.346 | 2.878 | 0.715 |

Table-S16. The CAS $(13,7)$ computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of $\mathbf{3 1 B r}$.

| Energy $\left(\mathbf{c m}^{\mathbf{- 1}}\right)$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 0.136 | 0.201 | 7.627 |
| 430.7 | 3.694 | 3.608 | 2.848 |
| 627.5 | 4.597 | 4.173 | 0.791 |
| 665.9 | 3.881 | 3.452 | 0.578 |

Table-S17. The CAS $(13,7)$ computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of 3ICl.

| Energy $\left(\mathbf{c m}^{-1}\right)$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 0.229 | 0.34 | 7.392 |
| 350.3 | 3.948 | 3.855 | 1.795 |
| 470.4 | 4.629 | 3.901 | 0.552 |
| 566.2 | 4.223 | 3.602 | 0.463 |

Table-S18. The CAS $(13,7)$ computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with $g$ tensor of 3 BrCl .

| Energy (cm |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{- 1})$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| 0.0 | 0.287 | 0.416 | 7.260 |
| 339.0 | 3.995 | 3.882 | 1.486 |
| 444.9 | 4.388 | 3.972 | 0.395 |
| 550.1 | 4.079 | 3.821 | 0.771 |



Figure S23: Model for Atom number with LoProp charge of 2. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; Ored; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

Table-S19. LoProp charge of Yb and coordinated atoms with Yb of complex 2.

| Atom | LoProp charge |
| :---: | :---: |
| Yb | 2.5818 |
| O 18 | -0.9981 |
| O 19 | -1.0493 |
| O14 | -1.0914 |
| O15 | -1.1025 |
| O16 | -1.0960 |
| O 17 | -1.0936 |

Table-S20. The comparison of LoProp charge of the Yb and axial atoms in $\mathbf{3 1}, \mathbf{3 1 B r}, \mathbf{3 I C l}$ and 3 BrCl .

| Atom | $\mathbf{3 I}_{\mathbf{2}}$ | Atom | $\mathbf{3 I B r}$ | Atom | $\mathbf{3 I C l}$ | Atom | 3BrCl |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yb | 2.4246 | Yb | 2.4466 | Yb | 2.4629 | Yb | 2.4837 |
| I 2 | -0.8202 | I | -0.8144 | I | -0.8276 | Br | -0.8555 |
| I 3 | -0.8148 | Br | -0.8498 | Cl | -0.8623 | Cl | -0.8622 |
| O 8 | -1.0935 | O | -1.0936 | O | -1.0894 | O | -1.0893 |
| O 9 | -1.0880 | O | -1.0878 | O | -1.0831 | O | -1.0829 |
| O 10 | -1.0854 | O | -10 | -1.0856 | O | -10 | -1.0809 |
| O | O |  | -10 | 0810 |  |  |  |
|  | -1.0898 | O 11 | -1.0902 | O 11 | -1.0846 | O |  |



Figure S24: Model for Atom number with LoProp charge of $\mathbf{3}\left(\mathbf{3 1} \mathbf{I}_{2}\right)$. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.


Figure S25: (a) Comparison of the computed magnetic susceptibility of $\mathbf{2}$ with experiment. Black spheres correspond to the experimental magnetic susceptibility data for $\mathbf{2}$. The solid red line is the computed magnetic susceptibilities. (b) Comparison of computed molar magnetisation of $\mathbf{2}$ with experiment. The solid red line corresponds to the ab initio computed value.


Figure S26: To understand the role of dynamic correlation on the magnetic anisotropy and the estimated barrier heights, further calculations were performed on model systems wherein the phenyl groups in complex $\mathbf{3}\left(\mathbf{3 I _ { 2 }}\right)$ are replaced by methyl groups. The CASSCF calculation yield barrier height which is similar to the original complex while CASPT2 found to enhance the $U_{\text {eff }}$ further worsening the match (also the estimated susceptibility, see Table S22-23). As dynamic correlation reveals deviation in the estimated barrier, incorporation of ligand atoms in the active space may improve the estimated barrier height, but these calculations are only a distant possibility at present, even for yet unknown models. (a) Comparison of the computed magnetic susceptibility of $\mathbf{3}$ with experiment. Black spheres correspond to the experimental magnetic susceptibility data for 3. (b) Comparison of computed molar magnetisation of $\mathbf{3}$ with experiment. The solid red line corresponds to the computed value with CAS $(13,7)$ on $\mathbf{3 I}_{\mathbf{2}}$ (only iodide in both axial position). The solid green line corresponds to the computed value with CASPT2 on $\mathbf{3 1} 2$. The solid orange line corresponds to the weightage computed value of $\mathbf{3}$ from partial occupation of $\mathrm{I}, \mathrm{Br}$ and Cl in the axial position.


Figure S27: Supercell model of $\mathbf{3 I}_{2}$. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N -blue; P-orange; S -green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity. "To estimate the lattice effect on the barrier heights, additional calculations were performed using the point charge model on $\mathbf{3} \mathbf{I}_{2}$ wherein neighbouring molecules in the crystal lattice were replaced by point charges. The calculations yield only marginal alteration to estimate the barrier height and ligand field parameters (see Table S21 for lattice effects)."

Table-S21. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with $g$ tensor of the supercell of complex $\mathbf{3 I}_{2}$.

| Energy $\mathbf{c m}^{\mathbf{- 1}}$ ) | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 0.056 | 0.221 | 7.688 |
| 465.3 | 3.222 | 3.301 | 3.688 |
| 690.9 | 0.796 | 2.233 | 5.943 |
| 717.6 | 0.753 | 1.401 | 5.334 |

(a)


(d)

(e)

(f)


Figure S28: The beta electron density of Yb (III) in $\mathbf{1}$ (a) $\mathbf{2}$ (b) $\mathbf{3}$ ( $\mathbf{3 I _ { 2 }}$ ) (c) $\mathbf{1 b}$ (d) $\mathbf{2 b}$ (e) and $\mathbf{3 b}$ $\left(3 I_{2}\right)$ (f). Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N -blue; P -orange; S -green yellow; F -light yellow; C grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

Table-S22. The CAS $(13,7)$ computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of the modelled complex of $\mathbf{3}\left(\mathbf{3} \mathbf{I}_{2}\right)$.

| Energy $\mathbf{c m}^{\mathbf{- 1}} \mathbf{)}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 0.152 | 0.225 | 7.589 |
| 415.7 | 3.743 | 3.670 | 2.694 |
| 599.4 | 5.436 | 3.260 | 0.715 |
| 656.0 | 4.828 | 2.647 | 0.393 |

Table-S23. The CASPT2 computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of the modelled complex of $\mathbf{3}\left(\mathbf{3 1} \mathbf{I}_{2}\right)$.

| Energy $\mathbf{c m}^{\mathbf{- 1}}$ ) | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 0.192 | 0.246 | 7.527 |
| 533.4 | 3.916 | 3.841 | 1.963 |
| 660.1 | 5.123 | 3.512 | 0.657 |
| 835.0 | 4.631 | 3.170 | 0.315 |



Figure S29: The $\mathrm{g}_{2 z}$ anisotropy axis of complex $\mathbf{3 a}\left(\mathbf{3 1}_{\mathbf{2}}\right)$. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.


Figure S30: Mechanism of magnetic relaxation of complex $\mathbf{3 a}\left(\mathbf{3 1} \mathbf{I}_{2}\right)$. The red line indicates the QTM and TA-QTM via ground KD and excited KD respectively. The olive line indicates the transition probability between KD1 and KD2. The sky-blue line indicates mechanism of orbach relaxation. The blue characters indicate the $m_{\jmath}$ composition of each KD.

Table-S24. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with $g$ tensor of $\mathbf{3 a}\left(\mathbf{3 I}_{\mathbf{2}}\right)$.

| Energy $\left(\mathbf{c m}^{-1}\right)$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 0.010 | 0.031 | 7.924 |
| 1081.0 | 1.700 | 1.713 | 5.190 |
| 1681.6 | 1.562 | 1.878 | 2.940 |
| 1984.4 | 4.691 | 4.374 | 1.074 |

Table-S25. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of complex $\mathbf{1 b}$.

| Energy $\left(\mathbf{c m}^{\mathbf{- 1}}\right)$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 5.307 | 3.760 | 1.101 |
| 154.5 | 0.668 | 0.878 | 3.432 |
| 702.2 | 0.066 | 0.085 | 5.747 |
| 1432.2 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 8.001 |

Table-S26. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of complex $\mathbf{2 b}$.

| Energy (cm |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{- 1})$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| 0.0 | 5.123 | 4.009 | 1.173 |
| 516.5 | 0.548 | 0.560 | 3.472 |
| 1187.9 | 0.002 | 0.016 | 5.756 |
| 2015.0 | 0.006 | 0.006 | 8.002 |

Table-S27. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with $g$ tensor of complex $\mathbf{3 b}\left(\mathbf{3 I}_{2}\right)$.

| Energy $\left(\mathbf{c m}^{\mathbf{- 1}}\right)$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{x}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{y}}$ | $\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{z}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.0 | 4.595 | 4.551 | 1.166 |
| 269.6 | 0.011 | 0.031 | 3.469 |
| 741.3 | 0.006 | 0.015 | 5.749 |
| 1394.4 | 0.005 | 0.004 | 8.002 |



Figure S31: (a) The energy of the KD2-KD1 with average LoProp charge of axial atoms coordinated to metal. (b) The energy of the KD2-KD1 with the $B_{2}^{0}$ axial crystal field parameter.


Figure S32: Solid state X-band EPR spectra of 1, $\mathbf{2}$ and $\mathbf{3}$ at 5 K .

## SAIF/IIT BOMBAY

Operator ID
Company name:
Method filename:
Method name:
Analysed
Printed:
Elemental Analyser method:
Sampler method:
Sample ID:
Analysis type:
Chromatogram filename:
Calibration method:
Sample weight:
Protein factor:

IIT-B
ThermoFinnigan
C:\2015-2016\13-02-2020-CHNS.mth
Nitrogen/Carbon/Hydrogen/Sulphur
02/13/2020 22:10
02-14-2020 14:48

13-02-2020CHNS-013-ADITYA-ADI-428-YB-D4H (\# 13)
UnkNown
13-02-2020CHNS-013-ADITYA-ADI-428-YB-D4H.dat
K Factors
2.272
6.25


| Peak Number <br> (\#) | Retention Time (min) | Area $\left(.1^{*} u V^{*} \mathrm{sec}\right)$ | Element \% | Component N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0.850 | 118950 | 0.000 | Nitrogen |
| 2 | 1.092 | 4711617 | 45.494 | Carbon |
| 3 | 2.933 | 943831 | 3.234 | Hydrogen |
|  |  | $\overline{5} \overline{7} \overline{7} \overline{4} \overline{3} \overline{9} \overline{8}$ | $\overline{4} \overline{8} \cdot \overline{7} \overline{2} \overline{9}$ |  |

igure S33a. Elemental analysis for the single crystals of 3.


Figure S33b. Elemental analysis for the polycrystalline sample of $\mathbf{3}$ (batch A).

## SAIF/IIT BOMBAY

Operator ID:
Company name:
Method filename:
Method name:
Analysed:
Printed:
Elemental Analyser method:
Sampler method:
Sample ID:
Analysis type:
Chromatogram filename:
Calibration method:
Sample weight:
Protein factor:

IIT-B
ThermoFinnigan
C:L2015-2016\13-02-2020-CHNS.mth
Nitrogen/Carbon/Hydrogen/Sulphur
02/13/2020 22:31
02-14-2020 14:49

13-02-2020CHNS-015-ADITYA-ADI-E-I (\# 15)
UnkNown
13-02-2020CHNS-015-ADITYA-ADI-E-I.dat
K Factors
2.44
6.25


| Peak Number (\#) | Retention Time (min) | Area $\left(.1^{*} u V^{*} \mathrm{sec}\right)$ | Element \% | Component N |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0.842 | 117366 | 0.000 | Nitrogen |
| 2 | 1.075 | 5379898 | 48.370 | Carbon |
| 3 | 3.308 | 1164408 | 3.741 | Hydrogen |
|  |  | $\overline{6} \overline{6} \overline{6} \overline{1} \overline{6} \overline{7} \overline{2}$ | $\overline{5} \overline{2} \cdot \overline{1} \overline{1}$ |  |

Figure S33c. Elemental analysis for the polycrystalline sample of $\mathbf{3}$ (batch B)

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