



Government of India
Ministry of Tourism

NATIONAL TOURISM AWARDS 2009-10

अतिथिदेवो भव
Atithidevo Bhava



अतुल्य! भारत
Incredible! India



ALPINE HOLIDAY IN INDIA

- Majestic Himalayas • Towering Peaks
- Breathtaking Views • Unlimited Adventure
- Skiers' Delight





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MESSAGE

Subodh Kant Sahai

Minister for Tourism
Government of India

The Tourism, Travel and Hospitality Industry in India today stands poised for unprecedented growth in the coming years given the buoyancy of Indian economy. We are making all efforts to make Tourism as our main political and economic agenda given its proven role in stimulating inclusive economic growth, employment generation and social integration.

The Ministry of Tourism is committed for the integrated development of tourism with active participation of various State Governments, Union Territories and other stakeholders in the industry. Recently announced initiatives of the Ministry including the formation of the Hospitality Development Promotion Board and the reconstitution of the National Tourism Advisory Council are aimed towards this objective.

One of my major concerns which remain today is the stagnant share of India Tourism in the World Tourism market. We all have to think afresh on our strategies and realign them with the latest global trends. We will not be able to increase our share in the World Tourism market unless we think proactively, innovatively and remain competitive.

To promote excellence and recognize the efforts put in by various stakeholders in development and promotion of India Tourism, this Ministry has instituted National Tourism Awards.

My appeal to all stakeholders on the occasion is to work together with an innovative mind and positive approach for development of India Tourism in a sustainable and responsible manner.

I congratulate all the winners of the National Tourism Awards 2009-10 and wish them success in their future endeavours.

(Subodh Kant Sahai)





MESSAGE

R. H. Khwaja

Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Tourism

The tourism sector in our country is characterized by close, constant and constructive cooperation between Government and Travel and Hospitality Industry. It is this cooperation and synergy that has enabled Indian Tourism to emerge from serious challenges in recent years. Our endeavour in the Ministry is to maintain constant dialogue with all stakeholders of Indian Tourism, Trade and Hospitality sectors to enable tourism to play a prominent role in employment generation and economic development of our country.

Institution of National Tourism Awards for acknowledging outstanding performance of State Governments and Trade and Hospitality Sectors are designed to motivate higher levels of performance. It is heartening that our joint efforts have now become an acknowledged source of motivation and inspiration to set higher goals for promotion of tourism in the country.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to all the Award winners and take this opportunity to thank all stakeholders in Tourism, Trade and Hospitality Industry for their continuous support and commitment to the cause of growth of India Tourism.

(R. H. Khwaja)



BEST STATE

REST OF INDIA – FIRST PRIZE



MADHYA PRADESH



Madhya Pradesh is known as the heart of incredible India not only because of its geographical location but it is also a home of heritage, culture and wildlife. State has touched new heights during the year 2009-10 with an annual revenue growth rate exceeding 25% in consecutive years.

The performance on the tourist infrastructure development front is even more striking. The utilization of central grants, quality and pace of construction activities, computerized monitoring and project management systems are highly appreciable.

The highly creative promotional campaigns on TV, Radio and in the print media have also attracted nationwide attention. Formation of a land bank and framing of Tourism Policy for attracting private investment, the State has again taken the lead in doing pioneering work.



BEST STATE

REST OF INDIA – SECOND PRIZE



ANDHRA PRADESH



Andhra Pradesh, considered the “Essence of Incredible India”, has great diversity and richness of tourist destinations. The State Government agencies have ensured that tourism infrastructure of good quality is available at all the destinations for the benefit of the visitors. The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation runs 53 hotels with 1077 rooms, a fleet of 126 buses for tour packages and a water fleet with 120 boats for pleasure cruises. There are 10 wayside amenities which are considered to be a model in the country. Creation of new infrastructure and augmentation of existing infrastructure were taken up at 19 tourist destinations during the year 2009-10.



BEST STATE

REST OF INDIA – THIRD PRIZE



KERALA



Acclaimed by National Geographic Traveller as ‘one of the ten paradises of the world’ and chosen by BBC as ‘one of the ten unforgettable things to do before you die’, Kerala is India’s only tourism Superbrand. Blessed with a rich bounty of natural attractions and some of India’s best social indices, what makes Kerala the destination for tomorrow is its focus on sustainable tourism. Stringent quality control, planned development, conservation and preservation efforts... Kerala’s stress on sustainability is perfectly complemented by innovative marketing and promotional techniques, helping it evolve into a paradigm for ‘responsible tourism’.

Tourism offers Kerala the best alternative to meet its objectives of reducing unemployment and kick-starting economic growth. It has also become the perfect tool for enhancing the environment, preserving the State’s culture and heritage and distributing economic development throughout the State with no environmental setbacks.



BEST STATE

REST OF INDIA – THIRD PRIZE



RAJASTHAN



The magic of vibrant Rajasthan - its rich heritage, colourful culture, exciting desert safaris, shining sand dunes, amazing variety, lush forests and varied wildlife - makes it a destination nonpareil.

Rajasthan is often portrayed as one vast open-air museum, with its relics so well preserved that it delights even the most skeptical traveller.

Rajasthan has something for everyone – one has to choose an activity appropriate to one's temperament.

Modern Rajasthan is now offering amenities comparable to those available elsewhere in the world. It has remarkable roads and transport systems.



BEST STATE

NORTH EAST AND JAMMU & KASHMIR



SIKKIM



Gurudongmar Lake (North Sikkim)

Situated beneath the majestic guardian deity Mount Khangchendzonga, Sikkim is a land that inspires divine imagination in the hearts of those who visit this beautiful State. A unique land surrounded by visual vistas, rich flora and fauna, environment friendly and warm and hospitable people with rich cultural heritage, Sikkim is indeed a destination for all seasons and all reasons. Covering only 0.2 % of the geographical area of the country, the State harnesses about 26% of the Country's total floral biodiversity. Realizing the need to practice a responsible tourism for sustainability, the State was the first to ban the use of plastic bags in the country and Green mission has been initiated towards ensuring environment friendly tourism in the State. Sikkim is a special destination for pilgrimage, adventure, eco-tourism and village tourism with exclusive home stay facilities offered by the local people. Sikkim is indeed an irresistible destination which is mesmerizing, mystical, peaceful and hospitable.



BEST CIVIC MANAGEMENT OF A DESTINATION



MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF KHAJURAHO



Khajuraho, famous for its magnificent temples and now a world heritage site, was built during 950-1050 AD with great artistic wonders by the Chandelas.

During the year 1976 the Special Area Development Authority was set up and it worked till 1998 as Civil Management Council. In 1999, a Municipal Council was set up by the Madhya Pradesh Government for overall development of the town and it has exceeded the established standards of performance of a normal civic body with active participation of local community and civic bodies. It effectively meets all the challenges created due to the different setup of Khajuraho.

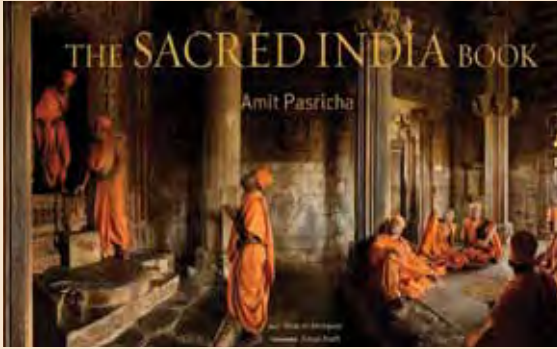
The Council has identified the most effective way to dispose garbage - both biodegradable and non biodegradable by door to door collection in specially built tricycle rickshaw in a segregated form. Sanitary staff engaged in collection is provided with uniform and other protective gears. The City Sanitation Committee has been anchoring the sanitation initiatives in the town and is providing crucial support.



EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING
ENGLISH – JOINT WINNER



THE SACRED INDIA BOOK – AMIT PASRICHA



The Sacred India Book explores that ephemeral quality often described as ‘The Spirit of India’. Spirituality is a shining thread running through every motif of the rich, complex tapestry that is India. The Sacred India Book seeks out meditative and momentous ones; exalted moments and exultant ones. With breathtaking panoramas, some of which unfold 6 feet wide, the book is path-breaking in its sheer breadth of vision and depth of detail. It is shot by India’s foremost panoramic photographer, Amit Pasricha whose earlier book, The Monumental India Book received the National Tourism Award in 2007-2008.



EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING

ENGLISH – JOINT WINNER



COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO SPAS OF INDIA



Ms. Parineeta Sethi (Publisher)

India, with its very rich heritage of wellness traditions, has an enormous amount to offer to its wellness seekers. This book is a collector's item for any one wanting to know more about the rich treasure trove that India has to offer in the wellness segment.

'Spas of India' classifies spas in categories like Day Spa, Ayurveda Spa, Resort Spa, Medi Spa, Destination Spa and Hotel Spa and gives detailed information about the prominent spas in India. This book covers Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Yoga & Meditation and also talks about alternative therapies. It also talks in depth about several healing spa treatments available across the world along with spa cuisines and alternative healing therapies.

This exclusive coffee table book takes its readers on a journey into the enchanting spa and wellness world in India.



EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING

HINDI



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अण्डमान तथा निकोबार द्वीप समूह में पर्यटन क्षेत्र के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए पहली बार पर्यटन नीति दस्तावेज तैयार किया गया और द्वीप समूह के पर्यटन से जुड़े सभी संगठनों और आम लोगों के साथ कई बार चर्चा और विचार विमर्श करने के बाद इसे प्रकाशित किया गया। इस नीति को तैयार करते समय पर्यटन मंत्रालय से प्राप्त बहुमूल्य निर्विष्टों को भी इस नीति में शामिल किया गया।

इस नीति को तैयार करने के लिए विश्व के इसी तरह के ऊष्णकटिबन्धीय द्वीप राष्ट्रों के साथ अण्डमान तथा निकोबार द्वीप समूह की विस्तृत तुलना कर और इस द्वीप समूह के अनन्य विक्रय पूर्वसर्ग की पहचान कर व्यापक शोध कार्य किया और पर्यटन क्षेत्र के लिए अल्पावधि और दीर्घावधि कार्य योजना निर्धारित की जिसे सभी लोगों ने स्वीकार किया।



BEST TOURISM PROMOTION PUBLICITY MATERIAL (STATES AND UT) – JOINT WINNER



KARNATAKA TOURISM



To showcase the diversity of Karnataka, Karnataka Tourism created various promotional materials including the Traveller, 2010 calendar and leaflets.

The Traveller - a comprehensive tourist information book, had a new look, updated service providers, illustrative stories and interesting trivia.

The calendar was produced to celebrate the 500th year of the Coronation of Sri Krishnadevaraya and to illustrate the true potential of Hampi. Dominating with pictures that were taken in the 1800s and words that told a story, it clearly reflected the mighty empire.

A set of leaflets, carrying updated and extensive information on various destinations, were published in English and other foreign languages.



BEST TOURISM PROMOTION PUBLICITY MATERIAL (STATES AND UT) – JOINT WINNER



RAJASTHAN TOURISM



The handy and informative publicity material by the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan mirrors the amiable people, colourful festivals showcasing the vivid culture of the land and charming destinations offering attractive packages for the tourists. The various publications showcase the new attractions gaining popularity at famous tourist destinations of Rajasthan, while also highlighting the offerings of the less travelled places.

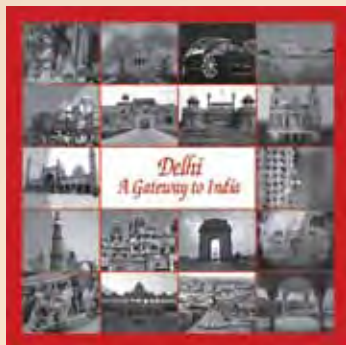
Folders pertaining to individual destinations and festivals, a colourful pictorial booklet as a window to numerous tourists' attractions, an informative Discover Rajasthan booklet, a Rural Tourism brochure for promoting tourism in selective rural sites and a Rajasthan folder with a comprehensive map and CD containing images of Rajasthan were some of the publications published in 2009-10.



BEST TOURISM PROMOTION PUBLICITY MATERIAL (PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS)



"DELHI – A GATEWAY TO INDIA"



The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group has introduced a guide on the beautiful city of New Delhi titled – “Delhi – A Gateway to India.” Blended with the Group’s signature of ‘Promoting Destinations’, the guide is aimed to provide a visual delight to guests visiting India and take them through the timeless masterpieces that Delhi has nurtured over centuries.

‘Delhi – A Gateway to India’ is specially designed in four unique ways. It provides a Wonderful trip of the city, incorporating the local nuances as well as the long-forgotten areas of the capital – The Lalit Heritage Experience, The Lalit Religious Experience, The Lalit Cultural Experience and The Lalit Wellness Experience.



BEST TOURISM FILM



“KARNATAKA”, KARNATAKA TOURISM



The documentary film, shot in various destinations of the State, brings out the true essence of Karnataka. Encapsulating every facet of Karnataka, it reveals the wonderful World Heritage Sites at Hampi and Pattadakal, the architectural wonders of Hassan, Bidar, Badami and many more. The film also enlightens one on the dense forests and wildlife at Kabini. Divine destinations like Shravanabelagola, Bylekuppe and the like are well documented and pristine beaches at Gokarna well captured. Bengaluru and Mysore come into picture before the curtains come down. The film visually depicts what Karnataka is known as - One state. Many worlds.



MOST INNOVATIVE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

www.tajmahal.gov.in – DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TOURISM, GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH



Taj Mahal, the symbol of grandeur, beauty and love is undoubtedly one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture in India. One of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World and a UNESCO heritage site, it attracts almost 30% of all foreign tourists to India.

In view of the immense importance of the Taj Mahal, the Department of Tourism, Government of Uttar Pradesh decided to commission an exclusive detailed website of the Taj Mahal.

The website includes many useful features, such as a photo gallery of the 'Taj' in its various moods, exclusive video clips of the monument, its history and other details.

The website is also interactive and one can upload his/her comments. Information of other monuments of Agra, details of accommodation, certified guides, along with contact details of Uttar Pradesh Tourism offices in Lucknow and Agra are also provided. The website has now been recognised by UNESCO as one of the three websites of the Taj Mahal.



BEST MAINTAINED AND DISABLED FRIENDLY MONUMENT



RED FORT COMPLEX, DELHI, ASI DELHI CIRCLE



Red Fort (Lal Qila) which symbolizes the seat of power, was Shah Jahan's gift to the city of Delhi. It was constructed by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as the citadel within the city of Shahjahanabad. The construction was started in 1639 and completed in 1648. The important structures are the Diwan-I-Aam, Mumtaz Mahal, Rang Mahal, Khas Mahal, Musamman-burj, Diwan-I-Khas, Hammam, Moti-Masjid, Hayat-Baksh Bagh, pavilions and Naubat-Khana.

The Red Fort was occupied by the British army, which pulled down several structures and raised new ones. On 15 August, 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, unfurled the national flag from the ramparts of the Red Fort.



BEST AIRPORT



RAJIV GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, HYDERABAD



GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited owns and operates the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) using the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. RGIA was inaugurated on March 14, 2008 by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the UPA. The airport has an initial capacity of 12 million passengers per annum (MPPA) can increase capacity to accommodate over 40 MPPA in a phased manner. The state-of-the-art airport has already been rated the best in the world twice by Airports Council International (ACI) in the 5-15 million passengers category and is also the first airport in the world to be awarded the Leadership Energy and Environment Design (LEED) silver rating for its eco-friendly design.



BEST RESPONSIBLE TOURISM PROJECT



ORANGE COUNTY RESORT, KABINI, KARNATAKA



The ‘Spirit of the Land’ philosophy that drives Orange County Resorts, finds its most intimate expression at Orange County, Kabini. Luxurious, yet steeped in local lore and culture, the Resort gives you a wildlife experience like no other, and enjoins you to be part of the vibrant social tapestry of the local Kadu Kuruba tribe. Orange County, Kabini is committed to the concept of ‘Responsible Tourism’ through which it seeks to enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of the destination and its host communities, apart from incentivizing the retention and regeneration of their unique culture.



BEST RURAL TOURISM PROJECT



BHOOTGARH RURAL TOURISM PROJECT, PUNJAB



The village Bhootgarh famous for its wooden Inlay and Lacquer work is located in District Hoshiarpur nearly 7km from Hoshiarpur City.

Nearly 300 years ago the inlay craft traditions become rooted in this region. It is believed that farmers created life through this art as a leisure time activity. They earned increased incomes and gradually became so skilled that the erstwhile rulers, kings and ultimately Government of India recognized many of them as Master Craftsmen.

As on date close to thousand families are engaged in the work associated with the production of wooden handicraft items in the region with most of them belonging to the poorer and marginalized sections of the society.



TOURISM FRIENDLY GOLF COURSE



JAYPEE GREENS GOLF RESORT, GREATER NOIDA



Operational since June 2000, Jaypee Greens Golf Course is the first Greg Norman designed Golf Course in India. The course has an 18-hole championship layout, designed with the firm belief of setting new standards for Championship Golfing in India.

The design of the course involves the creation of several lakes, bunkers and water bodies. The earth from lakes has been used to generate a dynamic, soft and undulating landform suitable for the laying out of 18 very exciting and challenging holes.

From championship tee, the course is strong and one of the longest in India with a length of 7347 yards.

The course landscaping includes considerable planting of open and closed woodlands, understory scrublands, wetlands and wild-grassed areas. The principle behind the course landscape is to create a very naturalized and private space free from the heat, dust and hustle and bustle outside.



MOST INNOVATIVE/ UNIQUE TOURISM PROJECT



CARAVAN BUS – MADHYA PRADESH TOURISM



Madhya Pradesh Tourism is the first State in the country to introduce 'Caravan Tourism'. Caravans are unique tourism products, which promote family oriented tours to any circuit or any tourist destination, where permanent construction is not permitted or feasible. It provides excellent facilities to the tourists. With these 'Holiday on Wheels' packages, the tourists are provided with air conditioned vehicles with all modern facilities such as Wi - Fi Connectivity, Mini bar, TV besides studio-style bedroom and washrooms.

Madhya Pradesh Tourism introduced this innovative project to meet the growing tourist demand, while ensuring adherence to quality, standards and safety norms.



BEST WELLNESS CENTRE



SOMATHEERAM AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL AND YOGA CENTRE, KOVALAM



Somatheeram Ayurvedic Hospital & Yoga Centre is an initiative of Somatheeram Ayurvedic Health Resort. This resort is situated in the Chowara Beach near Kovalam and represents the most ideal blending of nature with tradition. It is an approved Ayurvedic Centre with Green Leaf classification from the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala.

Established in 1989, the resort has 66 units of accommodation which are constructed in the Indian traditional architectural style. The visitors to the resort get an opportunity to undergo genuine Ayurvedic treatment under the supervision of an expert team of Ayurvedic doctors.



TOURIST FRIENDLY RAILWAY STATION



NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION.....



With over half a million footfalls every day, the New Delhi Railway Station is almost a city within a city. Its sixteen platforms handle almost three hundred passenger and express trains every day.

In recent times, this station has witnessed almost a metamorphosis. While a new impressive building for the Ajmeri Gate side has been built, the Pahargunj side entry has undergone major improvements. A thousand seater waiting hall has been created and all platforms have been resurfaced with vacuum dewatered concrete. Provision of sleek signages, true colour LCD displays, digital passenger charts and various other improvements in passenger interface areas have made tremendous difference to the passengers. Besides the long overdue completion of the third foot over bridge has also been completed. The standards of cleanliness have also visibly improved. Various other improvements in passenger amenities have also been brought about thereby bringing about considerable improvement in the passenger satisfaction levels.



MEDICAL TOURISM FACILITY



APOLLO HEALTH CITY, HYDERABAD



The 550 bedded Apollo Health City at Hyderabad renders world class care coupled with humane services and friendly ambience for the patients. Situated in a lush green campus of 35 acres, excellent facilities are available for stay of patients and their attendants.

Today, Apollo Health City in Hyderabad has become the healthcare destination for the global community, particularly for the Asian continent providing them with healthcare comparable with the best in the world.

The doctors and staff of the hospital, have once again proved that they are providing healthcare of the highest standards and reiterate their commitment to continuously work towards providing the best to every patient walking into the hospital.



BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM LATIN AMERICA



**M/S PRINCESS TRAVEL OPERADORA
TOURISTICA LTDA, BRAZIL**



Mr. Jefferson Andre dos Santos (Director)

Princess Operadora is one of the largest tour operators developing the Brazilian Travel Market Outbound to India and the Orient. It is known for its knowledge of the Destination and for delivering unique travel Experiences throughout the subcontinent.



BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM EUROPE



M/S KUONI EUROPE



Mr. Peter Rothwell (Group CEO)

The Kuoni Group is one of the world's leading globally-active leisure travel organisations. Kuoni's activities are focused on its core leisure travel and destination management businesses.

Head Office is in Zurich, Switzerland. The Kuoni Group has branch operations in more than 40 countries worldwide. In the premium and specialist segment, Kuoni is the world's number-one provider.



BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM WEST ASIA & AFRICA



M/S BIN MOOSA TRAVEL LCC, ABU DHABI



Mrs. Mary Thomas (Managing Director)

Bin Moosa Travel is one of the leading IATA travel agencies of United Arab Emirates, with the main focus on promotion of tourism to India since past 21 years. Having 95% of Indian travel professionals who consider promoting India as their own responsibility through Bin Moosa Travel.

Bin Moosa Travel with its four branches in the Emirates, is the most popular travel agency in United Arab Emirates for responsible and reliable tourism promotions to India. The company provides information pertaining to all aspects of India, like tours, medical facilities, treatments, travel/visa arrangements, escorted group tours etc.



BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM UK



M/S TUI TRAVEL PLC, UK



Mr. Ripan Dhawan



Mr. Deepak Bhatnagar

TUI Travel PLC is the world's leading international leisure travel group which operates in approximately 180 countries worldwide and serves more than 30 million customers in over 27 source markets. Headquartered in Crawley, in the UK, the Group employs approximately 50,000 people and operates a pan-European airline consisting of 155 aircrafts. TUI owns about 3,500 travel agencies, 14 incoming agencies and 285 hotels in 28 countries. The company mainly serves the leisure travel customer and is organized and managed through four business sectors: Mainstream, Specialist and Emerging Markets, Activity and Accommodation and Destinations.



BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM EAST ASIA



M/S H. I. S. CO. LTD, TOKYO



Mr. Akira Hirabayashi (President)

I am very much honored and delighted to know that H.I.S. was selected for this prestigious award for 2009-2010 as the best overseas tour operator.

India's incredible development in tourism and economy made us possible to achieved this stage.

We will continue our effort to promote "Incredible India" not only from Japan, from the other part of the world as well, where we have our network with the assistance by our own Japanese and Indian team based in New Delhi, India.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and my team in Japan and India.



BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM AUSTRALIA



M/S ADVENTURE WORLD, SYDNEY



Mr. Andrew Mulholland (General Manager)

For over 30 years Adventure World has been crafting holidays for Australians to India and they take great pride in sharing their expertise with their clients to create holidays that allow them to discover the truly amazing destination that is India.

The company sees fantastic continuing growth opportunities for India as a leisure travel destination as it offers so many different kinds of experiences for travellers from its world renowned and diverse cuisine, historical and religious sites to a people who are very passionate about their culture and so willing to share it with visitors.



BEST OVERSEAS CHARTER OPERATOR FOR INDIA



M/S PEGAS TOURISTIK, RUSSIA



Mr. Abdullah Cankaya (Dy. General Director)

Pegas Touristik is one of the largest operators in Russia which completed its 16th year in Russian Tourism business life with a volume of 1.5 million people per year. Pegas started to operate to India (Goa) in 2004 with 900 pax and in 2010 had gone up to 40,000 pax not only to Goa, but also offering extension tours to North India (Agra-Delhi-Jaipur). It is the first operator to have direct flights not only from Moscow or Saint Petersburg but also from Ufa, Samara, Perm, Novosibirsk, Rostov on Don, Yekaterinburg and Orenburg.



BEST FOREIGN JOURNALIST FOR INDIA



MS MIREILLE JOSEPHINE, FRANCE



For nearly 30 years, Mireille-Josephine Guezennec (Himabindu) has been travelling extensively all over India, as an international reporter and photographer. Lot of her time has been dedicated to write and study tradition, art, culture and nature in order to understand and appreciate the “unique spirit” that pervades many aspects of India’s way of life and its culture. Besides, being a professor of philosophy in France, - with special degree in Indian philosophy and Sanskrit- she is an international reporter, a writer and a photographer. She has authored 2 books on India – “GANGA In Search Of Sources” and “INDE Singulière et Plurielle” (2009). She regularly gives lectures and organizes many exhibitions of photographs, always filled with deep feeling for the highest and profound aspects of tradition and culture in India, that she is always eager to study in depth.



BEST FOREIGN PHOTOGRAPHER FOR INDIA



MR FREDRIC ROBERTS, USA



FREDRIC ROBERTS' photographs are in the collections of Yale and Stanford and the Museum of Photographic Arts. He's represented by prominent galleries, has won three International Photography Awards and his books HUMANITAS and HUMANITAS II received notable recognition by the New York Times and other prestigious organizations. In August 2011, his exhibit moves to the UN to celebrate India's presidency of The UN Security Council.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY I – FIRST PRIZE



KUONI TRAVEL INDIA PVT. LTD., GURGAON



Mr. Dipak Deva (CEO)

Kuoni Travel India Pvt. Ltd, is the country's largest travel and tourism company and a 100% subsidiary of Kuoni Travel Holding, Switzerland. Maintaining its position as the market leader, Kuoni Destination Management India, with its extensive local know-how and expertise, keeps reinventing itself with unique and creative products. Spearheaded by its specialist brands, Sita and Distant Frontiers, the company realizes the importance of experiential travel based on principles of Responsible Tourism, Social Consciousness, Environmental Concerns and Unique Cultural Experiences that bring diverse communities together and increase understanding, making these elements the core of its travel experience.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY I – SECOND PRIZE

M/S LE PASSAGE TO INDIA

TOURS AND TRAVELS PVT LTD, NEW DELHI



Mr. Arjun Sharma (Managing Director)

Le Passage to India is a premier travel group headquartered in New Delhi. Their core focus is Leisure Travel and Destination Management. With a pan India network of 22 offices, strategic alliances in Nepal and Bhutan and a professional workforce of over 600 travel experts the organization is committed to provide quality services in all their immaculately planned trips. The travel group through its Strategic Business Units, Strategic Alliances and Partner Tour Operators caters to the travel needs of varied business segments viz Individual Travel, Group Travel, MICE, Luxury Travel, Rail Journeys, Soft Adventure, Charter Operations, Cruise handling and Wellness holidays.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY I – THIRD PRIZE



THOMAS COOK (INDIA) LTD., MUMBAI



Mr. Vishal Suri (COO)

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd (TCIL) has through its 100% owned subsidiary TCI (Travel Corporation India Ltd) which is India's premier inbound travel organization, further consolidated its presence in the inbound industry with offices across 12 cities in India and 7 overseas at New York, London, Frankfurt, Madrid, Barcelona, Tokyo and Kathmandu. TCI's core activities are leisure travel - inbound tourism, conferences and incentives management, cruise ship ground handling and operations etc. It specialises in special interest and incentive tours, conferences and air charter/cruise ship ground operations for multi-nationals and leading companies in India.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY III – FIRST PRIZE



M/S TUSHITA TRAVELS PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. Ajay Jainly (Director)

Tushita Travels Pvt. Ltd. has been a trusted partner of numerous international travel companies since 1985. Tushita's unique model relies on an impeccable set of ethics that gain the client's confidence and translate it into a long-lasting partnership. It focuses on providing personalized services with particular attention to detail. Five regional offices covering the whole of India enable it to assist customers swiftly and efficiently, thus providing flawless travel services to thousands of satisfied travellers year after year.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY III – SECOND PRIZE



M/S ABERCROMBIE AND
KENT INDIA PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. Vikram Madhok (Managing Director)

Abercrombie & Kent completed 25 years in India last year. They are committed to provide travel experiences that enhances and changes lives by delivering special moments in peerless comfort and style with unparalleled value and expertise. They believe that those who travel with them will remain their clients for life.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY III – THIRD PRIZE



M/S ORIENT EXPRESS PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. Kanti Poddar (Chairman & Managing Director)

Having been established on 26th September, 1947, Orient Express Travels & Tours is the oldest tourism company of India. Has thus played a pioneering role in the development of tourism in the country for which it has won many national and international awards. The company was the first Travel Company to diversify into Hotel business when it built the well known five star Deluxe Hotel, Taj Chandela at Khajuraho.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY IV – FIRST PRIZE



M/S HOLIDAYS TO TREASURE INDIA
TOURS PVT. LTD, GURGAON



Mr. Sudhir Sachdeva

Holidays to Treasure India has emerged as a dependable Destination Management Company reaching to over 12,000 travellers from across-the-globe, even while its reputation for providing holidays-of-style remains unequalled. Dedication, specialist in tailor-made holidays, personalised services and informed guidance are the company's forte. Experience of over twenty years in tourism of the directors, adds to quality, style and exclusivity of services which the company offers.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY IV – SECOND PRIZE

M/S TRAVEL INN (INDIA) PVT. LTD.
NEW DELHI



Mr. Ravi Kalra (Managing Director)

Travel Inn (India) Private Ltd. is a tour operation company operating tours for over 20 years.

They run tours for a host of operators across India, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet.

Travel Inn has been bestowed with the National Tourism Award for excellence in inbound tourism segment four years respectively.

Over the years, Travel Inn has successfully established itself as a trusted brand in culture, adventure and wildlife segments.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY IV – THIRD PRIZE



M/S INDIAN LEGENDS HOLIDAYS PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. Ravinder Kumar (Managing Director)

Indian Legends Holidays (ILH) is a specialist Inbound Destination Management Company of India offering extensive product range of culture, leisure, Wildlife and Adventure tours, encompassing more than 2,000 suppliers. The Company was formed with the sole aim of not being amongst the crowd tour operator but a company with creativity and commitment towards show-casing best of India.

With its 3 overseas offices and a young and creative team of holiday experts, ILH offers high quality services and innovative ideas of travel in India.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY V – FIRST PRIZE



M/S SOUTH TOURISM, TRICHY



Mr. Pandian Kumaravel (Director)

South Tourism was established in 2003. The company has the corporate office in Trichy, Tamil Nadu and branch offices in all major destinations in South India like Bengaluru, Chennai, Thiruvannamalai, Madurai, Puducherry, Cochin and Thiruvananthapuram. The company is a reputed handling agent in South India offering unparalleled service with quality and consistent standard. South Tourism's biggest asset is its team of people who are dedicated, sincere and service oriented in nature. Our aim is to offer and maintain the highest standard of service in future to match the international standards.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY V – SECOND PRIZE



M/S INDIA SAFARI & TOURS PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. Subail Gupta (CEO)

India Safari and Tours (and Beyond India) is one of the Indian Subcontinents most comprehensive tour operators. Professional and experienced travel specialists from the company work with the clients every step of the way, ensuring that we design tailor made travel programmes to suit your needs.

The team at India Safari and Tours consists of seasoned professionals with more than 60 years of experience in planning and executing exceptional journeys across the Indian Subcontinent.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY V – THIRD PRIZE



M/S VASCO TRAVEL PVT. LTD., NOIDA



Mr. Vikas Abbott (Managing Director)

Vasco Travel is owned and managed by the Abbott Family which has been a part of the Indian Tourism Industry since three generations. This vast experience is reflected not only in the Inbound Tour services but also across the entire gamut of services. They specialize in Corporate Services whereby they cater to the smallest requirements of their clients. The company has grown, not only in terms of turnover and revenues, but also in terms of the product variety. On the Inbound Tourism front, the company has the expertise to organize tours not only in India but in the entire subcontinent.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY VI – FIRST PRIZE



M/S ANCIENT INDIA TRAVELS PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. Vijay Arora

Ancient India Travels Pvt. Ltd., an organization born out of the dream of four enterprising young hearts in 2001, imbibes and displays the quintessence and is engaged in the traditional Indian Business of Hospitality.

In a decade or so of its existence, there have been many occasions when the cause appeared lost, when the company could have imploded from the weight without.

However, the organization always summoned strength from within, showed resilience and today this commitment stands corroborated.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY VI – SECOND PRIZE



M/S WORLDVIEW TOURS PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. Nino Mohan (President)



Mr. Nitin Sambhi (CEO)

With offices in Delhi, Agra and California, Worldview Tours is an innovative tour company offering upscale tours to India. Their speciality is customized individual or small group tours, incentive, special interest and experiential travel. In today's time, where World Travellers demand destination expertise and premium service, Worldview Tours delivers on both the counts.

Their operations are an amalgamation of planning tours uniquely crafted with unusual perspectives, delivering all-inclusive values and providing impeccable services. Actively involved in USA, UK, Latin America and Spain markets, their endeavour is to continue develop new products and promote tours to India in newer emerging markets.



TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

CATEGORY VI – THIRD PRIZE



M/S THE TRAVEL PLANNERS, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Mr. Anish Kumar P. K. (CEO)

Established in 1999, The Travel Planners has grown to become India's leading Tour Operator, committed to provide quality services with immaculately planned trips that reflect our years of hands-on experience and in-depth product research and knowledge. Backed by a team of over 30 professionals, The Travel Planners have earned a reputation for being amongst Kerala's most quality conscious travel companies.



TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

CATEGORY I – FIRST PRIZE



M/S AJAY TRAVELS PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. Ajay Kumar (Director)

At Ajay Travels, they don't just give the traveller a journey; they give them a "Journey of Excellence".

Almost every fourth tourist transport vehicle that one sees plying with happy holiday-makers and inbound tourists, across the length and breadth of North India, is likely to have the legend "Ajay Travels Pvt. Ltd.", proudly emblazoned across its bows.

Their fleet boasts of leading International and Indian brands and rigorously implement the latest International Health & Safety Norms in their daily operations.



TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

CATEGORY I – SECOND PRIZE



M/S BAKSHI TRANSPORT SERVICE PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. G. S. Sawhney (MD)



Mr. K. S. Sawhney (Exe. Director)

The combination of duo-Father-Son, has once again flavoured the smell of their, over 50 years experience, in once again bringing Laurels for their Company by consecutively winning. Apart from winning National Tourism Awards, the company has also been bestowed with “Scroll of HONOUR AWARD FOR 2008-09”.

The company serves, with full professionalism to many Travel Agents – Tour Operators – Foreign Missions and various MNC’s in India with their Latest Model Fleet of VOLVOS – with all facilities, Luxury AC and MINI Coaches with Air Suspension – Small Segment Vehicles and Large Luxury Cars of all Types.



TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

CATEGORY I – THIRD PRIZE



M/S PARVEEN TRAVELS (P) LTD., CHENNAI



Mr. A. Afzal (Chairman & Managing Director)

Parveen Travels Pvt. Ltd. has vast experience of over 30 years as Tourist Transport Operator in Southern India. The company is committed to provide quality services to promote tourism in the country. It has more than 1000 vehicles in its fleet comprising of Cars, Limousines, Caravans, AC & NON-AC Tour Coaches, Intercity Trip Buses & Staff Transportation Coaches. Its services are utilized by reputed hoteliers, travel agents, tour operators, multi-national companies, software giants etc. E-ticketing facility was introduced for the first time in India in 2001 by the company.



TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

CATEGORY II – FIRST PRIZE



M/S RAJINDRA BUS SERVICE (P) LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. Narinder Soin



Mr. Prem Soin

The company was founded in 1960. Both the directors of the company have vast experience and knowledge for the promotion of tourism. The company's commitment is to provide satisfaction, Hospitality service for promotion of Foreign and Domestic tourism. They have latest Model of coaches and cars.



TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

CATEGORY II – SECOND PRIZE

M/S ALWAR TOURIST TRANSPORT SERVICE
NEW DELHI



Mr. Krishan Dutt Yadav (Proprietor)

M/s Alwar Tourist was founded in the year 1980. Over the years, “Alwar Tourist Transport Service” has grown to become one of the leading tourist transport operators in Northern India and catering to the needs and requirements of each and every category of foreign and domestic tourists.

The company has organized large conferences and repeated clients are the proof of their quality services.



TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

CATEGORY II – THIRD PRIZE

M/S HEAT TRAVELS AND TOURS
(INDIA)PVT. LTD, SILIGURI



Mr. Prakash Gupta (CEO)

Launched as Heat Treks & Tours in 1994 by adventure enthusiasts and later in 1999, known as Heat Travels & Tours (India) Private Limited, having registered office at Siliguri, and handling offices at Gangtok, Kalimpong and Kolkata, Heat has been symbolic to the Tourism Activities in the Himalayas of Sikkim, Darjeeling and Bhutan. Over the time Heat has emerged as a B2B Wholesale Tour Operator, having a strong infrastructural base and dedicated team of professionals serving the travel fraternity from India, Nepal and Bhutan. In course Heat has provided extremely satisfactory and word of mouth services to its travellers from India and world.



DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

REST OF INDIA – FIRST PRIZE

M/S PANICKER'S TRAVEL (INDIA)

PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI



Mr. E.R.C. Panicker



Mr. Babu Panicker

The small beginning of a single bus operating Travel Agency in 1966 has history of having reached the top most travel service in the country in 45 years. Panicker's Travel is an exciting story of dedicated hard work ensuring friendly services for the pilgrimage/picnic tourists round the clock, year round. For the last 45 years, the team of dedicated and professional staff have provided cost effective package tours through the network of services in India to suit the individual traveller's requirements with capable of handling thousands of tourists every day for every location.



DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

REST OF INDIA – SECOND PRIZE



M/S CHOUDHARY YATRA CO. PVT. LTD., NASHIK



Mr. Premchand Choudhary



Mr. Chaturbhuj Choudhary



Mr. Mahendrapal Choudhary



Mr. Brijmohan Choudhary

Choudhary Yatra Co. Pvt. Ltd. was started in 1983. During last 28 years company has served more than 11 lakh satisfied pilgrims by organizing economical package tours to various religious, historical and tourist places in India and Nepal. Company has 125 Branches in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Tours are organized through latest luxury buses trains and flight with lodging and boarding. Company has a fleet of 30 AC and 40 non AC Tourist Buses.



DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

REST OF INDIA – THIRD PRIZE



M/S RAO TRAVELS (REGD), NEW DELHI



Mr. S. Subba Rao (Chairman)

Rao Travels has been started in 1977 by Sarvepalli Subba Rao. With High-end luxury cars and coaches, the company offers comfort and luxury at competitive rates.

Today, Rao Travels has branches in Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru. In terms of USP, the company promises to abide by panchsheel or five principles – Reliability, punctuality, comfort, safety and moderate rates – to suit every purse.



DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

PROMOTING JAMMU & KASHMIR



M/S SOUTHERN TRAVELS PVT. LTD, NEW DELHI



Southern Travels, a 4-decade old company with a network of offices in metropolitan cities in India was started by Shri A. Venkateswara Rao. Since its inception, it has come a long way and registered consistent and tremendous growth. With a fleet of latest model coaches, best infrastructure, well-designed tour packages, the company is ever more geared up to render services to the aspirations of the middle-class tourists treating them as their guests.



DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

PROMOTING NORTH EAST REGION INCLUDING SIKKIM

M/S HEAT TRAVELS & TOURS

(INDIA) PVT LTD, SILIGURI



Mr. Prakash Gupta (CEO)

Launched as Heat Treks & Tours in 1994 by adventure enthusiasts and later in 1999, known as Heat Travels & Tours (India) Private Limited, having registered office at Siliguri, and handling offices at Gangtok, Kalimpong and Kolkata, Heat has been symbolic to the Tourism Activities in the Himalayas of Sikkim, Darjeeling and Bhutan. Over the time Heat has emerged as a B2B Wholesale Tour Operator, having a strong infrastructural base and dedicated team of professionals serving the travel fraternity from India, Nepal and Bhutan. In course Heat has provided extremely satisfactory and word of mouth services to its travelers from India and world.



ADVENTURE TOUR OPERATOR



M/S RIMO EXPEDITION, GURGAON



Mr. Chewang Motup Goba

Rimo Expeditions, India's adventure travel company has been promoting innovative tours in the exploration of the East Karakoram and Himalaya, stretching from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. Since 1993, Rimo's unrivalled team of experienced staff, who operate out of offices across the Indian subcontinent, have provided tourists an unparalleled opportunity to explore remote glaciers, climb virgin peaks, trek our mountains and run India's mighty rivers in a safe and memorable setting. Rimo's mission today is to raise the standard of environmental sustainability with responsible rules for its staff to leave as light a footprint as possible in the wilderness.



MICE OPERATOR

M/S ALPCORD NETWORK (TRAVEL & CONFERENCES MANAGEMENT COMPANY), NEW DELHI



Mr. Chander Mansharamani (MD)

Alpcord Network (Travel and Conferences Management Company) is a Meetings, Incentive and Conference (MICE) planner. Its customer centric approach has helped it grow into one of the leading MICE operator. The company has an extensive network of associate offices all over India and a representation office in London to cater to the needs of various MICE related services.



MOST INNOVATIVE TOUR OPERATOR



**M/S ADVENTURE WORLD
(INDIA) PVT. LTD, NEW DELHI**



Mr. Raj Bajaj (MD)



Mr. Aditya Bajaj (Director Marketing)

Globally tourism has made long strides but physically challenged people are nearly excluded from the leisure activities. Accessible tourism is making it easy for such people irrespective of their age, gender or physical status to enjoy tourism experiences. M/s Adventure World had initiated to face the challenge to provide travel services to this segment of international tourists wherein “Accessibility” is a cardinal issue to let these people feel confident that they too can spend their leisure time without facing any difficulties. This segment holds immense potential for sustainability to attract these niche travellers.



BEST ECO FRIENDLY PRACTICES BY A TOUR OPERATOR

ANDHRA PRADESH TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation is involved in various activities that cover hotels and catering units, guided and package tours, pleasure cruises, sound and light shows and tourism infrastructure development. It has successfully implemented 6 new projects at Eco-Tourism destinations during the last year. All these projects follow principles of sustainable tourism, namely: a) Use of materials that blend with nature, b) Employment of local staff to enhance their livelihoods, c) purchase of commodities from the local stakeholders, d) Use of Solid Waste Management equipments, e) Use of Rainwater harvesting techniques, f) Use of Electrical fittings that have BEE rating, and g) Campaign against use of plastic.



**TOUR OPERATOR PROMOTING
NICHE SEGMENTS OTHER THAN
ADVENTURE AND MICE
M/S MEDI CONNECT INDIA – A UNIT OF
INDIAN HOLIDAY, NEW DELHI**



Ms. Samridhi Chodha (Project Head Medical Division)

Medi Connect India, the medical facilitation division of M/s Indian Holiday Pvt. Ltd, was set up in 2005. It promotes advanced medical treatments available in India. It is the only Health Care Facilitator approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. The organization is closely associated with internationally accredited hospitals across India catering to a range of treatments and procedures to medical value travellers. In addition, Medi Connect India extends consultation regarding choice of hospitals and treatments as per clients' budget and preferences.



BEST HOTEL

FIVE STAR DELUXE



JAI MAHAL PALACE, JAIPUR



Jai Mahal Palace, the former residence of the Prime Minister of the princely state of Jaipur, is steeped in history. The majestic Palace, a vast complex of regal rooms, pretty pavilions and charming colonnades set amidst 18 acres of landscaped gardens, traces its origins to 1745 AD. The stately Moghul Gardens, resonant with the call of peacocks, is a formal, multi-level, quartered garden with pavilions, water channels, flowerbeds, ponds and stone pathways.

Located close to the main shopping centre and historical monuments, Jai Mahal Palace is ideal for exploring the fascinating city of Jaipur. With its blend of history, elegance and luxury, the heritage hotel is a perfect destination for visitors to Jaipur.



BEST HOTEL

FIVE STAR



THE GATEWAY HOTEL PASUMALAI, MADURAI



Sprawling over 63 acres, The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai Madurai is a seamless blend of 118 year old colonial architecture style rooms and more recent additions. Located on top of a hill, the hotel offers picturesque views of the temple city and the kodai hills. The hotel has tennis and badminton courts as well as table tennis and billiards. The Hotel has an All Day Dining multi-cuisine restaurant, “GAD”, which has both indoor as well as outdoor seating with a breathtaking view of the temple city. The colonial bar, “Harvey’s Lounge”, is located next to the reception area. For a rejuvenating experience, “Nalam”, the Ayurveda Centre, off the poolside will be the ideal choice.



BEST HOTEL

FOUR STAR



VIVANTA BY TAJ, KUMARAKOM



Baker's Bungalow at Kumarakom, Kerala, was built by George Alfred Baker, an Essex missionary, on the banks of the Vembanad Lake, the great backwater that stretches southward from Cochin for more than 70 miles. It was home to four generations of the Baker family who, apart from serving at the Church Mission Society took up large-scale farming, opened schools for the locals and learnt to communicate in fluent Malayalam. When the last Baker, Robert, finally left Kumarakom in 1977, their idyllic house beside the lake was subsequently acquired by the Taj and lovingly transferred into the Vivanta by Taj.

Located on the picturesque Vembanad Lake, Vivanta by Taj-Kumarakom is 30-minute drive from Kottayam railway station or an hour's drive from Cochin city. Kerala's backwaters surround the 140-year-old colonial bungalow which houses this resort.



BEST HOTEL

THREE STAR



BRUNTON BOATYARD – KOCHI



Moored on a historic stretch of Cochin's famed harbour, the Brunton Boatyard Hotel was resurrected on the site of a 19th century boatyard. Today, it gives the modern traveller a unique opportunity to dwell amidst the shadow plays of 19th century history. Brunton Boatyard imbibes the many influences that have made Fort Cochin what it is today and takes you back in time to the eventful past of the centuries old boatyard of Geo Brunton and Sons. When you step into Brunton Boatyard in Fort Cochin, it is like stepping into the distillery of history.



BEST HOTEL

TWO STAR



RESORTE MARINHA DOURADA, GOA



Resorte Marinha Dourada, a 2-star resort is located in the scenic village of Arpora, just minutes away from the famous Baga beach. The facilities and amenities are designed to give the ultimate in comfort and luxury. The first thing that should strike you about the Marinha Dourada is the peace and tranquility. Set in serene surroundings the atmosphere remains cool even in hot summers. To ease the pressures of life and the hustle and bustle of cities the Marinha Dourada is the ideal choice. Echoes from the past are apparent in the décor of the resort.



BEST HERITAGE HOTEL

BASIC



SAMODE HAVELI, JAIPUR



Unexpected and charming, Samode Haveli is a self-contained, intimate, heritage hotel, hidden deep in the folds of the busy streets of old Jaipur.

A nobleman's urban abode restored to perfection, the Haveli emerges, as if from nowhere at the end of a narrow lane - an oasis of serenity in the depths of the lively city. Whenever you come to visit the treasures of Jaipur, this is the hotel you will want to make your home. A quintessential Indo-Saracenic regal residence, Samode Haveli is steeped in history and tradition, and yet offers its guests contemporary luxuries and the impeccable hospitality and courtesy that are the signature style of the Samode group of hotels.



BEST HERITAGE HOTEL

CLASSIC



COCONUT LAGOON, KUMARAKOM, KOTTAYAM



Coconut Lagoon in Kumarakom, celebrates the simple joys of life. Here, in the midst of the backwaters and the never-ending lake, stands a tile and-timber mansion, a typical traditional Kerala Tharavad, painstakingly transplanted and restored. An architectural marvel, this homestead exudes the charm of the Kerala life of yore, and transports one back in time to a world of peace and contentment. This hotel is another affirmation of the belief that holiday environments are catalysts that can ensure the preservation of the earth and her reserves and one can find the endangered Vechoor cows in their lawns. In fact, environment sensitivity is so close to their hearts that they have devoted a full time director for the same. All of which go a long way to inspire their guests, who see beyond the cow into the far horizon where this treasure trove of nature will await them forever.



BEST HERITAGE HOTEL

GRAND



THE LALIT GRAND PALACE, SRINAGAR



Earlier known as Gulab Bhavan, The Lalit Grand Palace Srinagar stood witness to the turn of the 20th century. The Palace was built by Maharaja Pratap Singh in the year 1910 and was tastefully designed and decorated by his nephew Maharaja Hari Singh.

Bharat Hotels took over the Palace in 1998, and after careful restoration, the Palace that had once succumbed to the ravages of time, returned to life. The Palace continues to be a host to guests from all walks of life - From Government Heads to Diplomatic delegations; From glamorous International celebrities to jet setting millionaires; Famous Indian luminaries to Indian Film personalities - they all head for The Lalit Grand Palace Srinagar to make it their paradise.



BEST ECO FRIENDLY HOTEL



ITC GRAND CENTRAL, MUMBAI



ITC Hotel Grand Central ‘A Luxury Collection Hotel’, the first and the only Hotel in Central Mumbai and the 2nd tallest in India, is located in the close proximity to the business districts of Central and South Mumbai . This hotel reflects the mixed heritage of the colonial past and the modern present. Graced with beautiful interiors and a unique courtyard, the hotel ambience is filled with abundant English charm and caring Indian hospitality.

Within a city legendary for service, ITC Hotel Grand ‘The Luxury Collection’ offers the finest business environment, complete with extensive facilities for meetings and fitness, six exceptional dining choices including a private rooftop lounge with a breathtaking view of Mumbai and the sea, complemented by an unequalled and efficient service that is second to none.



HOTEL PROVIDING BEST FACILITIES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED GUESTS



THE LALIT, NEW DELHI



The Lalit, New Delhi has incorporated various features and facilities for the convenience and comfort of differently abled guests. Offering four dedicated rooms with inter-connecting set for attendants and fully equipped bathrooms for special needs, the hotel has dedicated one room for every hundred rooms for differently abled guests.

The guest elevators are all wide enough for wheel chair access along with Braille sign on every call button and an audio announcement for each floor. There is a dedicated parking slot with signage at the main porch along with a special ramp with anti skid mat for facilitating the guest to enter the hotel through a dedicated access area. Restaurant tables are designed in a way to accommodate guests on a wheel chair and both lobby and banqueting levels of hotel have dedicated restrooms for differently abled guests.



HOTEL PROVIDING BEST FACILITIES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED GUESTS

SPECIAL AWARD



VIVANTA BY TAJ, MUMBAI



Vivanta by Taj – President, Mumbai an Upper Upscale hotel, is located in the heart of South Mumbai’s business hub. The hotel offers one room that is especially equipped for the comfort of differently abled guests. The public areas of the hotel are easily accessible and the differently abled guests have no problem in moving around seamlessly within the hotel. The hotel has facilities for the differently abled guest like a special room with specially designed bathroom, ramps at Main Porch and Trattoria Restaurant, Special Evacuation Chair, Dedicated bathroom facility in the lobby and wider entrance door for comfortable movement of wheel chairs.



BEST INCREDIBLE INDIA BED & BREAKFAST ESTABLISHMENT

GOLD

MARV HOME, NAGPUR



“MARV HOME” is owned by Smt. Manisha Vijay Golchha & Capt. Vijay Kamal Golchha in Nagpur. It is located about 1.5 kms from the Airport & about 6 kms from the heart of the city. The Home has two spacious rooms for the guest at the third floor of the building with lift facility (wheel chair can go inside the lift-this take care of differently abled guest too). In front of the home there is a garden where one can sight about 55 types of birds.



BEST CONVENTION CENTRE

LULU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, THRISSUR



This dream project of Padmashri Yusuf Ali M.A. is the largest convention centre in Kerala aptly located in the cultural capital of Kerala – Thrissur. With a built up area of 1,60,000 sq.ft., Lulu features 7 upscale venues for meetings, seminars, conventions, exhibitions, events and shows.

Equipped with the latest state-of-the-art Audio Visual and conference facilities, Lulu's flexi halls can accommodate right from 50 pax, while the plenary hall can accommodate up to 2000 pax at a time. The convention centre offers car parking for 1800 cars and an exclusive helipad.

The attached Lulu Garden Hotel features rooms and suites, multi-cuisine restaurant, health club, business center, total wi-fi connectivity, and a kids play park to ensure a complete experience for the delegates and leisure travellers.



BEST CONVENTION CENTRE



THE ASHOK, NEW DELHI



Ever since the saga began in 1956 with the UNIDO Conference - India's first International event, The Ashok's convention expertise is unparalleled. Be it playing host to luminaries of the world or holding conferences for prestigious bodies, expertly managing international conventions or customizing an event, The Ashok takes care of every minute detail.

The Convention Hall accommodates 2000 and can be tailored to serve smaller numbers also. A gamut of halls, meeting rooms, lawns and open areas add to the versatility and scale. Alongside the quintessential fusion of business and pleasure, there are hi-tech amenities, modern business facilities, props and unbelievable comforts.



BEST CHEF

(4 TO 5 STAR DELUXE AND HERITAGE GRAND AND CLASSIC HOTELS) –
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



CHEF HEMANT OBEROI



A graduate from IHM, Pusa, Chef Hemant has worked 36 years with Hotel Taj Mahal. His innovative ideas and incredible presentation has created new concepts like Masala Brand, Blue Ginger etc. He has catered to many VIPs and dignitaries. He represented India in World Culinary Olympics and was a Guest Speaker in Asia Society Seminar. He has won numerous Awards and Accolades.



BEST CHEF

(4 TO 5 STAR DELUXE AND HERITAGE GRAND AND CLASSIC HOTELS)



CHEF SUJAN MUKHERJEE



Sujan Mukherjee, Executive Chef at Taj Bengal Kolkata is an IHM Kolkata alumni of 1988.

He has been with Taj since 1989 at hotels in Delhi, Kolkata, Jaipur and Indore.

His specialization is mainly in Indian, Italian & French cuisines. Apart from this he has also garnered knowledge of Japanese, Mediterranean, Chinese, Bakery & Confectionary.

Sujan has represented Taj in food festivals in UK, Singapore, Bangladesh, Thailand and was the first Indian Chef to participate in the American Harvest Cake bread Cellar workshop in California. He has also worked with renowned Antony Bourdain on a food show for Travel & Living.

His innovations (exotic fruit and vegetable caviar, range of breads using a variety of high fibre grain etc), have brought him recognition.



BEST CHEF

1 TO 3 STAR AND HERITAGE BASIC



CHEF MERIL ANTONY ARICATT



Chef Meril Antony Aricatt, Executive Chef of The Gateway Hotel, Vijayawada, is an experienced and well seasoned Chef with expertise in Food Production, Kitchen and Financial Management, Training and Leading Teams. He designs and prepares diverse menus. He has served key dignitaries and VIPs. He has participated in several Food Festivals and specialises in Festive Menus for Kerala region. He is famous for his expertise in Ayurvedic Recipes. His culinary skills has repositioned Indian Food in International Market.



ATITHIDEVO BHAVA

MR. JATENDER SINGH JAISWAL– HEAD CONCIERGE, LUXE INDIA
MR. VIKRANT K. SHARMA– TOUR GUIDE
MR. RANGRAO– COACH DRIVER



Le Passage to India's luxury brand Luxe India had invited a six member Taiwanese media delegation on a 10-day Golden Triangle tour to film for a travel show. The delegation started their tour from Old Delhi, on arrival at Jama Masjid, while disembarking from the coach the guests were fired at by extraneous elements, leaving two of them seriously injured. Despite the panic the team used immense presence of mind to immediately drive the coach away to the nearest hospital, preventing further injuries.



अद्भुत भारत
Incredible India
www.incredibleindia.org



Ministry of Tourism
Government of India

ADVENTURE DOWN UNDER

IN INDIA

- Enchanting Islands • Crystal clear Waters • Extraordinary Marine Life
- Precious Coral Treasures • Exhilarating Aquatic Sports

CORAL REEF, ANDAMANS



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
पर्यटन मंत्रालय

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अतिथिदेवो भव
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अतुल्य! भारत
Incredible! India