



Government of India
Ministry of Tourism

National Tourism Awards 2014 - 2015

अतिथिदेवो भव
Atithidevo Bhava



अतुल्य! भारत
Incredible! India



Making India One of the World's Best Tourist Destinations

INCREDIBLE STEPS

TOWARDS THIS GOAL

1. **India rises 13 ranks in World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index, moving from 65th position in 2013 to 52nd position in 2015.**
2. **Encouraging Foreign Tourist Arrivals with introduction of e-Tourist Visa for 150 countries.**
3. **Facilitating tourists through launch of 24x7 toll-free multi-lingual helpline 1800 111 363 (shortcode 1363) and providing foreign tourists with Welcome Cards on arrival.**
4. **Setting up Medical and Wellness Tourism Board so that foreign tourists get better access to Indian healthcare.**
5. **Getting international recognition for India as the birth place of Yoga.**
6. **Promoting India as the land of Buddha through a biennial International Buddhist Conclave.**
7. **Making prominent Buddhist sites including Sarnath more attractive and informative through Sound and Light shows and illumination of monuments.**
8. **Promoting North East India for tourism through the annual International Tourism Mart.**
9. **Promoting national integrity and celebrating cultural and culinary diversity of India by organising 'Bharat Parv' as part of Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations.**
10. **Country wide investment of ₹2000 crore for integrated development of select theme based tourist circuits and pilgrimage sites under the new schemes - 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'PRASAD'.**
11. **Setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Cruise Tourism to make India as one of the leading cruise tourism destinations.**
12. **Ensuring cleanliness at 25 select monuments through launch of 'Swachh Paryatan App'.**
13. **Setting up the 'Indian Culinary Institute' at Tirupati and its centre at Noida, Uttar Pradesh for education, research, innovation in, and documentation and promotion of rich Indian culinary arts.**
14. **Imparting employable skills and inculcation of tourist friendly traits among youth through employment generating programmes like 'Hunar Se Rozgar Tak' and 'Paryatak Mitra'.**
15. **Capacity building for the lowest rung of service providers, e.g. skill certification of Street Vendors under the programme 'Hunar Zaika' and sensitisation/training of service providers like boatmen, rickshaw pullers, porters, home delivery persons, etc.**



डॉ. महेश शर्मा
Dr. Mahesh Sharma



पर्यटन एवं संस्कृति राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
OF TOURISM & CULTURE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

MESSAGE

The tourism sector constitutes a real priority for the Government as it is an important engine for the creation of employment, achieving inclusive growth, and ultimately, economic growth. During 2012 -13, Tourism's direct plus indirect contribution accounted for 6.88% of GDP and 12.36% of jobs in India.

We are in a very competitive market as every destination in the world is aggressively engaged in promoting themselves as preferred destinations for tourist. India is required to put up its best efforts to attract a larger number of tourists. The Ministry of Tourism is accordingly working to ensure that India remains attractive as a tourism destination for the world.

Government plays a crucial role in creation of a conducive environment for businesses to flourish. It is important that robust partnerships are forged between government and business to achieve India's goal. The two sectors have been working in this partnership for a long and will continue to work in partnership with product and services providers in the tourism sector to find ways in which we can strengthen the quality offered and the comfort accorded to our guests on the principles of 'Atithi Devo Bhava'.

My call to everyone involved in the industry is to understand the power of tourism industry to transform the lives of Indian citizens by its contribution to various walks of life. I request the leaders of the tourism industry to co-operate with Government in ensuring consolidated efforts in bringing sustainability on long term basis.

It is our hope that this National Tourism Awards will constitute another step towards the recognition of the tourism sector's crucial economic and social contribution to the country and motivating others to give their best in development of this industry and the Nation as a whole. I congratulate all the winners of National Tourism Award 2014-15.

New Delhi
26 July, 2016

(Dr. Mahesh Sharma)

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Incredible India

अतुल्य भारत

अतिथिदेवो भव
Atithidevo Bhava



Message

Vinod Zutshi,
Secretary
Ministry of Tourism,
Government of India.

The outlook for tourism in India is certainly very bright. My sense of optimism is based mainly on the key trends in the growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals and Domestic Tourist visits that we have been witnessing. The comprehensive and integrated efforts by the Government and the private sector have produced significant outcomes in the tourism sector in the country.

The National Tourism Awards, recognise the best service providers in each of their service domains. This exercise of recognising and rewarding champions of exceptional service is intended to set and raise the standards that will keep India competitive in the global tourism market.

Travellers are now selecting destinations based on very specific cultural interests or life experiences such as safaris, culinary journeys or journeys that allow them to have a concrete experience with history and heritage. The success of the tourism industry in India also hinges on innovation and creativity in developing new products and services. Therefore, the focus of State Governments & Private sector should be on development of niche and innovative tourism products and services.

The priority of Ministry of Tourism is to increase our existing market share in traditional tourism markets and explore tapping the potential in new markets for long-term growth opportunities. The Incredible India Campaign will be targeting these new markets and also promoting niche tourism.

I convey my best wishes to the winners of National Tourism Awards 2014-15 and look forward to continued partnership with the industry stakeholders.

Vinod Zutshi

**Best State / Union Territory :
Comprehensive Development of Tourism**

(Rest of India) – First Prize

Madhya Pradesh



Madhya Pradesh (MP) offers not only a lot to see and explore but gives a complete and varied travel experience. The state with its historic heritage, with its pilgrim spots giving an exhilarating spiritual experience and its many eco-tourism and natural spots within endless forests and wildlife present a perfect place to rejuvenate and recharge. Also, the product formation and development of new destinations is a high priority continuous process.

With emphasis on better infrastructure especially in the field of power and roads, destinations in MP have become more accessible and tourist friendly. The state is aware of the employment generating potential of the tourism sector and pays special attention to training programs. Further, the aggressive and innovative branding campaigns make Madhya Pradesh the desire of every travel lover across the globe.

**Best State / Union Territory :
Comprehensive Development of Tourism**

(Rest of India) – Second Prize

Gujarat



AavoPadharo, words of welcome in Gujarat epitomize an inimitable blend of hospitality and culture wherein a guest is literally and figuratively treated at par with God (Atithi Devo Bhava).

Stretching out into the Arabian Sea, with a hint of the desert and with a coastline of over 1600 kms, Gujarat is the home state of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation. It is renowned for its beaches, temple towns and historic capitals and ancient civilizations. Wildlife sanctuaries, hill stations and natural grandeur are major attractions in Gujarat. Sculpture, handicrafts, arts, festivals also make the state rich.

**Best State / Union Territory :
Comprehensive Development of Tourism**

(Rest of India) – Third Prize

Karnataka



Karnataka known as 'One state. Many worlds' is blessed with a rich cultural heritage, lofty hills and sensational wildlife along with magnificent monuments and numerous pilgrimage sites, making it an ideal tourist destination. Three of the UNESCO World Heritage sites Hampi, Pattadakalu and the Western Ghats along with bewitching white sand beaches and picturesque terrain provide many memorable experiences. An adrenaline junkie can indulge in various adventure activities like white water rafting, trekking, rock climbing to name a few. Pilgrimage sites can be found in abundance across the state. The monolithic statue of Gommateshwara at Sharavanabelagola, Sharadamba temple at Sringeri, Jumma Masjid at Bijapur and St Philomena's Cathedral at Mysore are few examples of the diverse religious sites in the State. Coffee plantations of Madikeri and Chickmagalur are the new age tourist attractions. Kabini, Bandipur, Dandeli are few of the wildlife destinations which are rich in flora and fauna.

Best Maintained and Disabled Friendly Monument

Monuments of Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh



Amarkantak is one of the top pilgrim destinations of India with a number of temples of mythological historical importance and being the spot of origin of the Narmada and Son rivers.

The temples are visited by a large number of tourists including the differently abled people and considering this, many monuments have developed facilities like wheel chair, Braille notice boards with directions and literature about monuments, with special toilets and specially laid pathways for visually challenged.

Best Tourist Friendly Railway Station

Sawai Madhopur Railway Station,
Rajasthan



Sawai Madhopur Railway Station is one of the important 'A' category stations on the prestigious New Delhi – Mumbai rail route. The station is situated on Kota Division of West Central Railway. At present 138 trains have stoppage at Sawai Madhopur station. On an average the station receives over 10,000 passengers daily. The station is the gateway to the world famous "Ranthambore Tiger Reserve". In the past few years, passenger amenities at Sawai Madhopur station have been upgraded to a large extent, which include drinking water facility, platform seating, automatic ticket vending machines, renovated retiring rooms, LED lighting, bio-toilets etc.

Recently, this station has achieved a distinct milestone of being the "First Heritage Station". In order to create awareness about conservation of wildlife, paintings depicting wild life have been done on 7000 Sq. feet area on the station wall in collaboration with WWF India. In fact the station has now become a "Living Art Museum" for visiting tourists.

**Best Airport
Class X Cities
(Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad,
Greater Mumbai and Kolkata)**

**Chhatrapati Shivaji
International Airport, Mumbai.**



Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA), operated by Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd (MIAL), is one of the largest airports of South Asia and is currently ranked as the World's Best Airport. CSIA is the gateway to India, serving Mumbai, the financial capital of India, and its catchment area, comprising 29 cities in Western, Central and Southern India with more than 190 daily flights. It offers convenient and seamless air connectivity to the passengers with more than 85 destinations in India and globally. MIAL's vision is "To be one of the World's best airports that consistently delights customers and to be the pride of Mumbai" and as a result, it has created a global icon- New Terminal 2, that provides an unmatched experience to its passengers and stakeholders. MIAL has taken due consideration to make CSIA as the most tourist friendly airport with adequate infrastructure and facilities which are first of its kind in India and the World. Concept of common lounge (GVK Lounge) for premium passengers, dedicated Meet & Assist (Pranaam), Augmented Reality, Art Museum ('Jaya He') and Airport Cargo Community Portal (GMAX) are some of the features that have been introduced at CSIA. It is noteworthy to mention that CSIA is the only airport in the world to handle maximum runway movements on a single runway. Contribution towards environment and its sustainability has also been a major consideration and efforts have been made for developing a conducive eco system.

Best Heritage Walk

“India City Walks” – Built Legacy of
Mughals (Old Delhi Heritage Walk)

(Joint Winner)



Mr. Sachin Bansal
Chief Explorer & Founder

Ms. Nidhi Bansal
Co-Founder

The city of Shahjahanabad or Old Delhi owes its charm to the rich history; a history that unveils itself through its narrow maze like lanes that showcase the culture and true essence of Delhi while quietly offering glimpses into seventeenth century through mansions and stories to adorn each and every lane of Old Delhi. During the walk the guests learn about the city offering a perfect mixture of religion, food, history, modernity, tradition, culture and commerce. The beauty of this city is that the living fabric changes with every hour and experiences are specially curated so that the guests witness everything the city has to offer.

Best Heritage Walk

Heritage Walk of Bhopal
Department of Tourism
Government of Madhya Pradesh

(Joint Winner)



Mr. Hari Ranjan Rao

Managing Director, MP Tourism

Bhopal, the city of lakes also has some remarkable historical buildings which reflect the taste of the erstwhile rulers and the contemporary architectural trends. The routes of Heritage Walk of Bhopal are designed to take you through the architectural journey of Bhopal, a city ruled by Begums.

The first walk begins at Kamlapati Mahal, near Upper Lake, an unsurpassable example of water engineering of 11th century and takes one to the Sufi Masjid which is an example of art deco and the Sadarmanzil with French influence.

The 2nd route begins at Taj ul Masajid and covers the three cascading lakes constructed by the Begum rulers. It also covers the Benazir and the Taj Mahal.

These Walks are especially popular with students pursuing architecture.

Best Heritage City

Warangal, Telangana.



Warangal is the largest city of newly formed Telangana State with a population of about seven lakhs and located 145 km from Hyderabad, the State Capital. Referred at times as a tri-city, Warangal is a cluster of three towns – Warangal, Hanamkonda and Kazipet, with a common civic administration i.e. Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC).

The glorious period of the Kakatiyas begins from about AD 1158 to AD 1323. This period of 168 years spanned over the reigns of illustrious Kakatiya Emperors that included Rudradeva (AD 1162-1195) Mahadeva (AD 1196-1198), Ganapathideva (AD 1199-1262), Rudramadevi (AD 1263-1289) and Prathaparudra (AD 1290-1323). They brought unprecedented political stability, economic prosperity, linguistic and cultural unity and artistic splendor and literary efflorescence to the empire they built which we can broadly identify with the present state of Telangana.

Warangal is one of the major urban centers of the Telangana State addressing the educational, medical, trading, tourism and cultural needs of the people not only from the district, but also from neighboring districts. The city also has an enormous potential for growth as a tourist and heritage centre as well as a regional centre.

Best Rural Tourism Project

Sargaalaya Arts & Crafts Village,
Iringal, Kerala

Department of Tourism,
Government of Kerala.



Sargaalaya – a one of its kind exclusive crafts village set up by Kerala Tourism is a novel initiative to promote rural tourism. Blending traditional art and business, Sargaalaya provides the local artisans with a platform to craft, exhibit and sell their products at fair prices to travellers. The crafts village also conducts craft expos, skill development and training programmes to successfully market the new destination and to boost the handicrafts sales.

Established in 2011 and one of the largest standalone projects by Kerala Tourism, Sargaalaya, over the years has strengthened the rural livelihoods by the revival and preservation of traditional craft, art and culture.

Best Tourist Guide

Mr. Jiwan Jyoti Pateriya,
Khajuraho.



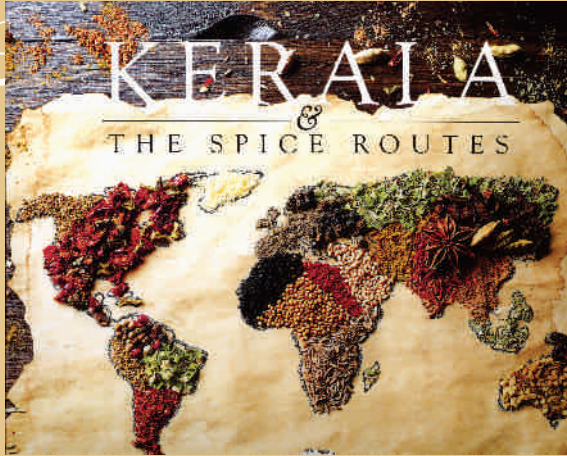
Mr. Jiwan Jyoti Peteriya,
Tourist Guide

Mr. Jiwan Jyoti Pateriya, a tourist guide based in Khajuraho since 1970 has expertise in guiding in languages like Hindi, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese and Russian. Mr. Pateriya is recognized by various tourism fraternities for his immense knowledge in guiding about a destination. His work has received several certificates and awards for his out of the ordinary guiding capabilities.



Excellence in Publishing
-English

“Kerala & The Spice Routes”
[Coffee Table Book]
By Department of Tourism,
Government of Kerala



The 132 page volume 'Kerala and the Spice Routes' is a rewind to the past and provides a sneak-peek to the readers into the layers of the people's sense of adventure. It is virtually a conducted tour – a time-travel of sorts – which quenches her thirst for new experiences with the help of arresting photographs, nuggets of information and tidbits of interesting trivia. The book talks about the history of races that touched Kerala's shores, the landing of traders and the synergies that worked to create the rich social fabric.

Excellence in Publishing

- Foreign language other than English

'The Great Backwaters'

[Das Faszinierendste Gewässer
der Erde in German]

Brochure By Department of Tourism,
Government of Kerala



The backwater brochure was conceived to detail out the unique, real and stand-alone experiences of the Kerala backwaters to the international travellers. The brochure's objective was to present this world unlike any other as a single destination and once-in-a-lifetime experience for the travellers. World renowned technicians were commissioned to capture the glimpses of life in this fascinating water world. The brochure was targeted on the growing set of evolved travellers from Germany and other German speaking countries. The brochure presented the backwaters as a unique, self-contained world with its own culture, flora, fauna and way of life to the discerning travellers.

Best Tourism Film

'Ilha De Calma'

[TVCommercial]

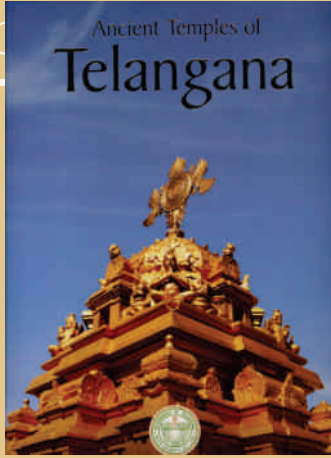
by Department of Tourism,
UT Administration of Daman & Diu.



The Department of Tourism, UT Administration of Daman & Diu came up with the campaign 'Ilha De Calma' meaning the island of calmness in Portuguese. The television commercial (TVC) was launched a week after the teaser campaign. Duration of the TVC is 2 minutes. It starts with a young women executive stuck in her busy chaotic life. A sudden break in the chaos happens with a cut introducing the serenity of the island. The lady indulges herself in the calm surroundings and experiences of the island. The commercial ends with her enjoying the sunset atop a lighthouse as the logo of Diu, Ilha de Calma, reveals. The TV Commercial portrays Diu's beaches, blue waters, churches, caves, forts, light-house and most importantly its Portuguese demeanor of the territory.

Best Tourism Promotion Publicity Material
- State Governments /
Union Territory Administrations

'Ancient Temples of Telangana'
[Coffee Table Book]
By Department of Tourism,
Government of Telangana.



Telangana is a place, which was once inhabited by the lords themselves, who left behind their imprints and essence of their divine presence. This region exhibits a number of holy temples that are known for architectural magnificence and intriguing historical tales.

Strong mythological beliefs have rendered Telangana as one of the religious hubs. Sri Laxminarasimhaswamy temple, YadagiriGutta; Sri SitaRamachandraswamy temple, Bhadrachalam; Saraswati temple, Basar; Bhadrakali temple, Hanumakonda; Navabramha Temple, Alampur; Thousand Pillar Temple, Hanumakonda; Rammappa Temple, Pallampet; Sri RajarajeshwaraSwamy temple, Vemulawada and Ghanpur group of temples etc. are some of the famous temples in Telangana.

Most Innovative use of Information Technology - Social media / Mobile App

Department of Tourism,
Government of Kerala.

Joint Winner

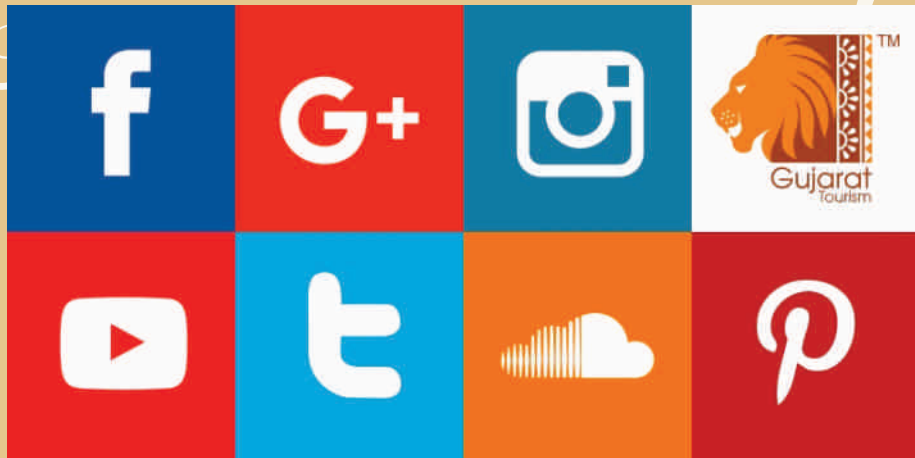


Kerala Tourism has 12.5 Lakhs Facebook followers, the largest figure for any Tourism Board. Apart from garnering likes, the page also receives a large number of fan photographs and feedback. To bring the brand under the limelight for travellers spread across the globe there are separate Facebook pages in German and French languages. Initiatives such as photo competitions and an Ayurveda blog help them confirm the right user traffic. The second edition of Kerala Blog Express conducted in 2015 involved 27 travel bloggers who documented their journey through the state helping the brand to reach out to aspiring travellers.

**Most Innovative use of
Information Technology -
Social media / Mobile App**

**Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd.,
Government of Gujarat**

Joint Winner



To showcase Gujarat as the most inviting destination of India, from architectural wonders to temples to handicrafts to food to festivals, Gujarat Tourism is present on seven social media sites including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Google+, Sound Cloud and YouTube. Strategically designed campaigns to share the magnificence of Gujarat's rich heritage and architecture, wildlife, beaches, cuisine, handicrafts and much more were run all across the Digital platforms. These insightful postings on regular level have helped in a consistent increase of fan base as well as daily views; portraying Gujarat in its true spirit of Diversity.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category I : First Prize

**M/s SDU Travels Private Limited,
New Delhi**



Mr. Sunit Suri,
CEO

M/s. SDU Travels Private Limited, is a young and dynamic Destination Management Company specializing in all categories of voyages such as Culture & Heritage, Art& Architecture, Wildlife, Luxury, Spa & Wellness, Honeymoon, Leisure, Yoga, Culinary, Adventure tours and special interest tours to India and sub-continent. SDU Travels boasts of a strong International presence in 10 countries and 40 locations within India and is affiliated with Ministry of Tourism - Government of India, IATA, IATO, TAAI, ASTA, USTOA etc.

SDU Travels is young, yet has years of experience and the experience comes from it's team, who have a history of long expertise and unrivalled knowledge acquired and enhanced from years of organizing tours.

Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category I : Second Prize

M/s Le Passage to India Journeys,
New Delhi



Mr. Arjun Sharma,
Chairman



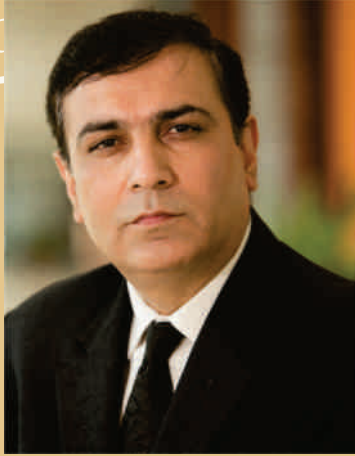
Mr. Mario Habig,
Managing Director

Le Passage to India Journeys is a microcosm of India, a country that straddles its multiple personalities with effortless ease. And like India, the company manifests multiple personalities with effortless ease. Le Passage to India Journeys is India's premier Destination Management Company with a countrywide network and dedicated teams that specialise in every facet of travel. Le Passage to India Journeys with its niche brands caters to the various aspects of travel. It runs specialist platforms for golf, meetings & incentives, wildlife & adventure and luxury. Le Passage to India Journeys is a market leader in volume business to special interest. The company has an elaborate network of 17 owned offices across India and strategic alliances in Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category I : Third Prize

**M/s SOTC Travel Services Pvt. Ltd.,
Gurgaon**



Mr. Vishal Suri,
Managing Director

SOTC Travel Services Pvt Ltd is the country's largest travel and tourism company. Maintaining its position as the market leader, SOTC Travel Services Pvt Ltd, 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 Pvt Ltd, the company realises 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.

Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category II : First Prize

**M/s Creative Travel Pvt. Ltd,
New Delhi**



Mr. Rohit Kohli,
Managing Director

Creative Travel is a family legacy of two generations that has showcased this part of the world for over 39 years. We have grown to become a prominent, respected and independent Destination Management Company offering the finest of cultural experiences, personal immersions and natural wonders all over India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Tibet & the Maldives. We are a company with great influence in the region, with strong industry linkages and unquestionable credibility. Our reputation allows us priority and access at hotels, venues and with other providers across our region. We use our reputation & goodwill to ensure the very best for our partners across the world. We are honoured to have been recognised this year for the efforts of our team.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category II : Second Prize

**M/s Caper Travel Company Pvt. Ltd.,
New Delhi**



Mr. Bharat Atree,
Managing Director

Established in 1998, M/s Caper Travel Company Pvt. Ltd, is India's leading Inbound Travel Solution Company. The company provides comprehensive travel solutions for leisure, group, charters & small business travelers, backed by real-time websites and professionals with a real passion for travel business. The Company's well-researched and updated portfolio of premier destinations, hand-picked tours, hotel selections and services are meticulously crafted to help meet the high expectations of its guests from around the globe.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category II : Third Prize

**M/s Trail Blazer Tours India Pvt. Ltd,
Gurgaon**



Mr. Homa Mistry,
CEO



Mr. Jehangir N Katgara,
Chairman & MD

Trail Blazer Tours India Pvt Ltd (Popularly known as TBi) is owned by the well known Katgara Group, pioneers in the travel and tourism industry. The Katgara Family began its involvement in travel and tourism as far back as 1925, when Jeena and Company (established in 1900) diversified into the travel field with Jeena Tours and Travels, the first Indian owned Travel Company.

Today, TBi has over 275 professionals at 10 offices across the country and an international presence in Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, South Korea, United Kingdom and USA through its representatives who work closely with local tour operators and destination management companies.

TBi's focus is on Destination Management, Group and Individual Tours, Corporate Travel and International Vacations.

Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category III : First Prize

M/s G B Morrison Travels Pvt. Ltd.,
New Delhi



Mr. Kapil Goswamy

Managing Director

M/s. G.B. Morrison Travels Private Limited (T/A Trans India Holidays) is an Inbound tour operator/ DMC, providing personalized, bespoke holidays in India, Nepal and Bhutan. Established in 1990, it owns and operates a large fleet of luxury vehicles and has a network of offices and representatives spread across the Indian sub-continent. USP's of the agency include, hands on professional management, excellent relationships with hoteliers, belief in the saying "Atithi devo bhava" (a guest for us is like a God). The agency has consistently been providing excellent value for money packages and unmatched travel experiences to their clients. Besides Cultural tours, the agency has also been promoting Golf Holidays, Culinary tours, Sporting Holidays (focused on Cricket and other important sport events) and Family friendly holidays.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category III : Second Prize

**M/s Indian Legends Holidays Pvt. Ltd,
New Delhi**



Mr. Ravinder Kumar,
Managing Director

M/s. Indian Legends Holidays Pvt. Ltd. (ILH) was set up by Travel Industry professionals with over 50 years of collective experience in Travel Trade. It specializes in Cultural heritage Groups tours, FIT programs & Incentives. The agency's reputation as an enduring holiday provider was built from a list of satisfied clients, a relentless can-do attitude, and great package deals. The company has a team of 30 people spread over Delhi, Agra, Jaipur & Rishikesh. The Corporate & Operation Office is in Delhi which is supported by a strong network of Associate offices all over India and neighboring countries. In addition, the agency also has its presence in Australia, China, Sweden and South Korea.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category III : Third Prize

M/s Indo Asia Leisure Services Ltd.,
Gurgaon



Mr. Vinay Sharda,
Vice President

Mr. Sunirmal Ghosh,
Director

With longstanding experience and knowledge of destination management of the Indian subcontinent and neighboring countries, Indo Asia Tours amalgamates the professionalism of large scale operations, while keeping the intimacy of a boutique travel firm. The tenacious foundation of service oriented outlook and in-depth knowledge has firmly kept us on the list of top five in-bound tour operators of India. Stellar client satisfaction, updated information and efficient systems have created a seamless work environment since 1987, when the organization was established.

We are one of the leading ground operators in not only India but in Bhutan, Tibet, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, offering the client a hassle-free service for all the leading destinations in the subcontinent. Not only can the traveler look forward to a superior product, with the highest quality of services but the experience is amplified with our commitment towards social and environmentally inclined associations as well.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category IV : First Prize

M/s Indian Trails Sourcing Services Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Danish Jamil,
Director

Mr. Shariq Jamil,
Director

M/s. Indian Trails Sourcing Services Pvt. Ltd. under its brand, INDIAN TRAILS (DIVA), designs and operates programs for conference organizers, travel agents, associations and corporations for a truly satisfying, enthralling and authentic Indian experience. It is dedicated in providing quality tourism products and ensuring that its partners get new products as well as unbeatable value add-ons to existing product lines.

It offers expert local knowledge and logistical fulfillment and has experience in managing large incentive groups, cultural tours, special interest tours, and charter movements as well as providing facilitation to medical tourists.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category IV : Second Prize

**M/s GeTS Holidays Pvt Ltd,
New Delhi**



Mr. Samir Kalia,
Chief Executive Officer

Mrs. Ruchi Kalia,
Director

M/s. GeTS Holidays, an online B2C Inbound Tour company was founded in 2003. GeTS is a non-traditional organization that uses online marketing tools to contact clients directly. GeTS has created a multi-language call centre with executives speaking local languages for helping foreign guests plan their trip to India. The agency has developed 12+ foreign language websites and marketing campaigns in different languages for easy access globally. GeTS Team of 100+ includes professionals from 7 different countries working in two shifts

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category IV : Third Prize

**M/s Travelite (India),
New Delhi**



Mr. Sarab Jit Singh
Managing Director

Mr. Gurudev Singh Ahluwalia
Director

M/s. Travelite (India) established in 1978, is a Destination & Event Management Company in the Indian subcontinent (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives). It maintains strong business relationships with hotels, resorts, convention centres, restaurants, excursion agents and other tourism industry suppliers throughout the Indian subcontinent. The company specialises in customized Luxury Travel, Private Charter Services, VIP Delegations and MICE Services.



**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category V : First Prize

**M/s Magadh Travels & Tours Pvt. Ltd,
New Delhi.**



Mr. Mukesh Kumar,
Director

Ms. Sushma Singh,
Director

M/s. Magadh Travels & Tours Pvt. Ltd is a Destination and Event Management company in the Indian Subcontinent (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives) with an experience of 12 years. It has three branch offices at Bodhgaya, Patna and Varanasi with its main administrative office in New Delhi. The agency has five International Representative offices in Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Magadh Travels & Tours is managed by a professional, dynamic and a committed team which specializes in Buddhist Pilgrimage, Cultural, Luxury, Ayurveda, Yoga, Himalayan region, VIP Delegation and MICE tourism.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category V : Second Prize

**M/s Maxxfun Holidays Pvt. Ltd.,
New Delhi**



Mr. Surpal Singh Deora,
Managing Director

Ms. Mamta Shekhawat,
Executive Head

M/s. Maxxfun Holidays is a receptive tour operator providing a wide range of services in Indian tourism industry for more than a decade. The company is headed by Mr. Surpal Singh Deora as its Managing Director and supported by Ms. Mamta Shekhawat as Executive Head. Maxxfun Holidays is recipient of National Tourism Award for Best Inbound Tour Operator for the year 2010- 2011. The agency is a member of all the leading travel and tourism trade bodies such IATA, IATO, PATA etc. and is an ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category V : Third Prize

**M/s Heat Travels & Tours
(India) Private Limited, Siliguri**



Mr. Deepak Gupta,
Chief Executive Officer

HEAT (acronym of Himalayan Elite in Adventure & Tourism) was launched by adventure enthusiasts in 1994, as HEAT Treks & Tours, which was in 1999 changed to Heat Travels & Tours (India) Private Limited. HEAT has its registered office at Siliguri and handling offices at Gangtok & Kalimpong. Over time HEAT has emerged as a B2B wholesale tour operator for Sikkim, Darjeeling & Bhutan, having a strong infrastructural base and dedicated team of professionals, serving the travel fraternity from India, Nepal & Bhutan.

Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category VI : First Prize

M/s Kalypso Adventures (P) Ltd.,
Kochi



Commander Sam T. Samuel

Managing Director

Kalypso Adventures was conceptualized in the year 2000 by two Naval Commanders, Cdr. Thomas, a nature lover and Cdr. Samuel, an adventure enthusiast. Cdr Thomas is an electrical engineer and Samuel a naval pilot. Kalypso Adventures offers travellers the best choices when it comes to trekking, cycling, kayaking, wildlife, bird watching and eco holidays. The agency also undertakes family holidays and special interest travel for the discerning global traveller.

With vast experience in experiential holidays and outdoor activities, the agency has developed some of the most exciting adventure and wildlife trips in India which have won many accolades, including the 'Best Adventure Tourism Operator' for the year 2013-2014 from the Department of Tourism, Kerala.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category VI : Second Prize

**M/s Asiad Holidays (P) Ltd,
Mumbai**



Mr. Atul Karande
Director

Mr. Issac B. Daniel
Director

Established almost 28 years ago, by Mr. Isaac B. Daniel and Mr. Atul G. Karande, Asiad Holidays has emerged as a leading Destination Management Company reaching out to the discerning travelers from continents across the globe. The agency has been recognized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and is an active Member of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO). The agency's head office is in Mumbai and a branch office in Delhi. It has a wide network of regional and associate offices throughout India. Asiad Holidays specializes in Cultural and Heritage Tours, Beach Holidays, Wild Life Safaris, Luxury Train Tours, Honeymoon Tours, Senior Citizen tours.

**Best Inbound Tour Operator /
Travel Agent**

Category VI : Third Prize

**M/s Dravidian Trails Holidays Pvt Ltd,
Kochi**



Mr S. Swaminathan
Managing Director

Ms S. Annapoorani
Managing Director

Dravidian trails is a Destination Management Company. The Company offers unique travel itineraries created with knowledge of local conditions. The company has its headquarters at Kochi, Kerala and also serves in Andaman, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Mumbai.



Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category I : First Prize

M/s Ecos (I) Mobility & Hospitality Pvt. Ltd,
New Delhi



Mr. Rajesh Loomba **Mr. Aditya Loomba,**
Managing Director *Director*

ECO Rent A CAR is the fastest growing chauffeur driven and self drive car rental company with focus on superior service for both tourists and corporate travelers. ECO Rent A CAR has a fleet of over 550 owned vehicles across India, comprising regular sedans to high end cars like Mercedes S Class and Stretch Limousines. Coaches include a largest fleet of Toyota Commuter luxury mini vans, Toyota Coasters and large Volvo Coaches. Well trained English speaking chauffeurs, who are police verified and in proper uniform. The agency has a staff strength of 380 executives across India. The agency has offices in Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Jaipur, Mumbai, Ahmadabad, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Partner network in additional 45 cities in India and Sri Lanka. All operations are backed by latest cutting edge technology which has automated most processes and gives highest priority to safety and security aspects of our travelers

Best Tourist Transport Operator

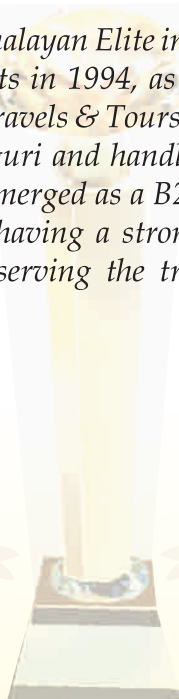
Category I : Second Prize

**M/s HEAT Travels & Tours (India) Pvt. Ltd.,
Siliguri**



Mr. Deepak Gupta,
Chief Executive Officer

HEAT (acronym of Himalayan Elite in Adventure & Tourism) was launched by adventure enthusiasts in 1994, as HEAT Treks & Tours, which was in 1999 changed to Heat Travels & Tours (India) Private Limited. HEAT has its registered office at Siliguri and handling offices at Gangtok & Kalimpong. Over time HEAT has emerged as a B2B wholesale tour operator for Sikkim, Darjeeling & Bhutan, having a strong infrastructural base and dedicated team of professionals, serving the travel fraternity from India, Nepal & Bhutan.



Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category I : Third Prize

**M/s Bakshi Transport Service (P) Limited,
New Delhi**



Mr. G.S. Sawhney,
Managing Director

Mr. K.S. Sawhney,
Director

M/s. Bakshi Transport Services, managed by a Father and Son duo, is a leading tourist transport operator having innovative ideas for promotion of tourism to the country.

The company has a fleet of luxury vans, cars, Volvo buses with and without chemical toilet, luxury AC tourist mini and large coaches with air suspension.

Apart from winning National Tourism Awards on several occasions, the company has also been bestowed with "Scroll of Honour Awards".

Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category II : First Prize

M/s Delhi Airport Service Pvt Ltd,
New Delhi



Mr. Harinder Singh,
Managing Director

Delhi Airport Service was the brainchild of late Shri S. Kulwant Singh, who established the company in 1971 with the purpose of providing safe & reliable transport to international airlines and tourists from abroad. The company was incorporated in 1979 as Delhi Airport Service Private Limited.

At present, the company has a big brand recall among tour operators and international airlines. It is catering to the need of inbound & domestic tourists, as well as staff and crew of airlines, with its large fleet of vehicles, operated by trained & professional drivers.

Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category II : Second Prize

**M/s Panicker's Travel (India) Pvt. Ltd,
New Delhi**



Mr. Babu Panicker

Managing Director

Panicker's Travel (India) Pvt. Ltd., an ISO:9001-2008 Certified Company is one of the oldest tourist transport operators and travel agents in India. Founded in 1967 by Late Shri E.R.C. Panicker, the agency has its head office at New Delhi. It is well established, widely branched and firmly rooted company. The company has dedicated and experienced staff and provides a variety of experiences including leisure, wildlife, pilgrimage etc. for different budget categories.

Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category II : Third Prize

**M/s Alwar Tourist Transport Service,
New Delhi**



Mr. Krishan Yadav
Proprietor

Mr. Prashant Yadav
Consulant

Founded in 1980, Alwar Tourist Transport Service has grown to become one of the leading tourist transport operators in Northern India. Catering to the needs and requirements of each and every category of tourists from abroad and home, the agency specializes in organizing conferences. Having over 30 years of experience in the field of tourist transportation, the agency has secured a prominent place among its associates and customers for quality and punctuality. The agency has handled various prestigious conferences and are also catering to the needs and requirements of Embassies, Multinational Companies, International Organizations, Government and Semi-Government Organizations, Ministries, Corporate Houses, PSUs etc.

Best Domestic Tour Operator :

**Promoting and selling tourism products of Rest of India
-First Prize.**

M/s Yatra Online Pvt Ltd., Gurgaon



Mr. Sharat Dhall

President

Over a span of 10 years since its launch in August 2006, Yatra.com has emerged as a leading household name in online travel space and has been voted as the “Most Trusted Travel Brand” in India by ET Brand Equity, 2015.

A leading consolidator of travel products, Yatra.com provides information, pricing, availability, and booking facility for domestic and international air travel, hotel bookings, holiday packages, etc. Yatra.com is now the largest hotel aggregator among OTA's providing reservation facility for over 60,000 hotels in India and over 5 lakh worldwide. Yatra.com has over 5 Million trusted customers.

Customers can access Yatra.com through user-friendly website, mobile optimized WAP and mobile App, 24x7 multi-lingual call center, a countrywide network of Holiday Lounges and Yatra Travel Express stores.

**Best Domestic Tour Operator :
Promoting and selling tourism
products of Rest of India
-Second Prize.**

**M/s Leisure Corp Pvt. Ltd.,
New Delhi**



Mr. Naveen Kundu
Founder & Managing Director

Mr. Daleep Pandita
Founder & Director

Leisure Corp Pvt. Ltd. was set up by Mr Naveen Kundu in 1997 and gradually started making difference in the MICE business of the tourism industry. Leisure Corp today is a leading player in the industry with top line business from MICE, Domestic, inbound and Holiday distribution business.

Domestic travel business is a core activity for Leisure Corp, supported by a dedicated and knowledgeable team, having great ideas on new destinations/products.

Leisure Corp is also a leading MICE Management Company with global presence, offering turnkey solutions in the sector of corporate travel & hospitality and events & entertainment. Incorporated in 2001, the agency has handled over 2,25,000 clients from over 45 countries.

**Best Domestic Tour Operator :
Promoting and selling tourism
products of the Rest of India**

-Third Prize.

**M/s HEAT Travels& Tours (India) Private Ltd.,
Siliguri**



Mr. Deepak Gupta
Chief Executive Officer

HEAT (acronym of Himalayan Elite in Adventure & Tourism) was launched by adventure enthusiasts in 1994, as HEAT Treks & Tours, which was in 1999 changed to Heat Travels & Tours (India) Private Limited. HEAT has its registered office at Siliguri and handling offices at Gangtok & Kalimpong. Over time HEAT has emerged as a B2B wholesale tour operator for Sikkim, Darjeeling & Bhutan, having a strong infrastructural base and dedicated team of professionals, serving the travel fraternity from India, Nepal & Bhutan.

**Best Domestic Tour Operator :
Promoting and selling the tourism
products of North East Region,
including Sikkim**

**M/s ClubSide Tours and Travels Pvt. Ltd. ,
Darjeeling**



Mr. Suresh Periwal
Managing Director



Mr. Amit Periwal
Chief Executive Officer



Mr. Sumit Periwal
Director

Clubside Tours & Travels Pvt Ltd is a Destination Management Company specialising in tours to West Bengal, Sikkim and North East of India. The agency has offices in Darjeeling, Siliguri, Kolkata, Guwahati and a Travel Assistance Counter at Bagdogra airport.

Services provided by the agency include, organizing and operating cultural, wildlife & special interest tours, adventure activities such as trekking, mountain biking, wildlife tours, rafting and river side camping. With an in depth understanding of clients requirements and by leveraging industry insight and support from partners, Clubside has emerged as the largest Destination Management Company in the region.

Best Domestic Tour Operator :

**Promoting and selling tourism products of
Jammu and Kashmir**

**M/s Kesari Tours Pvt. Ltd,
Mumbai**



Mr. Kesari Ravaji Patil
Chairperson

Ms. Sunita Patil
Vice Chairperson

Since its inception in 1984, Kesari Tours has come a long way in spreading smiles and creating ever-lasting travel experiences for it's guests. Kesari Tours brings to the customer a proven legacy of thought leadership with respect to customer-centricity and technology. The company's firm belief in complete transparent policy, excellent on-tour service of expert tour leaders and a personal touch in every journey has resulted in what they are today. Kesari Tours is active across virtually every travel segment including group tours, corporate travels, speciality tours to every segment of customer from every age to every socio economic class. The company has over 250 Preferred Sales Agents and 1500 General Sales Agents offering more than 550 family group tours all over the world.

Best Adventure Tour Operator

**M/s. Active India Holidays Pvt. Ltd.,
New Delhi**



Mr. Ravinder Tickoo
Managing Director

Mr. Mohan Tickoo
Director

With a dedicated focus on active, experiential tours and exciting new destinations, Active India specializes in crafting safe, authentic and memorable India holidays for families, small groups and independent travellers.

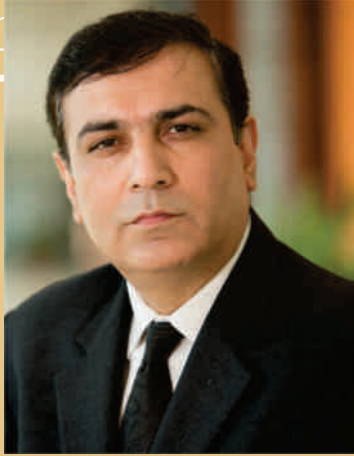
With a wide range of activities from trekking and cycling adventures to experiential culture and discovery tours, wildlife safaris and tiger trails to special interest, school programs and charity events, Active India's products and operations span the rich cultural tapestry and natural diversity across India.

Active India is managed by a team of passionate, trained and experienced professionals and supported by a proprietary network of ground logistics and preferred-access partnerships with hotels and resorts across destinations.

Active India is deeply committed to responsible tourism practices and policies.

Best MICE Operator

**M/s SOTC Travel Services Pvt. Ltd.,
Gurgaon**



Mr. Vishal Suri
Managing Director

SOTC Travel Services Pvt. Ltd. is the country's largest travel and tourism company. Maintaining its position as the market leader, SOTC Travel Services Pvt. Ltd., 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 Pvt. Ltd., the company realises 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.

Most Innovative Tour Operator

**M/s KB Enterprises,
Imphal**



Mr. Pangambam Kunjabihari,
Proprietor

KB Enterprises is one of the leading tour operators established in the year 2007. Right from its inception KB Enterprises has endeavoured to provide professional services in the Tourism sector with the motto of "Caring Responsibly" for all travellers and guests. KB Enterprises has successfully managed the first international charter flight with 166 foreign tourists from Myanmar to Imphal International Airport. It was the first International Flight to Imphal Airport. Since 2013, K B Enterprises is promoting North East and Buddhist Circuits by bringing foreign tourists on charter flights and through land route from Myanmar.

Best Foreign Journalist for India

Ms. Stephanie Pearson, USA



Ms. Stephanie Pearson

"The Green Heaven," is a feature about Kerala that ran in the January 2015 issue of Outside magazine. Stephanie Pearson spent three weeks in Kerala, traveling more than 600 miles by car, train, kettuvallam, foot, and kayak reporting a story about the wonderfully diverse wildlife, culture, and spirituality of Kerala. While in Kerala, she was struck by how integrated the dense population is with its surrounding wilderness, which is one of the key themes of the story. She was also struck by how Kerala's diverse spirituality touches every aspect of the culture. She was in Kerala during Onam, one of the most vibrant celebrations she had ever witnessed. This story was a true joy to report – from the gorgeous topography to the wonderful hospitality to the healing shiroadarha treatments. This piece according to her will be anthologized in "The Best American Travel Writing" a book published by Random House in October 2016.

Best Hotel

Five Star Deluxe Category

**Taj Exotica, Salcette,
Goa**



In luxury's own lap at Taj Exotica Goa, embrace the languid and laid-back life that is so characteristic of this sunny beach state. Located in Benaulim on the southwest coast of Goa and overlooking the Arabian Sea, this Mediterranean-inspired resort will slow down your time to a tranquil tempo. Forty minutes away from the airport, the resort sprawls over 56 acres of lush greenery, and is divided into the main hotel building with large deluxe and luxury rooms, and villa rooms. All this space coupled with old-world architecture, flower-lined patios and a sunshine-laden atrium make for a perfect romantic or family holiday. Taj Exotica is also the perfect location for social dos, conferences and business meetings. Our Ballroom, one of the largest pillar less banquet halls in Goa at 4,600 square feet (427 sq m), is ideal for romantic destination weddings. Within the luxurious five-star resort, savour the finest nuances of Indian and international cuisines. Lounge by the pool; de-stress, and soothe your city-frayed nerves with rejuvenating therapies at our Jiva and Jiva Ayurveda Spas. For those looking for a more active holiday, our fitness centre has everything enthusiasts need. Sports are an important part of the resort's activities, and you can get busy playing badminton, tennis, golf and cricket... and even try your hand at archery! And not forgetting our little guests, TEX Kids is the ideal place to be when in Goa, with a range of bespoke creatively stimulating activities, indoor and outdoor sports and games and different innovative workshops every day of the week.

Best Hotel

Five Star Category

**Turtle on the Beach, Kovalam,
Kerala**



Turtle on the beach is a unique experience at Kovalam, one of the best known beach destinations in India. Right across the Eve's beach, the hotel creates a boutique art experience where art and architecture play a defining role in a new leisure experience.

It has one of the largest spread of rooms to choose from. The 5 distinct types of rooms include Turtle Garden view, Arabian Sea view, Twin Turtle, Turtle Signature Suite & Sky Suite. Common facilities include conference halls, speciality restaurants, spa and Ayurveda.

The boutique art hotel takes leisure experience to the next level.

Best Hotel

Four Star Category

**Quality Hotel DV Manor,
Vijayawada**



Located on M G Road, the commercial heart of Vijayawada, Quality Hotel D V Manor is a well recognized landmark of the city since 1999. The hotel offers 119 rooms with an exclusive Club Manor Floor keeping in view the latest trends in the hospitality industry. All areas of the hotel have been tastefully appointed offering ultimate standards of comfort and truly personalised service. As part of their CSR activities the hotel has been participating in Ministry of Tourism's Hunar Se Rozgar Tak initiative. The hotel is keenly working towards reducing the carbon footprint by employing eco friendly and energy saving measures.

Best Hotel

Three Star Category

Minerva Grand, Tirupati



Minerva Grand Tirupati, a unit of Secunderabad Hotels Pvt. Ltd., a boutique hotel in the heart of the sanctified city, the gateway to seven hills of divine Tirumala. It offers 69 luxurious rooms and family suites for a blissful stay experience for corporate visit or Lord's darshan or just a vacation at value for money prices. It houses Blue Fox fine-dine restaurant & bar; Minerva Coffee Shop, exclusive vegetarian and On The Rocks Bar with culinary legacy of three decades. It has grand banqueting & business facilities, gym and in-house travel desk, making it a perfect venue to host conferences, weddings and social events.

Best Heritage Hotel

Grand Category

**Fateh Prakash Palace,
Udaipur**



Maharana Fateh Singh, one of the greatest Maharanas of Mewar, ruled from 1884 to 1930. This palace, constructed during his reign as an exclusive venue for royal functions, has been meticulously preserved for discerning guests.

The Durbar Hall Sabhagaar, which is one of the main features of the hotel, is of historical significance as in 1909 Lord Minto, the Viceroy of India, laid its foundation stone: The hall was originally called Minto Hall in his honour.

Located on the eastern shores of the picturesque Lake Pichola, the palace seems to have floated straight out of a fairytale.

The history-soaked interiors, dotted with miniature paintings, portraits, royal artefacts and the armoury of the Mewar dynasty transport you to legendary times.

The suites and rooms decorated with original paintings and period furniture from the toshakhana or royal storerooms, cocoon you in velvety luxury as you soak in the ever-changing hues of the lake from large arched windows.

The Durbar Hall Sabhagaar and Crystal Gallery, resplendent with rare paintings and objects d'art, connect you to a rich and authentic heritage.

Best Heritage Hotel

Classic Category

Coconut Lagoon, Kumarakom, Kottayam



Set amidst the backwaters and the Vembanad lake 'Coconut Lagoon' is a typical traditional Kerala tharawad, painstakingly transplanted and restored. An architectural marvel, exudes the charm of the Kerala life of yore and transports one to a world of peace and contentment. The Conde Nast Traveler rated the Coconut Lagoon among the 25 best get-aways in the world and not without reason. The authenticity of the resort along with the captivating beauty of its surroundings will not fail to mesmerize you. Set on the eastern shores of the majestic Vembanad lake (biggest backwater lake in Kerala), the hotel is accessible only by boat. With accommodation spread over 22 acres land which emphasizes the core values of environment sensitivity, including local community and adopting local ethos. Coconut Lagoon was established in 1993 at Kumarakom, Kottayam district, Kerala and is a classified heritage hotel in kuttanadu, the largest tropical wetland on the south west coast of India. The choice of food is between the multi-cuisine restaurant and aymanam (local cuisine and sea food) dinner restaurant. With accommodation of 50 rooms, nestled amidst majestic swaying palms and stunning surroundings, one can really feel nature taking over. Though built in a traditional style, all rooms have modern amenities.

**Best Heritage Hotel –
Basic Category**

**Gajner Palace, Gajner,
Bikaner**



Gajner Palace is a jewel in the Thar Desert, built by HH Maharaja Sir Ganga Singh of Bikaner on the edge of a lake. The property was converted into a heritage hotel in 1976. The hotel's compound stretches over 6000 acres. The palace was primarily a hunting resort during the days of the British Raj and attracted several dignitaries, including the Prince of Wales in 1905, Governor General Lord Elgin, Lord Erwin in 1927 and Lord Mountbatten when he was Viceroy of India. The Imperial Sand Grouse shoots at Gajner Palace during the Christmas season was the most sought after invitation in the Indian social calendar.

Besides its panoramic landscape and architectural beauty, the Palace Complex also has the remnants of a historic railway station: this hunting resort was connected to Bikaner Palace by rail in 1922.

Gajner Palace is divided into four distinctive wings: Dungar Niwas, Mandir Chowk, Gulab Niwas and Champa Niwas.

Each suite has been meticulously restored to its original grandeur. Every detail, from the furniture to the wallpaper, the four-poster beds and picturesque windows has been carefully recreated exuding an aura of a bygone age. All rooms have been thoughtfully fitted with modern conveniences.

Best Hotel Based Meeting Venue

The Ashok, New Delhi



Set upon 25 acres of prime land in the Capital's diplomatic area, the hotel's world class services and amenities pamper Presidents, celebrities, and distinguished clientele with traditional Indian hospitality. Ever responsive to the needs of the time, it offers facilities for national and international conventions / conferences like luxury rooms and suites, an array of international cuisine experiences, supplemented with a health club and destination health spa and a business centre. The Ashok's hospitality, high level comfort, quality services and catering to its distinguished clientele has made it a name to reckon in the country. The Ashok offers the most extensive and impeccable convention services from customer specific seminars to world class conferences along with the back-up of modern business amenities and communication services.

Best Standalone Convention Centre

Hyderabad International Convention Centre,
Hyderabad



A world class venue with a pillar-less internal hall spanning 6,480 sq m and showcasing a decade of legacy, Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) is the first of its kind convention destination in South Asia. Managed by Accor Hotels, one of the world's leading hotel operators, and jointly owned by Emaar Properties PJSC Dubai and Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd., the venue can hold a 6,000 delegate plenary and the main hall can be portioned into 6 smaller halls. 37 additional breakout rooms facilitate conducting parallel sessions. Be it infrastructure, services or technology, HICC compares with the world's finest MICE venues.

Hotel Providing Best Facilities for the Differently Abled Guests

The Lalit, New Delhi



The Lalit, New Delhi has incorporated various bespoke 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 five 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 guests 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 the hotel have dedicated restrooms for differently abled guest. Besides paying special attention to its guests, The Lalit New Delhi is also a fair and equal opportunities employer and has employed differently abled individuals who are competent in handling their job responsibilities in offering “Limitless Hospitality” of The Lalit.



Best Eco Friendly Hotel

**Jaypee Vasant Continental,
New Delhi**



Jaypee Vasant Continental is a tribute to the cosmopolitan culture of New Delhi. Strategically located in Diplomatic Enclave of New Delhi, Jaypee Vasant Continental is known for easy accessibility and finest hospitality services. Jaypee Vasant Continental, New Delhi belongs to the league of pioneers in adapting and modifying its operations to achieving excellence in sustainable practices. We are amongst the top 20% of the most energy efficient hotel buildings in the world as per Unites States' Energy star online benchmarking tool. We are also the second hotel in Delhi-NCR to have received the LEED EB - O&M Platinum certification. We have matched the international benchmarks by working on the triple bottom line principle of people, planet and profitability and have been relentlessly working every day to give back to the society and nature as much as we can. As ozone layer has been depleting rapidly and global warming has become a critical problem for our planet, we have tried to make our contribution by reducing the emissions of CO2 which has been upto 123 Mega Tons for 2015. The potable consumption of water has been reduced by 44% over the baseline as prescribed by International Plumbing Code (IPC) which translates into saving of 5370 kilo litres, annually. We have setup our own sewage Treatment Plant (STP) which helps in increasing productivity and high rate of bio degradation. Because of the STP, we have been able to provide 100 KLD of treated water to local municipal authority for horticulture purposes in the vicinity free of cost.

Best Chef of India

4 to 5 Star Deluxe, Heritage
Classic & Heritage Grand category.

Chef Machindra Umakant Kasture,
Executive Chef, The Ashok, New Delhi.



Chef Machindra Umakant Kasture
Executive Chef

Hailing from Pune, he started his culinary journey from the Institute of Hotel Management, Mumbai in 1984. He began his career as a Chef with the Hotel Corporation of India in their Srinagar and Mumbai properties followed by a four years stint with the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line.

Thereafter joined The Ashok Group of Hotels and worked in The Ashok Hotel. His outstanding career spanning three decades with several culinary achievements and professional accomplishments include eight years as the Executive Chef to the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

As a member of the exclusive Club des Chefs des Chefs he has met world leaders like the President of USA, Mr. Barack Obama, UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban-ki-Moon and Queen Elizabeth.

Cooking is an art and as an artist he is still learning.

**Best Chef of India
1 to 3 Star & Heritage Basic category
& Standalone Restaurants**

**Chef Muruganandham,
Executive Chef, Confluence Banquets and Resort,
Mahabalipuram, Chennai.**



*Chef Muruganandham
Executive Chef*

Chef Muruganandham has always been recognized for his contemporary additions to the traditional Indian Cuisine. He loves to surprise his guest with the millet delicacies introduced by him on the daily buffet spread. He is recognized for his unique south Indian preparations and celebrated for his preference of simple cooking. His passion for the desi cuisine is known by all through the food festivals conducted by him in various hotels.



Best Lady Chef

**Chef Amninder Sandhu,
Chef - de - Cuisine, Masala Bay,
Taj Lands End, Mumbai.**



Chef - de - Cuisine

Chef Amninder Sandhu was born in a Sikh family in Jorhat (Assam). She completed her basic schooling from the prominent Hemalata Handique Memorial Institute (HHMI) School, the first English medium school in Jorhat. She is a B.Sc. graduate in (Life Sciences) from the prestigious Sophia College at Pedder Road in Mumbai. She studied three years of culinary arts and kitchen administration at Institute of Hotel Management, Aurangabad. She has also done her masters certification with the Knights Bridge PME School of cake decoration (U.K). Currently she heads the fine dine Indian restaurant, Masala Bay at Taj Lands' End. Cooking is her true calling, she loves it sincerely and she considers herself lucky to know her real passion. Having extensively trained and specialised in Indian cuisine across a number of Taj kitchens in India, Chef Amninder is the creator of magic at Masala Bay. Her unique style effortlessly translates on to your plate.

Best Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishment

Approved by Ministry of Tourism,
Govt. of India (Gold and Silver)

House of Kapaali, NOIDA.



Kapaali is a name for Shiva, the ultimate outlaw, formless, transcendent. It is with this inspiration that House of Kapaali was created- to provide not just a boutique lodging experience but one that is soulful. Here, Indian tradition intersects contemporary sensibilities, seamlessly blending the modern and the vintage. We believe "Home is not a place, it's a feeling."

Relentlessly devoted to detail – from the mattress on the beds to the organic toiletries in the bathrooms, everything has been handpicked to create a sacred paradise. Apart from being harbingers of Indian hospitality, the Bed & Breakfast owners are also big promoters of the healthy lifestyle Revolution. At House of Kapaaliyoga, meditation and holistic lifestyle is taken very seriously. Nutritious fresh home cooked food is the mantra. Here, life is celebrated in all its hues, and that is why their guests often say that they come as guests, but leave as friends!

Best Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishment

Approved by State Governments /
Union Territory Administrations

Coconut Creek Farm and Homestay, Kumarakom



Coconut creek is a Kerala heritage home located in Kumarakom. Set on four acres of lush evergreen farm the home was converted to a modern Bed and Breakfast Homestay. It offers 3 air-conditioned rooms with attached bath, common dining hall, pantry kitchen, lawn and kids playing area. It is certified as dimond category homestay by Kerala State Tourism Department.



**Most Innovative /
Unique Tourism Project**

**Heritage Transport Museum -
Gurgaon**

Joint Winner



Heritage Transport Museum, located close to Delhi near Manesar is situated on a 3.01 acre land with a built up area of 95,000 square feet that encompasses Exhibition Galleries, Library and Reference Centre, Mini Auditorium, Museum Souvenir Shop, Seminar Rooms, and a Refreshment Area. The museum sets the standard for Indian Museums with its dramatic displays, in-depth interpretation, extensive collection and exciting opportunities for visitor participation. While remaining true to the ethos of a transport museum, the Heritage Transport Museum presents a snapshot of Indian Heritage but with a very modern twist! The Museum opened its doors to visitors in December 2013 and has become a very popular destination for tourists.

**Most Innovative /
Unique Tourism Project**

**Art Ichol, Maihar
by Madhya Pradesh Tourism**

Joint Winner



Art Ichol is a platform for creating, sharing and promoting the creative arts, a commune where resident artists, craft enthusiasts and talented artisans can collaborate and envisage concepts under open skies and relish the subtle symphonies of nature. The name Art Ichol is inspired by the village Ichol.

An artistes' residency and multi-skill centre comprising a writer's retreat, bronze casting foundry, an open air sculpture park, stone & wood carving work shop, ceramic and pottery centre, painters' studio and art café. Open to public to appreciate and cultivate an interest in the arts and crafts Art Ichol employs local villagers as staff, many of whom have developed various skills on site, for example carpentry, masonry, cooking and gardening.

**Best Responsible
Tourism Project / Initiative**

**Edge of India by M/s Yes Bank Limited,
New Delhi**

Joint Winner



*Shri Rana Kapoor,
CEO, YES Bank.*

Edge of India project envisages establishing a scalable model for sustainable economic development through tourism by applying co-operative principles to destination management and tourism development. The project, through its unique methodology focused on three crucial aspects. Stakeholder Alignment is one of the foremost objectives, ensuring an equal voice for all stakeholders, aligning aspirations and fostering ownership for common goals and providing platforms, skills and opportunities for communication. The project maintains a clear People Focus by empathizing and building trust to inspire innovative problem solving, at the same time recognizing stakeholders' diverse needs for recognition and acknowledge their contribution accordingly. The model also places emphasis on Process and Institutionalization of grass root aggregation models, learning from the setbacks and improving the process continuously. Overall, the project aims to address the important aspect of Social Equity in Rural Tourism, ensuring that the outcomes are 'sustainable', 'responsible' and 'inclusive'. Through this pioneering initiative that weaves sustainable development into our core business strategy; YES BANK has driven to take a leadership role in delivering positive socio-economic impact on the ground and creating a paradigm shift in the Industry's approach to inclusive growth and National parity.

YES BANK is Country Manager – India for the Edge of India Project funded by the Scottish government under its South-Asia development program with Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh and Dunira Strategy as other project partners.

Best Responsible Tourism Project / Initiative

“Responsible Tourism in Wayanad”

by Department of Tourism,
Government of Kerala

Joint Winner



Wayanad was one among the four primary destinations to launch Responsible Tourism (RT) on a pilot basis. The RT initiatives at Wayanad were conceived, keeping in mind the conservation of the land and the wellbeing of its people. Samrudhi strengthened the rural economy by acquiring the procurement and supply mechanism for the hotels and the Village Life Experience Tours have ensured livelihoods for the host community. Several capacity building programmes were also initiated, resulting in the revival of agriculture and local crafts. The participatory approach of the campaign has undoubtedly improved the quality of life, empowered the women and strengthened the livelihoods of the host community, while providing meaningful journeys to discerning travellers.

Best Tourism Friendly Golf Course

Jaypee Green Golf Course,
Greater Noida



Jaypee Greens is a world class golf course with multiple facilities to give tourists a memorable experience of Indian hospitality. Spread over 450 acres Jaypee Greens includes a Greg Norman design golf course, a large club house, 350 yards flood light driving range with 60 bays, 5 Star Resort hotel with 172 rooms, Six senses Spa, Integrated sports facilities with 16 different sports, sports academies with variety of accommodation options and 7 multi cuisine restaurants. The 18 hole championship golf course is 7347 yards par 72 with 14 lakes and 89 white bunkers. Jaypee Greens has been the venue for a number of national & international golf tournaments.

Best Wellness Centre

**Somatheeram Research Institute &
Ayurveda Hospital Pvt. Ltd,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**



Somatheeram Research Institute & Ayurveda Hospital in Kerala was founded by Mr. Baby Mathew in 1985. They offer the world the amazing benefits of Ayurveda, Yoga & Meditation that grants a healthy and prosperous life. Today India's First Ayurveda Resort "Somatheeram" enjoys an unparalleled reputation for providing high quality traditional Ayurveda, Yoga and Meditation through the well-known brand name Somatheeram Ayurveda Group. The centre takes conscious efforts for overall health of humanity, Eco-friendly concept, Environmental preservation and Social responsibility. All essential hygiene and precautions are observed to maintain the international standards.

Best Tour Operator Promoting Niche Segments other than Adventure and MICE

M/s. Lotus Destinations Pvt. Ltd.,
Kochi



Lotus Destination Pvt. Ltd. is a Destination Marketing Company (DMC) and a responsible player in the niche segment, Cruise Tourism. Lotus handles cruise ships at all major Indian ports in addition to carrying maximum groups for overland tours to the Taj Mahal, Agra as well as being the only operator to handle two full turn around operations in one year. In recognition of their best cruise practices and high degree of professionalism, their principals have assigned the agency to handle their ships at Sri Lanka and Maldives as well.

Best Film Promotion Friendly State/ Union Territory

Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited,
Government of Gujarat.



Gujarat today offers many places which apart from being suitable for tourism are also ideal locations for film, television and documentary shooting. The state backs these locations with good infrastructure allowing for - easy transport, skilled work-force and a range of accommodation choices. The State Tourism Department has a special single-window clearance desk to assist film makers. The Film Cell carries out marketing activities for film shooting, etc and also acts as a facilitation center. It assists the Film Makers in obtaining shooting permissions from various government departments and also offers logistic facilitation (i.e. Accommodation, transportation, etc)



भारत को विश्व के सर्वोत्तम पर्यटक गंतव्यों में से एक बनाना इस लक्ष्य की दिशा में अतुल्य कदम

1. भारत विश्व आर्थिक फोरम (डब्ल्यूईएफ) के यात्रा और पर्यटन प्रतिस्पर्धा सूचकांक में वर्ष 2013 के 65वें स्थान से 13 रैंक आगे बढ़कर वर्ष 2015 में 52वें स्थान तक पहुंचा।
2. 150 देशों के लिए ई-पर्यटक वीजा की शुरुआत के साथ विदेशी पर्यटक आगमन को प्रोत्साहित करना।
3. 24x7 टोल-फ्री बहुभाषी हेल्पलाइन 1800111363 (लघु कोड 1363) को लॉन्च कर पर्यटकों को सुविधा प्रदान करना और विदेशी पर्यटकों को आगमन पर वेलकम कार्ड देना।
4. चिकित्सा और निरोगता पर्यटन बोर्ड की स्थापना ताकि विदेशी पर्यटकों की भारतीय स्वास्थ्य सेवा तक बेहतर पहुंच हो।
5. योग की जन्मस्थली के रूप में भारत के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पहचान प्राप्त करना।
6. द्विवार्षिक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बौद्ध कॉन्क्लेव के माध्यम से बौद्ध भूमि के रूप में भारत का संवर्धन।
7. साउंड एवं लाइट शो और स्मारकों के प्रदीप्तिकरण के द्वारा सारनाथ सहित प्रमुख बौद्ध स्थलों को अधिक आकर्षक एवं ज्ञानप्रद बनाना।
8. वार्षिक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यटन मार्ट के द्वारा पर्यटन के लिए पूर्वोत्तर भारत का संवर्धन।
9. गणतंत्र दिवस और स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर 'भारत पर्व' का आयोजन करके भारत की सांस्कृतिक और पाक कला विविधता को प्रदर्शित करना और राष्ट्रीय एकता का संवर्धन करना।
10. नई स्कीमों 'स्वदेश दर्शन' और 'प्रसाद' के तहत चुनिंदा थीम आधारित पर्यटक परिपथों और तीर्थ स्थलों के एकीकृत विकास हेतु देश भर में 2000 करोड़ रु. का निवेश।
11. भारत को अग्रणी कूज़ पर्यटन गंतव्यों में से एक बनाने के लिए कूज़ पर्यटन पर अंतर-मंत्रालयी कार्य दल का गठन।
12. 'स्वच्छ पर्यटन एप' के लॉन्च द्वारा 25 चुनिंदा स्मारकों पर स्वच्छता सुनिश्चित करना।
13. भारत की समृद्ध पाक कला की शिक्षा, अनुसंधान, नवीकरण और प्रलेखन, एवं संवर्धन हेतु तिरुपति, आंध्र प्रदेश में 'भारतीय पाक कला संस्थान' और नोएडा, उत्तर प्रदेश में इसके केन्द्र की स्थापना करना।
14. रोजगार सृजक कार्यक्रमों, जैसे 'हुनर से रोजगार तक', और 'पर्यटक मित्र' के द्वारा युवाओं में पर्यटक अनुकूल गुणों को रोपित करना और रोजगारपरक कौशलों का सृजन करना।
15. सेवा प्रदाताओं के सबसे निचले तबके हेतु, क्षमता निर्माण अर्थात 'हुनर जायका' कार्यक्रम के तहत स्ट्रीट वेंडरों का कौशल प्रमाणन और नाविकों, रिक्शा चालक, कूली, होम डिलीवरी करने वाले लोगों, आदि जैसे सेवा प्रदाताओं का सुग्राहीकरण/प्रशिक्षण।





पर्यटन मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

राष्ट्रीय
पर्यटन पुरस्कार
2014-2015

अतिथिदेवो भव
Atithidevo Bhava



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