



*Ministry of Tourism
Government of India*

National Tourism Awards 2013-2014

अतिथिदेवो भव
Atithidevo Bhava



अतुल्य! भारत
Incredible! India



Message



Dr. Mahesh Sharma

Minister of State (Independent Charge)
for Tourism & Culture and
Minister of State for Civil Aviation
Government of India

I extend my heartiest congratulations to the National Tourism Award winners of 2013-14. The National Tourism Awards felicitate the Indian tourism and travel industry and the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for their outstanding contribution in the field of tourism.

Tourism has been earmarked as priority sector by the Government because of its potential as an instrument of economic development and generating employment both in urban as well as remote and backward areas. Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India in 2014 was 7.68 million registering a growth rate of 10.2% over the previous year. Ministry of Tourism has launched the e –visa initiative to liberalise the visa regime and further facilitate arrival of international tourist arrivals to make India one of the leading tourism destinations in the world.

Due attention is also being accorded to build adequate tourism infrastructure to give an enhanced tourism experience to the tourists. For this purpose, two major schemes Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD have been launched to improve the carrying capacity of the tourist destinations and promote sustainable development. The schemes focus on integrated development of theme based circuits and pilgrim centres to attract both domestic and international tourists. Along with this, special focus is also being accorded to promote Swachh Bharat-Swachh Paryatan with the aim to ensure cleanliness and hygiene at tourist destinations.

Various measures to facilitate tourists are being taken such as a 24x7 Helpline, currently functioning in Hindi and English which is slated to cover 10 international languages in due course. Welcome Cards with list of dos and don'ts are also being distributed at International Airports to assist the tourists to travel safe and secure.

I take this opportunity to exhort all stakeholders in the tourism and travel industry to strive together in making India one of the most preferred destinations in the world.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma



Message

Tourism is an important driver of both domestic and consumer spending and foreign exchange earnings, underpinned by labour intensive activities and relatively low barriers to entry by entrepreneurs. We need to accelerate development of the tourism sector to diversify India's economy and contribute towards the creation of jobs.

Highly competitive times are changing the horizons of the tourism industry. Tourism industry service providers are not immune to these changes, and they carry an additional responsibility in sustaining the development of tourism in the country.

The winners of National Tourism Awards 2013-14, as leaders in their respective categories have immensely contributed to the development and promotion of tourism economy of India.

I offer my best wishes to the winners of the National Tourism awards both individuals, institutions of the private Government and State Governments. As you begin this journey of success, you must become ambassadors of what our country has to offer. I am sure these awards will encourage your teams to strive for greater success and also inspire those who have not been able to reach here to endeavour to reach the bar of excellence.

Vinod Zutshi

Vinod Zutshi

*Secretary
Ministry of Tourism
Government of India*



Best State/ Union Territory : Comprehensive Development of Tourism

Rest of India - First Prize

Gujarat



“Aavo Padharo”, words of welcome in Gujarat epitomizes an inimitable blend of hospitality and culture wherein a guest is treated at par with God (Atithidevo 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. Sculptures, handicrafts, arts, festivals also make the state rich.



Best State/ Union Territory : Comprehensive Development of Tourism

Rest of India - Second Prize

Madhya Pradesh



Madhya Pradesh is known as the heart of incredible India not only because of its geographical location but also as it is home of heritage, culture and wildlife. Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation has made major strides with over a dozen ISO certifications, seven of its properties acquiring 3 star / heritage status, vigorous expansions and innovations. The creative promotional campaigns have resulted in very wide visibility of the State both nationally and internationally.



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

Rest of India - Third Prize

Rajasthan



Rajasthan is a beautiful amalgamation of the old and new; the ancient and the modern. Amidst a stark desert and surrounded by the Aravallis, India's oldest mountain range, the State stands out like a beacon, attracting travelers with its rich art and culture. A glittering jewel of India, Rajasthan has something for everyone whether it is an adventurous holiday, a rendezvous with tigers, a quiet sojourn gazing at the beauty of the golden sand-dunes or an experience of royalty. Rajasthan is one of the most sought-after tourist destinations.



Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination in India, Category 'B'

Winner

*Municipal Council of Maheshwar,
Distt. Khargone, Madhya Pradesh*



Maheshwar, the temple town located in the state of Madhya Pradesh on the banks of the river Narmada finds mention in the epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata. Revived to its ancient position of importance by the Holkar queen Rani Ahilyabai of Indore, temples at Maheshwar and mighty fort-complex are major tourist attractions. With recent initiatives to ensure cleanliness, green practices and hygiene, installation of Bio toilets at major sightseeing points, use of best waste management practices, encouraging the locals to reuse and recycle, boating facility by locals (kevals) with lifeguards for safety on the ghats for people, Maheshwar today has the best Civic Management practices in place.



*Best Civic Management of a Tourist
Destination in India, Category 'C'*

Winner

*Tranquebar
Tamil Nadu*



Tranquebar is located north of Nagapattinam in the state of Tamil Nadu. The Danish constructed fortification at Tranquebar was declared as a protected monument by the Department of Archaeology. Infrastructure development activities have been carried out in Tranquebar by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department which includes restoration of heritage buildings, improving the quality of urban environment & an improved system of waste management.



Best Maintained and Disabled Friendly Monument

Winner

*Bhojpur Temple
Bhojpur, Madhya Pradesh*



The 11th century Bhojpur temple stands magnificently over the outcrop rock lying on the right bank of the river Betwa (ancient Vetravati). This unique temple, incomplete for some unknown reasons is ascribed to the illustrious King Bhojadeva (1010-1055 A.D.) of Paramara dynasty of Central India, who was a great patron of art, architecture and learning. It is about 32 kms south-east of Bhopal and has been made disabled-friendly monument by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which has laid beautiful pathways at the site. The wooden staircases with the ramp has been made accessible to differently abled visitors. The differently abled visitors are provided wheelchairs so that they can go up to the Shiva Temple to have a glimpse of the monument.



Tourist Friendly Railway Station

Winner

*Railway Station Habibganj
Madhya Pradesh*



Bhopal Habibganj Railway Station is located in Bhopal City and it is part of the West Central Railway. Trains to all the major destinations are easily available from here. This station has facilities like AC / non AC waiting rooms, bio toilets, retiring rooms, round the clock serving food plaza, pre-paid taxi services, CCTV cameras for security purpose and a tourist facilitation centre.



Best Airport (Class X Cities)

Winner

*Indira Gandhi International Airport
Delhi*



Largest in the Indian subcontinent, Delhi International Airport is best connected in region with over 115 destinations with 56 international and 8 domestic airlines. Hub to major national carriers, it is the busiest airport in India with capacity of over 60 million passengers per annum (MPPA). Its three runway operations consistently maintain an On Time Performance (OTP) of 78%, highest amongst all major airports in India. Delhi International Airport is steadfastly moving up the global ranking of Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey by Airports Council International (ACI) and has won many national & international awards, accolades and accreditations in varied areas.



Best Airport (Rest of India)

Winner

*Swami Vivekananda Airport
Raipur, Chhattisgarh*



Swami Vivekananda Airport is the only operational Airport in the state of Chhattisgarh. The New Integrated Terminal Building is made of Glass and Steel Structure equipped with world Class Passenger Facilities.

The most vibrant areas like the departure lounge and the waiting areas have been distinctively provided with relief and interest features like indoor landscape courtyard and water bodies etc. Swami Vivekananda Airport is now a vivid example of exceptionally designed Airport in the country.



Best Heritage Walk

Winner

*India City Walks for Mehrauli
Archaeological Park, Delhi*



Mehrauli Archaeological Park has a prime historical value in the local, national and international context. This area is dotted with remains from every era of Delhi's history – from the pre-Islamic to the late Mughal and the colonial period. The walk unfolds the treasures of several centuries of history, each layer leaving an imprint of its own in the development of the park. The importance and exclusivity of these monuments can be understood and felt only by being there. These architectural wonders cannot be recreated by any other resources.



Best Heritage City

Winner

Gwalior
Madhya Pradesh



Gwalior is a historical city located in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The magnificent glorious past of Gwalior has been preserved with care, giving it a unique and timeless appeal. The city gained new dimensions from warrior kings, poets, musicians and saints, making it famous throughout the country. In Gwalior princely past merges with the present to make it a treasure trove of culture and heritage.



Best Rural Tourism Project

Winner

*Rann Utsav
Gujarat*



Kutch is one of the most ecologically and ethnically diverse districts of Gujarat, India. The Rann of Kutch is a vast landscape and one of the world's largest seasonal wetlands. When inundated with water in the monsoons, it turns into a salt-impregnated flat land in winter. This gives the desert the whiteness and thus it becomes a perfect setting for hosting a tourism event. Rann Utsav (Desert Festival) is an annual 3-month long winter festival hosted by the Government of Gujarat where tourists can experience the local culture, cuisine and hospitality.



Excellence in Publishing - English

Winner

Experience Himachal on the Road

Author : Raaja Bhasin

Publisher : Times Group Books



A popular destination in North India, Himachal Pradesh makes for a great road trip with family and friends. Experience Himachal: On the Road, takes a travel enthusiast on a road journey to the exotic locales of Himachal highlighting popular sites of interest and capturing the local flavor of the state. The guide charts long trips that last up to 7 days to shorter trips that involve 1 to 3 days. The book offers a first-hand account of What to See, Where to Eat and Where to Stay while having the leisure to choose one's own pace, take in the scenery, catch a local festival or unwind at a roadside eatery.



Excellence in Publishing in Foreign Language other than English

Winner

Eat Shop Trek [Essen Shoppen Wandern in German] by Kerala Tourism



Kerala, known for its natural beauty, has attracted travelers from across the world to its beaches, backwaters and hill stations. But there are other facets of this land that the world knows less about. It's rich culinary tradition, its treasure chest of shopping delights and the adventure options that the land offers are a few of them. To bring these unexplored trails to light, 'Eat, Shop, Trek' was brought out by Kerala Tourism. The brochure therefore focuses on the culinary, shopping and the adventure trails in Kerala through widely researched and well-presented content.



Best Tourism Film

Winner

'The Great Backwaters of Kerala'
By Kerala Tourism



The idea of the campaign evolved from a fascinating 'water world experience' that travelers encountered as they discovered life and culture in all its different, interesting forms at play in this vast self-sufficient planet. Thus, the backwaters were presented as 'The Most Fascinating Waterworld on Earth' – a water world like no other on the planet. The intricacies and beauty of such a world was enhanced by aerial cinematography.



*Best Tourism Promotion Publicity
Material (States & Union Territories)*

Winner

*'Gujarat's 50 Golden Destinations'
[Coffee Table Book]
By Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd.*



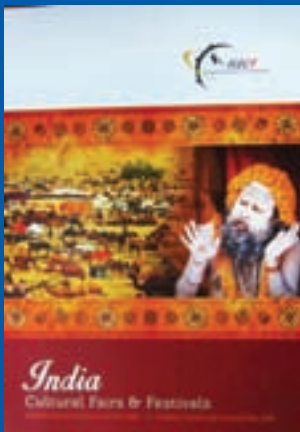
The coffee table book takes the readers through the panoramic view of the Gujarat's 50 golden destinations through a series of beautiful images of the tourist destinations/ attractions of the State. The destinations are grouped into (1) Architectural masterpieces, (2) Natural wonders, (3) Spiritual destinations, (4) Coastal attractions and (5) Handicraft destinations.



Best Tourism Promotion Publicity Material (Private Stakeholders)

Winner

*M/s SDU Travels Pvt. Ltd.
New Delhi*



The set of brochures produced by M/s SDU Travels features a wide variety of some spellbinding experiences, destinations, cultural festivals and enviable circuits of the Indian sub-continent which form an integral part of tourism. These brochures unfold each & every segment of tourism namely Culture & Heritage, Wildlife, Spa & Wellness, Adventure, Art & Architecture, Spiritual & Luxury. The Indian section stretches from the mighty Himalayas to the tropical green backwaters of Kerala, comprising a wide range of landscapes, rivers, forests and architecture. Indian Wildlife experiences reveal the incredible wildlife and wilderness of the great Indian subcontinent. The Indian Cultural Fair & Festival brochure showcases the 'Maha Kumbh Mela-The Mass Hindu Pilgrimage' and the Pushkar Camel & Cultural fair.



Most Innovative use of Information Technology / Website / Portal

Winner

*Department of Tourism
Government of Kerala*



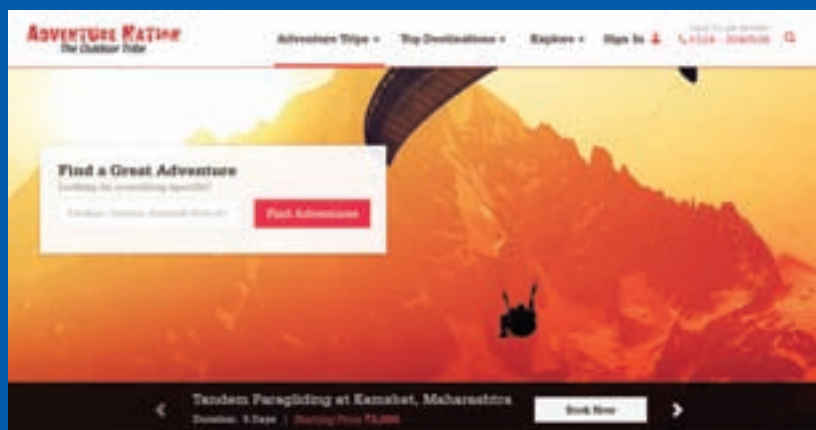
The official website of Kerala Tourism, www.keralatourism.org has been made responsive since 2013-14. This has helped the site to get more traffic via hand held devices. The Monthly newsletter, contests for the traveler community and elaborate audio, photo and video gallery are its main attractions. The site is available in 11 international and 10 Indian languages. During the previous year, the site received 4 million visits from more than 200 countries.



Most Innovative use of Information Technology / Website / Portal

Special Award

www.adventurenation.com



www.adventurenation.com, a joint venture of Snow Leopard Adventures Pvt. Ltd. and Yatra Online Private Limited, provides an organized online platform for people to come together and connect with like-minded individuals, learn from experts, plan and choose trips. It presents adventure enthusiasts with 400 plus curated trips spread across all adventure activities in India. It also lets members join tribes of their interest, take tips from Gurus, who are experts in various activities and interact with the community. In addition, the website offers informative guides for adventure destinations and activities in India.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category I : First Prize

*M/s Kuoni Travel India Pvt. Ltd.
Gurgaon*



*Mr. Dipak Deva
CEO, Destination Management
India & South Asia*

Kuoni Travel India Pvt. Ltd. is a travel and tourism company and a 100% subsidiary of Kuoni Travel Holding, Switzerland. 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 Pvt. Ltd., the company realises the importance of experiential travel based on principles of Responsible Tourism, Social Consciousness, Environmental concerns and Unique Cultural Experiences.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category I : Second Prize

*M/s Le Passage to India Tours & Travels
Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi*



*Mr. Arjun Sharma
Chairman*

Le Passage to India is a Destination Management Company with an elaborate network of 16 offices across India and strategic alliances in Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. It prides itself with in-depth product knowledge, trained and motivated team, state-of-the-art IT systems and modern transport fleet. The company aims to provide the journey of a life time, every time.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category I : Third Prize

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



*Mr. Bharat Bhushan Atree
Managing Director*

Caper Travel provides unlimited travel options backed by real-time websites and unmatched products. It has state-of-the-art infrastructure coupled with an excellent network of ground-handling agents covering the Indian subcontinent combined with the experience of more than 100 years. The company has its offices across the country as well as international representative offices covering five continents. Providing services related to MICE, leisure, theme-based, luxury, Ayurveda, cultural tours, safaris, adventure trips, religious circuits are its core strengths.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category II : First Prize

*M/s Trail Blazer Tours India Pvt. Ltd.
Mumbai*



*Mr. J N Katgara
Chairman & MD*



*Mr. Homi Mistry
Chief Executive Officer*

Trail Blazer Tours India Private Limited was set up by travel industry professionals in the year 2007 at Delhi. TBI is owned by Katgara Group which has been involved in travel & tourism since 1925. Today, TBI has over 250 professionals at 10 offices across the country and has international presence in Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Korea, Spain, UK and USA, through its representatives, who work closely with local tour operators and destination management companies.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category II : Second Prize

*M/s Minar Travels (India) Pvt. Ltd.
New Delhi*



*Mr. P.S. Duggal
Executive Director*



*Mr. H.S. Duggal
Managing Director*

Minar Travels (India) Pvt. Ltd. incorporated in 1992 is an ISO 9001:2008 quality certified Company which has Corporate Office in New Delhi, 10 branch offices, 7 International Representative offices and strategic alliance with 9 International airlines. It has a strong team of 250 dedicated trained professionals, backed by state-of-the-art infrastructure. It supports street girls through philanthropic activities as part of its CSR activities.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category III : First Prize

*M/s Cholan Tours Pvt. Ltd.
Tiruchirappally (Trichy)*



*Mr. Pandian Kumaravel
Director*

Cholan Tours Pvt. Ltd. is a Destination Management Company (DMC) started in the year 2003. It offers tailor-made tour packages and has a wide network of more than 11 branch offices throughout India along with experienced professionals to ensure close client coordination. It is an eco-friendly company with zero paper usage and is self-sufficient by generating 18 Kilowatt power through solar for its office.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category III : Second Prize

*M/s Travel Scope (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Gurgaon*



Travel Scope India Pvt. Ltd. is a boutique tour operator specializing in personalized travel experiences to India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan for the past fifteen years. With a range of handpicked destinations and accommodations and well-established network of on-ground logistics, it has been structuring packages to cater to clients' interests in history, adventure, wildlife, cuisine & culture and to create unique immersive journeys.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category III : Third Prize

*M/s Top Travel & Tours (P) Ltd.
New Delhi*



*Mr. Rajan Mathur
Managing Director*

Top Travel and Tours (P) Ltd. is a destination management company, promoting inbound tourism in India, with an experience of over three decades. Headquartered in Delhi, the organisation has several offices in India along with associate network in neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives etc. The company's expertise revolves around Cultural, MICE, Buddhist Circuit, Ayurveda, Yoga and Medical tourism. The organisation is dedicated to offer the best travel experiences with its innovative programs and services to promote 'Incredible India'.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category IV: First Prize

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



GeTS Holidays is an online B2C Inbound Tour company founded in 2003. It 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. GeTS 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.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category IV: Second Prize

*M/s Travelite (India)
New Delhi*



*Mr. Sarab Jit Singh
Managing Director*



*Ms. Amrita Ahluwalia,
Director*

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



*Best Inbound Tour Operator/
Travel Agent*

Category IV: Third Prize

*M/s Vasco Travel Pvt. Ltd.
Noida*



*Mr. Vikas Abbott
Managing Director*

Vasco Travel has been in travel business for three generations. Its main markets are Canada, UK, Mexico, Italy and Latin America. The company endeavours to create travel experiences and encourages its guests to 'Travel Responsibly'. It offers unique experiences to its clients showcasing the real essence of India.



*Best Inbound Tour Operator/
Travel Agent*

Category V: First Prize

*M/s Total Holiday Options Pvt. Ltd.
New Delhi*



*Mr. Aman Khanna
Managing Director*



*Ms. Anita Thomas
Director, Sales & Marketing*

Total Holiday Options is a Destination Management Company for Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore markets. Headquartered in Delhi, it has its wholesale offices in Australia, New Zealand and associate offices in Hong Kong & Singapore. It practices strict quality standards and adopts innovative and contemporary approaches.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category V: Second Prize

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



*Mr. Anuj Kumar
Managing Director*

Magadh Travels and Tours is engaged in tourism industry since October 2004. It has three branch offices at Bodhgaya, Patna and Varanasi with its main administrative office at New Delhi and has over 45 country wide associates. Magadh Tours is managed by a professional, dynamic and a committed team and handles tours to Golden triangle, Buddhist circuit, Rajasthan, Kashmir as well as makes arrangements for Technical Visits, TV/film shootings & MICE.



*Best Inbound Tour Operator/
Travel Agent*

Category V: Third Prize

*M/s Perfect Travels and Tours Pvt. Ltd.
New Delhi*



*Mr. Raj Bajaj
Executive Director*



*Mr. Aditya Bajaj
Director*

Perfect Travels & Tours Private Limited was incorporated in 1981. It creates innovative programmes and offers personalized and qualitative services. It provides well crafted holidays to give memorable experiences to global visitors.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category VI : First Prize

*M/s Centre Tour & Travels
Srinagar*



*Mr. Bashir Karnai
Managing Partner*



*Mr. Manzoor Karnai
Partner*

Centre Tour and Travels with its Headquarter in Kashmir offers wide range of Indian travel itineraries. It arranges tours for individuals, couples and groups to suit all budgets. It endeavours to meet travel needs with personal touch and professional approach. The company also specializes in trekking, monument / culture tours, yoga/ meditation and cooking tours.



*Best Inbound Tour Operator/
Travel Agent*

Category VI : Second Prize

*M/s Unitop Tours and Travel Pvt. Ltd.
New Delhi*



Mr. Subodh Kumar Mathur
Managing Director

Ms. Archana Mathur
Director

Unitop Tours and Travel is an Inbound Travel Solutions & Services provider. The company handles charters, groups, individuals, conference & incentive holidays, special interest and responsible tours and Buddhist pilgrimage tours.



Best Inbound Tour Operator/ Travel Agent

Category VI : Third Prize

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



Dravidian Trails, is destination management company. It offers unique travel itineraries created with knowledge of local conditions. The company has its headquarters at Kochi, Kerala and also serves at 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, Managing Director

Mr. Aditya Loomba, Director

Ecos (I) Mobility & Hospitality Pvt. Ltd. provides tailor-made transport solutions ranging from economy cars to luxury sedans, imported mini vans to large Volvo Coaches for business and leisure travellers. The company has established its brand by giving customers a memorable experience which has helped in promoting tourism in the country.



Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category I : Second Prize

*M/s CarzonRent (India) Pvt. Ltd.
New Delhi*



*Mr. Rajiv K. Vij
Managing Director & CEO*

Carzonrent was launched in the year 2000. It serves 6 million+ customers annually with 10000+ cars. Presence in 39 cities, exclusively tie up with 10 major airports. Carzonrent caters to Car Rental needs such as outstation driving holiday, local city travel, radio taxi (Easy Cabs), self-drive service (Myles) or international car hire.



Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category I : Third Prize

*M/s Parveen Travels Pvt. Ltd.
Chennai*



*Mr. A. Afzal
Managing Director*

M/s Praveen Travels has more than 45 branches all over India and a large fleet of vehicles. It offers all types of cars including limousines, leisure/caravan vehicles, special vehicles, luxury coaches etc. Its clientele includes Government Departments as well as private companies.



Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category II : First Prize

*M/s Alwar Tourist Transport Service
New Delhi*



*Mr. Krishan Yadav
Proprietor*



*Mr. Prashant
Consultant*

Founded in 1980, Alwar Tourist Transport Service is a transport operator in North India which caters to the needs and requirements of various categories of tourists. Its clientele includes embassies, multi-national companies, government and semi-government organizations, corporate houses, sport organizations etc.



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, with a team of network of services. It is a company which 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 Shreya Travels
Nagpur*



Capt. Vijay K. Golchha
CEO



Ms. Manisha Vijay Golchha
Proprietor

M/s Shreya Travels is Tourist Transporter Operator located in Central India. It caters to the needs & requirements of each and every category of domestic & foreign tourists as well as corporate and multi-national companies. The motto of the company is to provide comfortable and luxurious vehicles.



Best Domestic Tour Operator

*Category I - Promoting and Selling Tourism Products
of Rest of India : First Prize*

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



*Mr. Kesari Patil
Chairperson*

Kesari Tours established in 1984 has served guests for over 31 years. The core target of the agency is to give personal touch to every tour which it offers and to achieve satisfaction for its guests. Kesari Tours has 22 branches, more than 250 preferred sales agents and more than 1500 general sales agents all over the world.



Best Domestic Tour Operator

*Category I - Promoting and Selling Tourism Products
of Rest of India : Second Prize*

*M/s Southern Travels Pvt. Ltd.
New Delhi*



Mr. Krishna Mohan Alapati, Managing Director

Mr. Alapati Venkateshwara Rao, Chairman

Mr. Praveen Kumar Alapati, Joint Managing Director

Southern Travels is a 4-decade old company with a network of offices in metropolitan cities. Since its inception, it has grown from strength to strength consistently and made an indelible mark for itself with its dedicated services to the travel industry. It has its own fleet of vehicles, well-designed tour packages, ticketing facilities and has Hotels at Delhi, Vijayawada and Jaipur.



Best Domestic Tour Operator

*Category I - Promoting and Selling Tourism Products
of Rest of India : Third Prize*

*M/s D Paul's Travel & Tours Ltd.
New Delhi*



*Mr. Gurcharan Singh
Chairman*



*Mr. Raghuvinder Singh
Managing Director*

D Paul's has been in business since 1992 and is committed towards customer satisfaction. With a strong customer base of direct as well as B2B customers, D Paul's today serves more than 180 sub-agents and 120000+ passengers in India annually. It has a strong market presence both online and offline and is also the online service provider to Delhi Tourism.



Best Domestic Tour Operator

Category II - Promoting and Selling Tourism Products of North Eastern Region including Sikkim

*M/s ClubSide Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd.
Darjeeling*



Mr. Suresh Periwal
Managing Director



Mr. Amit Periwal
CEO



Mr. Sumit Periwal
Director

Clubside Tours & Travels is a Destination Management Company specialising in tours to West Bengal, Sikkim and North East of India. With offices in Darjeeling, Siliguri, Kolkata, a travel assistance counter at Bagdogra airport and backed by an experience of over 50 years, the agency endeavours to give quality services to its clients. Its services include organizing and operating cultural, wildlife & special interest tours, adventure activities etc.



Best Domestic Tour Operator

*Category III- Promoting and Selling Tourism Products
of Jammu & Kashmir Region*

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



*Mr. Kesari Patil
Chairperson*

Kesari Tours established in 1984 has served guests for over 31 years. The core target of the agency is to give personal touch to every tour which it offers and to achieve satisfaction for its guests. Kesari Tours has 22 branches, more than 250 preferred sales agents and more than 1500 general sales agents all over the world.



Best Adventure Tour Operator

Winner

*M/s Snow Leopard Adventures Pvt. Ltd.
New Delhi*



*Mr. Ajeet Bajaj (Padmasfiri Awardee)
Managing Director*



*Ms. Sherly Bajaj
Director*

Snow Leopard Adventures Pvt. Ltd. is an adventure and eco-tourism specialist agency. In over 25 years of operation, safety, sustainability, social responsibility and guest delight have been the foundation of the services offered by them. It offers River rafting, zip lining across the Ganga river, camping, trekking, mountain biking, school trips, corporate outdoor management development programmes, sea kayaking, Trans-Himalayan jeep safaris etc.



Best MICE Operator

Winner

*M/s Alpcord Network Travel &
Conferences Management Company
New Delhi*



*Mr. Chander Mansharamani
Managing Director*

Alpcord Network Travel & Conferences Management Company is a Meetings , Incentive and Conference Planner. The Company has an extensive network of Associate Offices all over India and Abroad. The Company is managed by Professionals with an experience of 40 Years in the Travel Trade.



*Best Overseas Tour Operator
from Latin America*

Winner

*M/s Raidho Viagens
Brazil*



*Ms. Lucila B. Nedelciu
Director*

Raidho Tours commenced its operation in 1994 from Sao Paulo, Brazil. In the 25 years of its operation, it has established itself as one of the leading tour operators in Brazil. The agency offers several packages on India and it is one of the 3 main destinations to which it has booked maximum tours annually. Raidho Tours undertakes seminars and presentations in colleges, corporate offices and Yoga centres in Brazil to popularize Incredible India.



*Best Overseas Tour Operator
from North America*

Winner

*M/s SITA World Tours
USA*



Mr. Mok Singh, Group President and

Mr. Roger Mahil, Chairman

Established in 1933, SITA World Tours, headquartered in Los Angeles has a network of offices in New York, Chicago, Houston, Dallas, Toronto and Vancouver. It handles outbound tours to different destinations including India from America, Canada and Mexico.

SITA offers a range of deluxe and luxury escorted and independent touring options at competitive rates and value added features in every programme.



*Best Overseas Tour Operator
from West Asia & Africa*

Winner

*M/s Lulu International Travel & Tourism
Abu Dhabi*



*Mr. Biju Nair
Marketing & Sales Manager*

LuLu International Travel & Tourism (LITT) is the re-branded name of Space International Travels, which was established in the year 2003 in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The company is owned by EMKE (LuLu) Group International.

Lulu Travels as a travel agent offers services worldwide.



*Best Overseas Tour Operator
from Australasia*

Winner

*M/s Exotic Holidays Ltd.
New Zealand*



*Mr. Rahul Sharma
Managing Director*

Exotic Holidays was established in January 2010 with specialization in Asia & Middle East and has a strong focus on Indian sub-continent. Exotic Holidays recognizes that no two holidays are the same and therefore, provides tailor-made individual and group holidays. The agency provides an extensive product range varying from economy hotels to the most exotic hotels, spas and resorts, private tours and luxurious rail journeys.



*Best Overseas Tour Operator
from United Kingdom*

Winner

*M/s Kuoni
United Kingdom*



*Mr. Derek Jones
Managing Director*

Kuoni was established in 1906 in Switzerland by visionary explorer, Alfred Kuoni. It first came to the UK in 1965 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Over the past five years, Kuoni has grown its retail presence across the United Kingdom. It offers uniquely designed and tailor-made holidays booked by personal travel experts, who have travelled the globe.



Best Overseas Tour Operator from Europe

Winner

*M/s Travel Lab SAS
France*



*Ms. Catriona Dempster
Head of Production*

Travel Lab SAS is one of the largest Tour Operators in France handling over 50,000 passengers in one year. Known for reliable and efficient services, India continues to be one of their main destinations offering a wide range of experiences, destinations and tour products varying from classic to most unusual for Individual travellers to large groups.

Travel Lab SAS constantly explores each region to find interesting experiences ensuring that they are brought to life by local guides and experts at the destination. It offers high end travel products under its brand "EMOTIONS" and cultural and special interest tours for individuals and small groups through its subsidiary "Les Ateliers du Voyage".



Best Foreign Charter Operator for India

Winner

*M/s Pegas Touristik
Russia*



*Mr. Abdullah Cankaya
Vice President for Asian-Pacific Countries*

Pegas Touristik established at 1994, is one of the largest tour operators in Russia. It started its operation to India in 2005. Since 1994 Pegas Touristik has served more than 18 million tourists and has over 850 brand-name Travel Agency chain in more than 200 cities and towns of Russian Federation. Pegas Touristik is operating charter flights from 45 cities of Russian Federation to 24 countries worldwide.



Best Foreign Journalist for India

Winner

Ms. Catherine Marshall
Australia



Ms. Catherine Marshall

Catherine Marshall is a freelance journalist with expertise in travel and feature writing, responsible tourism and social justice issues. She started her career as a TV and radio journalist in South Africa and presently lives in Sydney, Australia, where she writes for publications including The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. She is also an editor on the soon-to-be-launched online travel magazine, Time to Wander.



*Best Hotel
Five Star Deluxe Category*

Winner

*The Oberoi
New Delhi*



The Oberoi, New Delhi is a premier Five Star property, celebrating its golden jubilee. The hotel overlooks the vast expanses of the Delhi Golf Course on the one side and the historic tomb of emperor Humayun on the other. The hotel offers three restaurants and also provides facilities such as – business center, Spa, fitness center, indoor and outdoor temperature controlled swimming pool, retail arcade, banqueting facilities etc.



*Best Hotel
Five Star Category*

Winner

*Meluha The Fern
Mumbai, Maharashtra*



Meluha The Fern is an Environment Sensitive Hotel which offers 141 well-appointed guest rooms and suites, multiple restaurants, a bar, extensive meeting & conference facilities, a full service spa and a fitness centre catering to Foreign and local clientele. Two years back, the hotel, added a category of 'PURE Rooms' which are allergy sensitive rooms and one whole floor of the hotel is dedicated to the same for a great comfort and experience.



*Best Hotel
Four Star Category*

Winner

*Vivanta by Taj Kumarakom
Kerala*



The resort is situated in 12 acres of beautifully landscaped garden. The extreme end of the resort falls on the Vembanad Lake. The main part of the Hotel is a Heritage site. The resort can be accessed either by metallic road or through Vembanad Lake. The multi-cuisine dining options, both Air conditioned and Non air conditioned and traditional ayurveda massage centre form part of guests facilities.



*Best Hotel
Three Star Category*

Winner

*The Marari Beach
Alappuzha, Kerala*



Spread among 36 lush green acres of land, Marari Beach is a 62 villa property constructed to blend into the local ethos. The rooms are made like fishermen huts with thatched roofs, lime washed walls, teracotta floors and outdoor baths. Eco friendly practices and organic farming are its strengths.



*Best Hotel
Two Star Category*

Winner

*Resorte Marinha Dourada
Goa*



The Resort is located in a peaceful and calm village of North Goa called Arpora which is 2 kms away from "Calangute Beach" and just a minute away from the Baga Beach. Resorte Marinha is located in a breathtaking natural setting surrounded by swaying palms, paddy fields, lush green hills and salt lakes with rivulets underlying the landscape. The Resort is famous for family get-togethers, company holidays and for peace and solitude lovers.



Best Heritage Hotel Grand Category

Winner

*The Oberoi Cecil
Shimla, Himachal Pradesh*



The Oberoi Cecil, once known for its fabulous ballroom dances and fashionable clientele still retains its old charm. Located at the quieter end of the bustling Mall Road, near the Viceroy Lodge, the Oberoi Cecil is announced by a crisp, white façade and smart, green terrace railings. Inside, a lobby punctuated with marble fireplaces leads guests to a comfortable lounge, which is lit from above by a skylight that spans the length and breadth of the hotel's signature atrium.



Best Heritage Hotel Classic Category

Winner

*Coconut Lagoon
Kottayam, Kerala*



Coconut Lagoon, established in 1993, offers an experience of the unique culture of Kerala. It 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.



*Best Heritage Hotel
Basic Category*

Winner

*Samode Haveli
Jaipur, Rajasthan*



Samode Haveli is a self-contained, intimate heritage hotel, hidden deep in the folds of the busy streets of old Jaipur. A quintessential Indo-Saracenic regal residence, Samode Haveli is steeped in history and tradition and yet offers its guests contemporary luxuries and impeccable hospitality.



Best Hotel Based Meeting Venue

Joint Winner

*Jaypee Palace Hotel & Convention Centre
Agra, Uttar Pradesh*



Jaypee Palace Hotel & Convention Centre located in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, is built as per international standards and is backed by State-of-the-art conferencing facilities with a built-in stage, green rooms, a large pre-function area and a seating capacity of 1500 in theatre style. At any given time, 8 simultaneous sessions can be held with a seating capacity of 150-300 persons accompanied by a business centre, which has board rooms, meeting rooms, and cabins. Other facilities such as simultaneous interpretations, satellite uplinks, hotline terminals, audio-visual recording and editing facilities, external broadcasting room etc. are also available.



Best Hotel Based Meeting Venue

Joint Winner

*The Lalit
New Delhi*



The Lalit, New Delhi offers multiple conferencing and meeting venues making it a perfect choice for corporate, upscale social and lifestyle events in an elegant ambience with indoor and outdoor facilities, located in the heart of the city.

The dedicated team of professionals of the hotel ensures every detail is executed to perfection from personalized menus to the limitless and warm hospitality of "The Lalit". All conferencing rooms are fully equipped with the latest state-of-the-art audio visual equipments, wired with hi-speed internet technology and the team is committed in delivering superlative service experiences to their distinguished guests.



Best Standalone Convention Centre

Winner

*Leonia International Centre for
Exhibitions & Conventions
Hyderabad*



Leonia International Centre for Exhibitions & Conventions (LICEC) is located in Leonia Holistic Destination, Hyderabad. Its main hall is a pillar free structure which can accommodate 6000+ people at a time. It is an air conditioned hall with world-class acoustics and international lighting technology. It is also convertible into an indoor sports arena. It is connected to 100 rooms, dormitories, conference rooms, gym & squash courts. The following facilities are also within walking distance of LICEC at Leonia: 360+ rooms & suites, 10 restaurants, bars & clubs, Internationally acclaimed Medi-Spa offering 200+ wellness treatments, 50+ fun activities etc.



Hotel Providing Best Facilities for Differently Abled Guests

Winner

*Taj West End
Bengaluru, Karnataka*



Taj West End is situated in Bengaluru, next to the Golf Club and across from the Turf Club track stands. It is a sanctuary for today's discerning business traveller, offers up an array of cutting edge business technology and operates 24-hour Business Centre. Taj West End also offers specially designed rooms and entrance at lobby, banquet hall & restaurant for the differently abled persons.



Best Eco-Friendly Hotel

Winner

*ITC Windsor Hotel
Bengaluru, Karnataka*



The ITC Windsor is an iconic hotel of Bengaluru, situated in the heart of the state capital. The hotel has an architecture style from the British Regency era set within an ambience reminiscent of the halcyon days of the British Raj. The hotel retains the quiet and comforting tradition of its regency grandeur that effortlessly combines refined elegance with superlative services, acclaimed dining options and luxurious accommodations.



*Best Chef
4 to 5 Star Deluxe, Heritage Grand &
Classic Hotels*

Winner

Mr. Ravitej Nath



*Mr. Ravitej Nath
Executive Chef*

Chef Ravitej heads the culinary brigade in the all – day dining, world cuisine restaurant, three sixty one as well as the fine dining Indian coastal cuisine restaurant, Amaranta and is responsible for all the culinary creations offered across the conventions, banquets, bar and staff dining rooms across The Oberoi, Gurgaon, specialized in Indian and Western cuisine.



*Best Chef
1 to 3 Star, Heritage Basic &
Standalone Restaurants*

Winner

Mr. G. Sultan Mohideen



*Mr. G. Sultan Mohideen
Corporate Chef*

Shri G. Sultan Mohideen's Indian Cuisine research on heritage, kingdom's and present food culture has made him a highly successful chef and appreciated with remarkable recognition.

His achievements include:

- *"CURRY" Book launched from London by DK Publishers, January 2014- International book,*
- *Holder of "LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS 2014" for the world's largest Paneer Tikka (72Kgs)*
- *Acknowledged in "The bible" for chefs world over the "Who's Who of Celebrity Chefs of the World".*



*Best Bed & Breakfast category
approved by the State Government*

Winner

*Coconut Creek Farm and Homestay
Kumarakom, Kerala*



Coconut Creek Home stay is situated in Kerala's beautiful tourism village Kumarakom. It is located near the Kumarakom Lake and the Bird Sanctuary and is an eco friendly Home stay.



Most Innovative / Unique Tourism Project

Winner

Sair Sapata

*By Madhya Pradesh State Tourism
Development Corporation Ltd., Bhopal*



The Project 'Sair Sapata' is entirely conceptualised and implemented by Tourism Department with the help of Tourism engineers, including suspension Bridge which is a major attraction of the tourism product. The site has become a prime picnic spot in the middle of the City of Bhopal and has emerged as major revenue generating tourism product. Sair Sapata is a tourism and entertainment complex situated on the banks of the Upper Lake at Sewaniya Guar, Bhopal. Developed by the Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation, it is spread over an area of 24.56 acres. Aimed at promoting tourism, the complex has attractions like musical fountain, two acres of children's play area, toy train and a suspension bridge, among other things.



*Best Responsible Tourism Project /
Initiative*

Joint Winner

*Human Rights Impact Assessment
By M/s KUONI Travel (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Gurgaon*



Kuoni Travel (India) Pvt. Ltd. has carried out an intensive human impact assessment and has initiated responsible tourism practices through its supply chain. The aim of the project was to foster partnership with local key stakeholders, including employees, suppliers, NGOs and other businesses. A report was published explaining the assessment process, outcomes and a plan with improvement and mitigation measures. As an improvement plan for the Community in the Backwaters, an informative brochure was printed for clients called 'Visiting Backwaters Responsibly'.



Best Responsible Tourism Project / Initiative

Joint Winner

“Thekkady”

*By Department of Tourism
Government of Kerala*



Responsible Tourism Project at Thekkady was conceived, keeping in mind the conservation of nature and wellbeing of its people. The project aims to empower the local community to make use of their culture, tradition and nature for livelihood. While developing the project, special care was taken to protect the fragile eco system of Thekkady. The Village Life Experience (VLE) packages have been conceived by the Responsible Tourism (RT) Destination Cells at Thekkady so that these could be offered as a conducted tour option for tourists.



Best Tourism Friendly Golf Course

Winner

Hyderabad Golf Course / Hyderabad Golf Club

By M/s Hyderabad Golf Association



Hyderabad Golf Course is located in the precincts of the heritage monuments of the Golconda Fort and Qutub Shahi Tombs. It is a 100% Eco Friendly 18 holes Golf Course. It uses sustainable environmental practices including irrigation by treated sewerage water by root zone bio-remediation process and keeping it in harmony with the heritage sites. It is a popular venue for National and International tournaments such as PGTI Golconda Masters, BMW, Jaguar, Mercedes Benz etc., and over 200 Junior golfers have been trained at its Golfing Academy and have participated in various Tournaments.



Best Wellness Centre

Winner

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



Somatheeram Research Institute & Ayurveda Hospital in Kerala was founded by Mr. Baby Mathew in 1985. It is a serene Ayurvedic resort by the sea in South India. Here one can benefit from traditional Ayurvedic therapy as well as Yoga in a blissfully peaceful environment. It started as world's first Ayurveda Resort, with the task of promoting Ayurveda & Yoga. Somatheeram Ayurveda Resort is unique and complete resort with Tradition, Culture, History, Ayurveda, Yoga, Beach and Nature as its important features.



Best Medical Tourism Facility

Winner

*Apollo International Referral Centre
Hospital by Apollo Health City
Hyderabad*



Apollo Health City comprises 550 bedded Quaternary care hospital with Cancer Institute, PET CT Centre, Bone Marrow Transplant Centre, Centre for kidney, Liver and Heart Transplants and Robotic surgeries etc. The hospital is accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI)-USA and has NABH accreditation for laboratory services.

Apollo Health City has a dedicated International Pavilion designed for International patients & their family members. The design, comfort, safety & service standards are planned to cater to patients visiting them from various geographies across the world.



Best Tour Operator Promoting Niche Segments other than Adventure and MICE

Winner

*M/s Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.
Mumbai for promoting Cruise Tourism
(shore excursions)*



Cruise Tourism has emerged as an important niche tourism product in India. M/s. Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. has been promoting Cruise Tourism (Shore Excursions) in a big way. They have already ensured that India becomes a port of call by major cruise liners of the world. They provide ground handling services for Indian ports and have achieved over 100% growth in financial year 2014 over 2013 in Foreign Exchange Earnings.



Best Film Promotion Friendly State/ Union Territory

Winner

Gujarat



The State Government has appointed the Tourism Corporation as the Nodal Agency for issuance of all permissions for film shooting in Gujarat as a single point contact. There are many places in Gujarat which apart from being suitable for tourism, are also ideal locations for film and television shooting. At present, there are quite a number of films, TV serials, documentaries, advertisements and feature films being shot in Gujarat