



के. जे. अल्फोंस
K. J. ALPHONS



पर्यटन राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI



NATIONAL TOURISM AWARD

I extend my warm felicitation to all on the occasion of World Tourism Day. On this auspicious day, we commit ourselves to transform India into one of the most preferred destinations for travellers from around the world.

We have reason to celebrate, as India's International Tourist Arrivals & Domestic tourist visits are on a growth trajectory. India's ranking in the Travel and Tourism Competitive Index 2017 (TTCI) of World Economic Forum moved from 65th Position to 52nd position in 2015. We have moved up by another 12 positions and are now ranked at 40th position. In all, in the last three years India has cumulatively improved its ranking by 25 places which is a significant achievement.

Today, we also celebrate and honour the achievements of all those involved in India's tourism sector. India is a destination which meets the needs of all travellers. Our collective goal is to develop the tourism sector in India in a sustainable and responsible manner. Tourism is in an enviable position with the inherent capacity to create large scale employment, eradicate poverty, benefit local communities economically and socially, and to generate awareness and support for conservation of the environment. Our policies and actions must aim to strengthen the benefits and reduce the costs of tourism.

I call upon leaders of travel and tourism industry to share their vision and innovative ideas on tourism, so as to translate the grand vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in transforming India's tourism sector.

I congratulate the winners of the National Tourism Awards 2015-16 and hope this will inspire others to strive for excellence in their sphere of activity.

(K.J. Alphons)

Incredible India

अतुल्य! भारत

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MESSAGE

Smt. Rashmi Verma
Secretary, Ministry of Tourism
Government of India

It is my proud privilege to greet members of the travel and tourism fraternity on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2017.

The tourism sector in India has been performing well over the past few years with an increasing growth rate, higher than the World average growth rate. In 2016, India welcomed 8.80 million foreign tourists, an increase of 9.7% over the previous year. The current year also looks very promising with a double digit growth rate of 15.7% in Foreign Tourist Arrivals recorded during the period January to July 2017. This would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of our partners in the Tourism sector.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India as part of its strategy for the development and promotion of tourism is taking several initiatives which include launch of the Incredible India 2.0 Campaign in overseas markets, development of a new State of the Art Incredible India website, formulation of a new National Tourism Policy, integrated development of tourist destination and circuits, etc.

However, with less than 1% share of the world tourist arrivals, India still has a long way to go to attain its rightful position amongst the leading tourist destinations in the world. This is a prime opportunity for us to ride the wave of global interest in India, and to showcase India as a 'Must Visit' destination for all. It is important that we continue to enhance, cherish and deepen the capabilities of our tourism sector and at the same time we remain committed to address the sustainability challenges of our times.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of the National Tourism Awards 2015-16 and thank the captains of the travel and hospitality industry for their vision and support.

Smt. Rashmi Verma

HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNERS

Hall of Fame Awards presented to State Governments / organizations who have won the award in the same category for the last three consecutive years.

**Best State / UT Comprehensive Development of Tourism
(Rest of India)**

State Government of Gujarat

**Best State / UT Comprehensive Development of Tourism
(Rest of India)**

State Government of Madhya Pradesh

**Best Inbound Tour Operator
Category - I**

M/s Le Passage to India Tours & Travels, New Delhi

**Best Inbound Tour Operator
Category - I**

M/s SOTC Travel Services Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram

**Best Inbound Tour Operator
Category - IV**

M/s Travelite (India), New Delhi

**Tourist Transport Operator
Category - I**

M/s Alwar Tourist Transport Service, New Delhi

**Most Innovative Use of Information Technology
Social Media / Mobile App**

Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Best State /Union Territory: Comprehensive Development of Tourism (Rest of India)

First Prize

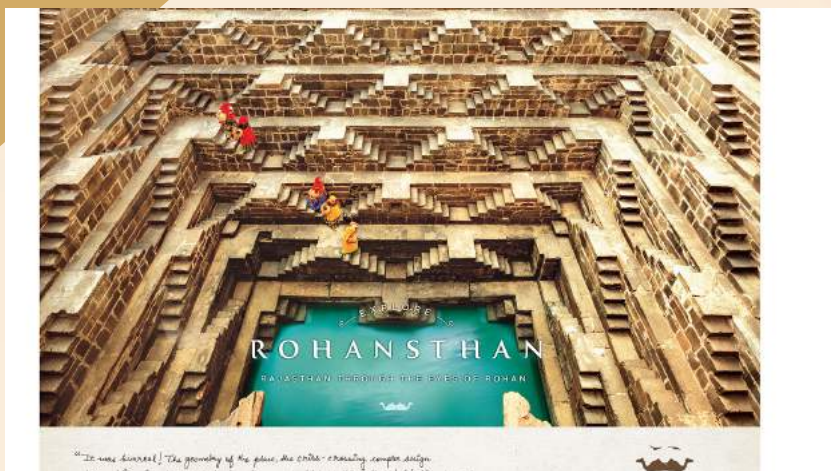
Andhra Pradesh



The Sunrise state of Andhra Pradesh holds the unmatched tourism potential to investors and tourists, having second longest coastline state in India with 974 km along Bay of Bengal. The state is gifted with a wide variety of ecology, flora and fauna. Key natural assets include Eastern Ghats, Nallamala Forest, Coastal plains and delta regions formed by two major rivers- Krishna and Godavari. Even after bifurcation of the state into two, that is Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in 2014, Andhra Pradesh still holds 3rd place in the Country with regard to the number of domestic tourist visits. Andhra Pradesh is maintaining this position for the last 15 years.

Best State /Union Territory: Comprehensive Development of Tourism (Rest of India) Second Prize

Rajasthan



Land of Rajasthan is a colorful mélange of massive forts, stunning palaces, diverse cultures, delectable cuisines and warm people, set amidst a rugged yet inviting landscape. Music, art and dance are woven into every inch of this land which is carved in every grain of sand. The annals of Rajasthan present golden examples of countless deeds of valor and selfless sacrifice. A visit to this wonderland leaves a lasting spell on one's mind.

Fairs and festivals celebrated in the State are vibrant examples of the rich cultural heritage attracting huge number of tourists to Rajasthan. As a new initiative, four prominent events were outsourced on PPP model. New festivals such as Lake Festival Udaipur, World Music Festival Udaipur, Photo Festival Jaipur and Bhakti Utsav Pushkar have been introduced to attract more and more tourists.



**Best State /Union Territory:
Comprehensive Development of Tourism
(Rest of India)
Third Prize (Joint Winner)**

Kerala



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



**Best State /Union Territory:
Comprehensive Development of Tourism
(Rest of India)
Third Prize (Joint Winner)**

Goa



Goa, a tiny emerald land on the west coast of India, the 25th state of the Union of India, was liberated from Portuguese rule in 1961. Located on the Western Ghats of Konkan, Goa is known as the smallest and the fourth smallest populated state of India.

Goa is a dream tourist destination for all the tourists visiting India. Goa called “Queen of the Beaches”, is also a bird watcher’s paradise and home to some of the most captivating waterfalls in India. Goa is known for sharing harmonious relationship among its various religious communities, living peacefully for generations.

The Department of Forest has various programs under which Eco-Tourism is promoted. Other Departments coming under the State Government have been contributing in their own way to Tourism sector. The saying “Atithidevo Bhava” is well respected and executed by the State Government of Goa.

Swachhta Award

Government of Telangana



The State of Telangana was carved out as a separate State from the erstwhile unified State of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. The State is dotted with many tourist attractions. The Government of Telangana has chosen the historic city of Warangal for the Swachhta Award and submitted its entry for the same. Warangal is a cluster of three towns - Warangal, Hanamkonda and Kazipet.

Considering its historical importance, the Government of India has recognized Warangal as a Heritage city. The Government of Telangana has done a commendable job in maintaining tourist sites in a neat, clean and presentable condition.



Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination

Category A

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)



Hyderabad's approach towards civic management has been a unique and innovative one, an inspirational example for other civic bodies to follow. Hyderabad has addressed every possible issue related to civic management in the city. In recent years, the GHMC has undertaken a number of initiatives such as MyGHMC application for citizen grievance redressal, human behavioural innovations like "Parichayam / introduction of cutting-edge worker" in sweeping, entomology, engineering O&M Departments, equipped with modern toilets like e- toilets, prefabricated public toilets, SHE toilets in 359 locations and another 583 toilets pooled from collective private resources (restaurants & petrol bunks), that make Hyderabad, a city to be reckoned with. Improvement of civic services at heritage and tourist sites in Hyderabad, are part of these efforts.



Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination

Category B

Khargone, Madhya Pradesh



With its tireless and incessant efforts towards the Swachh Bharat Mission, Khargone is now among the top 20 cities under the Swachh Sarvekshan 2017. The city has been targeting all the objectives of civic management, set up under the mission.

Under the sanitation sector, the city has successfully transformed into an ODF town. Under the Solid Waste Management Sector, the city has achieved 100% door to door collection, segregation and transportation of waste. Moreover, the idea of waste to compost is also being practised efficiently. With efforts of awareness and infrastructural advancement, Khargone has transformed into a city with an efficiently managed civic system.



Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination

Category C

Sarovaram Bio Park, Kerala



Sarovaram Bio Park—the one and only eco-friendly bio park in Kerala is meant for the conservation of mangrove forests and wetlands by sustainable methods. Identified as one of the 27 wet lands in India, the park is also the habitat for a variety of flora and fauna. The bio park has been developed with an eco-friendly theme in mind and is also located accordingly in an ecosystem consisting of wetlands and mangrove forests that are also bird habitats.

Sarovaram is a protected bio diversity zone which encompasses 200 acres of wet land that houses around 29 varieties of mangroves and 11 species of rare fishes.



Best Maintained and Disabled Friendly Monument

Chowmahalla Palace, Hyderabad, Telangana



Hyderabad is a city with a history that reads like a love story and a past that sounds like a fairy tale. The rule of the Nizams fill pages of history with a legendary patronage of arts, architecture and science.

The 12 acre Chowmahalla complex has two court yards with elegant palaces, the grand Khilwat (the Durbar Hall), fountains with lush green lawns and gardens.

This palace is royal among royals. It is clean, neat and maintained very well. It is one of the much sought after tourism destinations of Hyderabad. All the facilities required for differently abled visitors are provided like wheel chairs, drinking water facilities, signage and guides, staff for handling enquiries and assistance.



Best Tourist Friendly Railway Station

Ujjain Railway Station, Madhya Pradesh



The sacred city of Ujjain is flocked by millions of tourists and devotees every year. The Ujjain Railway Station connects the city with all major parts of the country. Gearing up for the holy event of Simhashta Mahakumbha and to provide better facilities and conveniences, several infrastructural and service related advancements have been created recently in the Ujjain Railway Station. These facilities include, more number of retiring rooms, eco-friendly bio-toilets, installation of energy saving systems, better facilities for differently abled persons, coach guidance system, restaurants, easy ticket booking arrangements, automatic ticket vending machines, water vending machines, public assistance system and varied emergency services and assistance.



Best Airport

Class X Cities

Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai



Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA), Mumbai is the 2nd busiest airport in South Asia and represents 17.2% of all India traffic. Despite being the most operationally challenged city airport in the world, efforts have been made to augment passenger experience at CSIA by providing state of the art facilities. To acknowledge its efforts, CSIA has been awarded as the World's Best Airport globally in the category of 25-40 million passengers at Airport Service Quality Awards 2015 by Airports Council International.

CSIA serves Mumbai, the financial capital of India, and its catchment area, comprising 31 cities in Western, Central and Southern India with more than 190 daily flights to 90 destinations in India and globally. 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. Contribution towards environment and its sustainability has also been a major consideration and efforts have been made for developing a conducive eco system.



Best Airport

Other Cities (Joint Winner)

Srinagar International Airport, Srinagar, J&K



Srinagar International Airport is the gateway to Kashmir Valley. The Airport has a total of 23 check-in counters for expeditious handling of Passengers. The granite flooring gives a fresh new look to the airport environment. The wash rooms are renovated with modern facilities, well lit and user friendly. Branded shops, SPA, swagat seva etc. are added for convenience of passengers. The approach road and garden is landscaped with colourful flowers, tall Chinar trees matching with the scenic beauty of the valley.

The Airport has been honoured by EPC World Media as well as by Airport Council International (ACI).



Best Airport

Other Cities (Joint Winner)

Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur



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 large volumetric departure and arrival lounges give a feeling of vastness and richness to the structure.

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. The appropriately designed mounds and contours behave as visual barriers from the ongoing traffic movement.

The first thing most passengers observe upon arrival, is the gorgeous landscaped ground in front of the terminal, which has been created in perfect harmony with the extensive green cover. The elegantly installed monumental 100 feet National Flag in front of the terminal building is as imposing as the building itself.

The AAI endeavour results into an airport with international class ambience and smooth air traffic transition. Swami Vivekananda Airport is now a vivid example of an exceptionally designed airport in the country.



Best Heritage Walk

Leading from the Front: Being Gandhi- Gandhi Tour by India City Walks



Follow the footsteps of Indian icon Mahatma Gandhi and visit historical sites associated with the man whose legacy of non-violent protest lives on in spirit today as a major influence on Indian society and the international community. Our specialty tours cover sites that are linked with intricate episodes of Gandhi's life and death. Our Gandhi Tour in Delhi aims to give you an insight into important national stories about Gandhi, his life, and his actions that shaped a nation. Discover the journey of a young boy who left for England in his teens to the man who found his true calling in South Africa and eventually came back to his homeland and led the Indian National Movement.



Best Heritage City

(Joint Winner)

Warangal, Telangana



Warangal is the second largest city of Telangana State and is located 145 km from the capital city, Hyderabad. The Municipality of Warangal has been in existence since 1899. Warangal is a cluster of tri cities - Warangal, Hanamkonda and Kazipet. The city is a major urban centre addressing the educational, medical, trading, tourism and cultural needs of the people and reputed professional institutions.

Warangal served as the capital of Kakatiya dynasty established in 1163 till its decline in 1323 AD. The monuments left by the Kakatiya include fortresses, lakes, temples & towns. The stone gateways of that period are a major land mark in the city and have helped it to become a significant tourist attraction. The Kakatiya Kala Thoranam (Warangal gate) was included in the Emblem of Telangana by the State Government. It was also selected as a smart city in the “fast-track competition” under the Smart Cities Mission.



Best Heritage City

(Joint Winner)

Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh



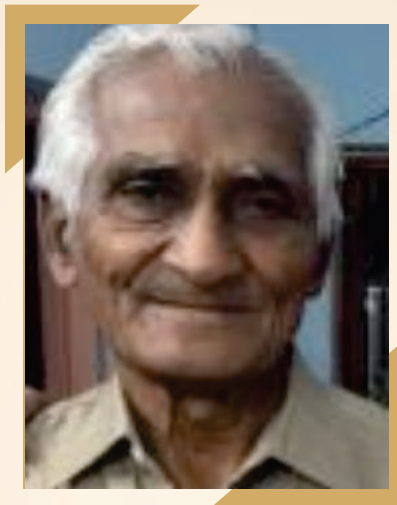
Built in a narrow valley and located on the banks of Betwa river in Madhya Pradesh, Chanderi is a best example of the Holistic Heritage Indian City. Different cultures have harmoniously been co-existing to nurture a rich heritage here.

With its magnificent heritage, Chanderi exhibits an important interchange of human values recorded in the history over a span of 1200 years. Several efforts have been made by the city to conserve and redevelop this ancient cultural corridor by restoring its historical architecture, arts and culture. Known for its world famous handcrafted Chanderi Sarees, some of Chanderi's heritage marvels include Chanderi Fort, Bada Madarsa, Jama Masjid, Koshak Mahal, Nizammuddin's Tomb etc.



Best Tourist Guide

Shri K Kasinath Rao, Telangana



Kasinath Rao, born in Kandi village, Medak district on 31st May, 1930 and a graduate from Osmania University in September 1953, worked in Jagir Administration Department and the City Improvement Board Office and retired in May 1988 after 30 years of service. He was selected as a Tourist guide in 1963.

Sharing the rich cultural heritage of Hyderabad has been his pride and passion for the last 54 years. He was a winner of the Best Tourist Guide Award conferred by the State Government in 2002, 2011 and 2015. Having learnt 10 languages of Telugu, Hindi, English, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, French, Japanese, Bengali and Sanskrit, his optimism, enthusiasm, benevolence and compassion towards all has been his secret to success and healthy lifestyle.



Best Tourist Guide

(Special Award)

Smt. Rama Khandwala, Mumbai



Smt. Khandwala, one of the senior most guide from Mumbai, has served the Tourism Industry for over 50 years and is still active at the age of 91. She has contributed immensely to the tourism industry and acted as a cultural ambassador of India by interacting with international tourists in the last 50 years. She is fluent in Japanese language and has contributed in building cultural relations and promotion of the Buddhist sites in Maharashtra and other parts of the country. She is still a popular and active guide who is willing to take assignments.

Smt. Khandwala has also served as a Second Lieutenant in the Rani Jhansi Regiment of the Azad Hind Fauj in Rangoon, Burma under Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's struggle for freedom. Her courage and never say die attitude is still visible even today in her sincere and professional way of handling guide assignments.

After World War II, Smt. Khandwala and her family settled down in Mumbai. She has written her memoirs in a book about her days as a freedom fighter titled JAI HIND.



Best Wildlife Guide

Mr. Saeed Khan

Satpura National Park, Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh



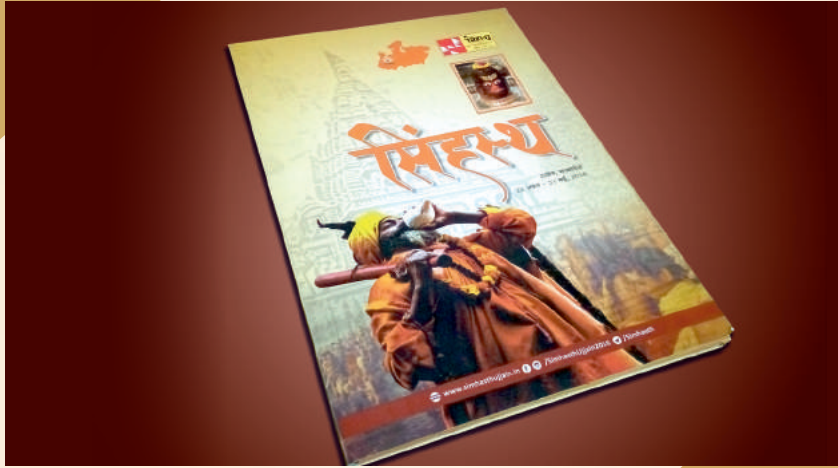
Saeed Khan has been serving tourists in the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Pachmarhi for the last 15 years. A passionate professional guide with keen interest and vast knowledge about geography, flora and fauna, Saeed has successfully been guiding thousands of tourists. He has also mentored several study tours. His untiring efforts have immensely helped tourists in gaining more knowledge about the mystical Satpura range. Saeed has been recognized and feted by several tourism bodies and educational institutes for his invaluable guidance.



Excellence in Publishing - Hindi

“सिंहस्थ 2016”

मध्य प्रदेश पर्यटन बोर्ड द्वारा प्रकाशित



सिंहस्थ महाकुम्भ 2016 के बृहद आध्यात्मिक समारोह में किए गए संवर्धनात्मक और प्रबंधन कार्यकलापों के भाग के रूप में पृथ्वी पर विशालतम मानव समागम, प्रासंगिक जानकारी सहित आगंतुकों की सहायता के लिए पुस्तिका के रूप में एक मुद्रित दस्तावेज तैयार किया गया।

सामूहिक वितरण के लिए पुस्तिका हिंदी में तैयार की गई। इसमें मेजबान शहर, उज्जैन पर आसान जानकारी के साथ समारोह, तिथियों के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी दी गई। सिंहस्थ के आगंतुकों के लिए आपातकाल वाले कई नम्बरों से युक्त पुस्तिका ने पर्यटकों की सहायता के लिए एक सरल गाइड की भांति काम किया।



Excellence in Publishing - English

“The Heart of Incredible India” (Coffee Table Book)

by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board



Madhya Pradesh “The Heart of Incredible India” located in the central part of India, is endowed with delightful forests, rich world heritage sites, and varied art, crafts & culture. To give a glimpse of these nuggets, a Coffee Table Book was designed. The book has a luxurious look with the regal Tiger on the cover. The contents of the book with precise information on various subjects along with attractive pictures have been compiled by renowned authors with great passion. This painstaking exercise was done with the sole motive to give the reader an enriched experience of the State.



Excellence in Publishing in Foreign Language other than English (Joint Winner)

***Reanimar – En el Propio Pais de Dios* (Spanish brochure)
by Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala**



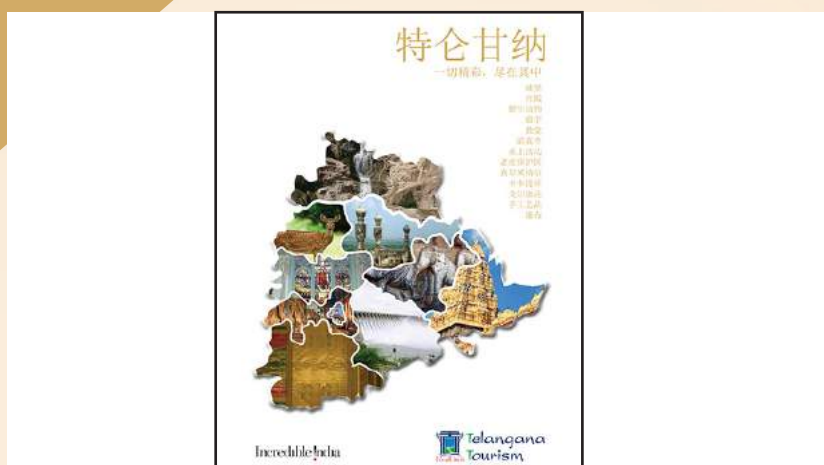
There are a host of reasons why Kerala is hailed as one of the ten paradises of the world and this brochure helps decode all that makes it one of the world's most sought-after destinations as well. Titled "Reanimar En el Propio Pais de Dios, it showcases God's Own Country in all its splendour, together with experiences that would help a discerning traveller rediscover life like never before.



Excellence in Publishing in Foreign Language other than English (Joint Winner)

Tourism Brochure in Mandarin

by Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of Telangana



Telangana Tourism had participated in China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2015, one of the largest tourism platforms in the Asia Pacific, in Kunming (Yunnan Province). Participants in CITM come from all sectors of the travel industry, including international and domestic tourist organizations from China's 31 provinces, autonomous regions and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. The promotional material was published in Mandarin language and given to various agencies in China thereby promoting tourism to India in the international markets.

Best Tourism Film

Promotional Films on Rajasthan

by Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of Rajasthan



Rajasthan Tourism launched its multilingual-multimodal, global media campaign on 15 January, 2016. The central theme of the campaign creatives is to urge the visitor to explore unknown / unheard attractions of Rajasthan. Accordingly, a set of five promotional films (TVCs) depicting, energetic Rajasthan with catch lines 'Jane Kya Dikh Jaaye' or 'you have not seen it all' were prepared.

Apart from it, a sand art sculpture animation film on new logo of the Department was also produced. This animation film was nominated for the Annecy Cristal in the commissioned film category. It bagged D & AD Professional Award – Wood Pencil, FICCI BAF award and was nominated in Kyoorius design award, in 6th Dada Sahab Phalke Film Festival award.



**Best Tourism Film
(Special Award)**

Visit Mysuru

by M/s Safe Wheels Tours & Travels, Mysuru



Mysuru is undoubtedly rich with its heritage, culture, architecture and history. With a vision to make Mysuru a globally desired tourist destination, Safe Wheels Tours and Travels produced this destination film. Having over lakhs of views and shares, they have successfully achieved their objective. This Destination Film would help in generating more publicity for our country and the city.



Best Tourism Promotion Publicity Material (States/UTs)

***Your Next Blockbuster Destination* - A Film Tourism Brochure**

by Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala



Kerala has, over the years, gained recognition as a nature destination with beaches, backwaters, hill stations, wildlife. The unique and picturesque topography has been popular among many. However, there remained a facet of this State that remained largely unknown to the world – Kerala's potential as a film destination. It was gathered that there was a general lack of awareness among those in the film industry about the possibilities that Kerala holds as a film-friendly land, even after Kerala having been featured as a backdrop for many popular films including *Life of Pi*, *Mistress of Spices*, *Before the Rains* and many more national and international movies. This notion led to the idea that this particular section of people can be targeted, and be made known about the options and benefits that Kerala is capable of offering.



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

Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Panaji



A campaign run for the tourists and by the tourists, 'Tourism by Tourists', was aimed at building the longest running digital testimonial campaign for a travel brand. The goal of the campaign was to raise credibility for the state through travellers opinions and online publishers (bloggers/ photographers/magazines etc). Everyday of the year, Goa Tourism published content collated and submitted by passionate travellers who wanted to share their opinion about Goa. It became one of the best travel based campaigns of the year, making Goa Tourism the fastest growing and most influential travel brand on social media.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category I: First Prize

M/s Abercrombie & Kent India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



A Destination Management Company with four decades of international experience, Abercrombie & Kent established its India operations in New Delhi in 1985. Today the company is synonymous with quality travel management and its primary strength lies in its capacity to offer a wide variety of travel-related services under one roof.

Their 4 offices in India with 80 employees offer a full range of travel services for small groups and individuals. The company's specialization includes multi-lingual staff, highly knowledgeable tour guides, access to finest naturalists, a select fleet of cars and coaches, special rates with preferential treatment, a high standard of quality control, 24/7 access and offices worldwide.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category I: Second Prize

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



SDU Travels Private Limited having its head office New Delhi, was incorporated in the year 2010. The company is in the business of Inbound Tours and has its own branches in USA and UK, subsidiaries in South Korea, France and Sales offices in Japan, Canada, Latin America, France and China etc.

The Company takes care of all the services right from the time client arrives in India till he/she departs from India. It is also a preferred Selling Agent for Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation and Karnataka Rail Tourism Development Corporation.

SDU Travels Private Limited deals with clients from UK, USA, Japan, South Korea, France, Italy, China, South America, Canada etc.

The Company has been growing in terms of number of tourists and turnover every year.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category II: First Prize

M/s Minar Travels India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



M/s Minar Travels (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, was established 25 years ago with the objective of showcasing multifold experiences, people, colours, celebrations etc. of Incredible India. The highly qualified, competent, professional and committed team of 250 personnel at Minar Travels made this dream possible and introduced markets such as Russia, Iran, CIS, Latin American and many more in a much bigger way to Indian experience and various Minar brands.

The company has extensive network of 11 offices across India, 11 representative offices in major cities of the world and Terrena Minar, its strategic alliance brand in Latin America. Minar has won several accolades including National Tourism Awards.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category II: Second Prize

M/s Caper Travel Company Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram



Caper Travel Company Pvt. Ltd., is India's leading inbound travel solution company for the Indian sub continent. They provide comprehensive travel solutions for leisure, group, charters & small business travelers, backed by real-time websites & unmatched products. Since its inception in 1998, the company has been growing rapidly, aspiring to emerge as one of the foremost travel companies in India. Fairly young, they are receptive to new ideas, flexible and adaptable to the needs of their clients.

The company offers tours to suit all budget with personalized services. Their tour packages consist of cultural, spiritual, religious, tribal, adventure, wellness, and wildlife. The company has grown big with group of companies and is diversified into hospitality, travel technology and aviation.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category III: First Prize

M/s Pettitts India Tours Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



“Pettitts India Tours Pvt. Ltd.” was incorporated in 1989 and recognized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Pettitts India Tours is into tours and travel related services in Indian subcontinent for the past 28 years. It caters to groups, series, leisure travellers, professionals, free individual travelers, government delegations from different countries to India, executives travelling to participate in exhibitions or summits and MICE.

The company has organized one of the prestigious events of the Government of India including the BRICS Youth Summit & North East Youth Summit. It was awarded with “Excellence in Inbound Tour Operations” in SATTE 2017.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category III: Second Prize

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



G. B. Morrison Travels Private Limited (now renamed as Trans India Holidays Pvt. Ltd.) is a mid sized inbound tour operator/ DMC, providing personalized, bespoke holidays. Established in 1990, the company owns and operates a large fleet of luxury vehicles and have a network of offices and representatives spread across the Indian sub continent. Their USPs include professional management, excellent relationships with hoteliers and belief in the saying “Atithidevo Bhava”.

In addition to cultural tours focused on the culture, history and heritage of India, the company has also been promoting Golf Holidays, Culinary tours, Sporting Holidays and Family friendly holidays.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category IV: First Prize

M/s Amber Tours Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



Amber Tours was founded in 1972 by Mr. Avinash C. Kohli. Since its inception Amber Tours' goal has been to provide quality tourism with emphasis on deluxe category tourists including off-shore excursions for Cruiseliners and Adventure Tourism. Mr Kohli pioneered the concept of White Water Rafting in the country in 1976 and established the first Rafting Camp on the Ganga near Rishikesh.

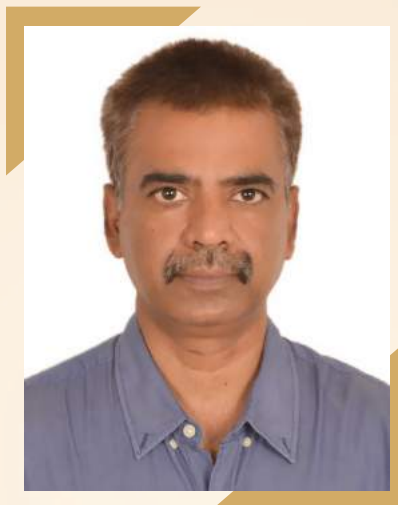
With over 45 years in business, Amber Tours is presently run by the second generation headed by Shanti Kohli and Naveen Kohli, who continue to provide luxury experiential travel for their inbound tourists.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category IV: Second Prize

M/s Periplus Travels Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



Periplus Travel is a 'special interest' Destination Management Company, offering travellers diverse theme based experiences such as Culture, History, Religion, Cuisine, Music & Dance, Textile, Crafts, Wildlife and Village Walks.

The company's uniqueness emanates from the intense spirit of travel and passion for India. Periplus insists on devising tailor-made holidays after exhaustive discussions on the most suitable travel products for their clients.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category V: First Prize

M/s Centre Tours & Travels, Srinagar



Centre Tour & Travels is well established in the international travel industry and has a proven track record of satisfied clients. They have been in the travel / tour industry in India for over 26 years and impart travel tips, answer questions of the client and provide potential tour arrangements. The fourth generation family owned and operated travel company has branches in New Delhi, Canada as well as in Kashmir.

The company has a team of experienced and dedicated field staff and takes pride in meeting travel needs with a personal touch and professionalism.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category V: Second Prize

M/s Vesna Tours Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



Vesna Tours is a destination management company that provides world-class travel Management services.

Head quartered in New Delhi, the agency with its international representatives located in USA, Canada and the UK, provides travel management services for education roadshows/ fairs, faculty-led educational study tours, EMBA international residencies, meetings, incentive, conferences, exhibitions and a wide range of uplifting cultural, artistic and spiritual travel experience.

The company which started with its loyal customers now works with above 300 universities, institutes and many corporate and leisure clients primarily from North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category VI: First Prize

M/s Special Holidays Travel Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



“Special Holidays” is a professionally managed tour company specialized in creating memorable, cost effective individual and group travel programs. The company has been promoting tours to India in the global market and creating new products and niche markets.

The company offers customized tours and is flexible in its arrangements to suit the needs of their associates and guests. They have their own transport fleet and an extensive network to provide most professional and personalized services.



Best Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category VI: Second Prize

M/s Worldwide Rail Journeys Pvt. Ltd., Noida



As India's foremost rail-tour operator, Worldwide Rail Journeys led by Shri Manish Saini, is the leading GSA for all luxury trains, such as the world renowned Palace on Wheels, Golden Chariot, Deccan Odyssey and PSA-IA of the Maharajas Express.

Affiliated with IATO, ASTA INDIA and JATA, the company is also approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. The company has been recognised as a leading Rail Tour Operator.



Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category I: First Prize

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



With the Mission Statement “You get the package you want, the service you need, and the professionalism that makes you come back to us every time”, Eco Rent A Car Ecos (I) Mobility Hospitality Pvt. Ltd., provides tailor-made solutions for passenger transport requirements designed exactly as per travel needs of their clients.

Through superior services differentiation and process driven operations using latest technologies, they promote safe and reliable ground transportation and tourism.



Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category II: First Prize

M/s Bala Tourist Service, Chennai



Bala Tourist Service is an accomplished tourist transport operator in Chennai with a fleet of around 225 vehicles and a range spanning from the Maruti to the Mercedes. Started with a single vehicle, a Hindustan Ambassador, in 1971, the firm is steadily inching towards its 50th year. It has well maintained fleet, well groomed drivers & responsive staff on standby 24/7.

Bala Tourist Service is an ISO certified firm since 2005 and also operates in all major Indian towns & cities through tie-ups with renowned operators.



Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category III: First Prize

M/s FTT Cabs Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



The company was initially set up as a sole proprietary concern in 1985 in New Delhi by Mrs Raj Nagar as Friends Tour & Travels with moderate resources of 3 Ambassdor cars to cater to the travel requirements of corporates.

In the year 2012, it was converted into a partnership firm and the total number of cabs increased to 32. In 2013, this Partnership firm has been converted into a Private Ltd. Company. Presently, FTT Cabs Pvt. Ltd. has a total of 55 cabs which includes all types of imported Luxury Cars.



Best Tourist Transport Operator

Category III: Second Prize

M/s Panicker's Travels India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



An ISO: 9001-2008 certified company, it 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 in 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 Domestic Tour Operator (Promoting and selling tourism products of North East Region including Sikkim)

M/s Heat Travels & Tours India Pvt. Ltd., Siliguri



Heat Travels & Tours (India) Private Limited (acronym of Himalayan Elite in Adventure & Tourism) was launched by adventure enthusiasts in 1994, as HEAT Treks & Tours, later known as Heat Travels & Tours (India) Private Limited, in 1999. HEAT has its registered office at Siliguri and handling offices at Gangtok and Kalimpong. HEAT has emerged as a B2B wholesale Tour Operator for Sikkim, Darjeeling & Bhutan.

HEAT has been accorded with “National Tourism Award” bestowed by Government of India, Ministry of Tourism.



Best Domestic Tour Operator (Rest of India)

Category - I

M/s Yatra Online Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



Yatra, is a leading consolidator of Travel products which provides a one-stop market place for all travel-related services. It also provides information, pricing, availability and booking facility for domestic and international air travel, domestic and international hotel bookings, holiday packages, buses, trains, in city activities, inter-city and point-to-point cabs, homestays and cruises etc.

Yatra can be accessed through a user-friendly website, mobile optimised WAP site and applications, a multi-lingual call centre, a countrywide network of Holiday Lounges and Yatra Travel Express stores.

Launched in August 2006, Yatra was ranked the Most Trusted e-Commerce Travel Brand in India in the Economics Times Brand Equity Survey 2016 for the second successive year, and has won the National Tourism Award 2014-15 for 'Best Domestic Tour Operator (Rest of India)' conferred by the Ministry of Tourism. Yatra's parent company, Yatra Online Inc. is a Nasdaq listed entity.



Best Domestic Tour Operator (Rest of India)

Category - II

M/s Clubside Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd., Darjeeling



Clubside Tours and Travels Pvt. Ltd. is among the oldest Destination Management companies in Eastern India, operating from offices in Darjeeling, Kolkata, Siliguri and Guwahati, offering services like cultural tours, adventure tours and other value added services. Clubside focuses on adventure tourism in the region with activities like trekking, wildlife, mountain biking and rafting. With a team dedicated for adventure activities, Clubside possesses the required infrastructure to be able to deliver the highest standards of services and experiences to their guests travelling to this region.

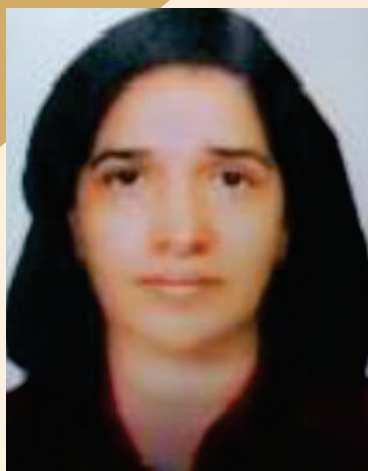
They have been recognized for their work with the National Tourism Awards for the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 in addition to numerous other accreditations.



Best Adventure Tour Operator

(Inbound)

M/s Far Horizon, Faridabad



Far Horizon Tours, a 25 year old tourism and hospitality, adventure travel company has been a pioneer in opening many trekking routes in the Himalayas ranging from Ladakh till Arunachal Pradesh. It was one of the first to set up mobile deluxe tented camps in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Rajasthan and Kerala, followed by building of river cruise boats in the Kerala Backwaters including a nine cabin boat and two eco-lodges in Rajasthan. The company through its subsidiary built the luxury river cruise ship MV Mahabaahu for cruise on the River Brahmaputra. The company has won many national and international awards along with, prominent media mentions all over the world.



Best Adventure Tour Operator

(Domestic)

M/s Clubside Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata



Clubside Tours and Travels Pvt. Ltd. is among the oldest Destination Managements companies in Eastern India operating from offices in Darjeeling, Kolkata, Siliguri and Guwahati, offering services like cultural tours, adventure tours and other value added services. Clubside focuses on adventure tourism in the region with activities like trekking, wildlife, mountain biking and rafting. With a team dedicated for adventure activities, Clubside possesses the required infrastructure to be able to deliver the highest standards of services and experiences to our guests travelling to this region.

They have been recognized for their work with the National Tourism Awards for the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 in addition to numerous other accreditations.



Best MICE Operator

M/s Alpcord Network, New Delhi



Alpcord Network Travel and Conferences Management Company is a progressive organisation managed by professionals with over 40 years of experience specialising as a MICE Planner with offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur and regional office in Bangalore. The company is recognised by major national and international trade bodies such as ICPB, ICCA, SITE, IATA, PATA, IEIA, TAAI, IATO and Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India.

Alpcord has been honoured with the National Tourism Awards for Best MICE Tour Operator in 2009-2010 and 2013-2014, Star Conference Organiser Award by Exhibition Showcase 2015 and Best Professional Conference Organiser 2016 by Hospitality India.



Best Tour Operator promoting Niche Segments other than MICE and Adventure

M/s Lotus Destinations Pvt. Ltd., Cochin



LOTUS DMC was born to be a responsible player in the niche market of Cruise Tourism. The visionary management has taken LOTUS to great heights to attain the 'Numero Uno' position in cruise tourism in India in just five years. LOTUS handles cruise ships at all Indian ports in addition to carrying maximum groups for overland trips to the Taj Mahal.

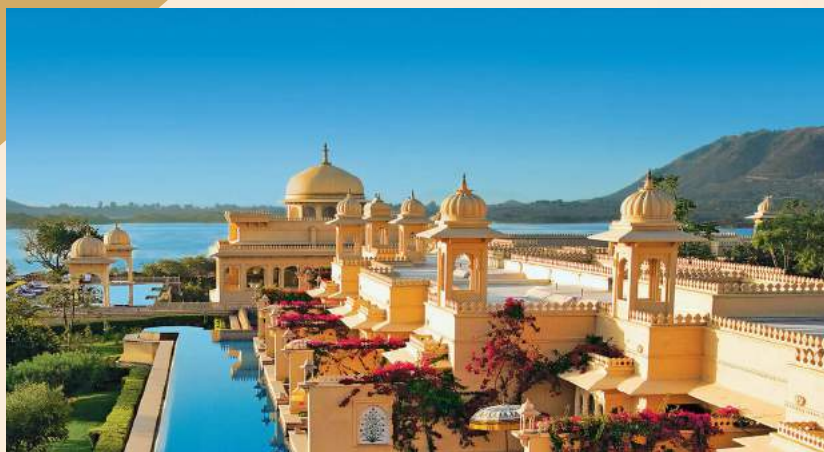
Lotus has bagged National Tourism Award in the Niche segment for the year 2014-2015.



Best Hotel

5 Star Deluxe Category (Joint Winner)

The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur



The hotel features courtyards and walkways, gentle rippling fountains, reflecting pools and verdant gardens and offers spacious and richly appointed guestrooms with private terraces and many with swimming pools, large marble bathrooms that overlook walled courtyards, magnificent outdoor swimming pool and the luxurious Oberoi spa-a sanctuary of peace, that offers a wide range of holistic therapies.



Best Hotel

5 Star Deluxe Category (Joint Winner)

The Taj West End, Bengaluru



With 130 years of elaborate history and unparalleled heritage, Taj West End is 'iconic'! At the heart of a busy cityscape, Taj West End with its mystical air, 20 acres of picturesque greens and colonial architecture, exudes classical charm of the bygone era!

Started in 1887, this green oasis is now home to 117 rooms, 3 restaurants with specially crafted flavors from across the globe and eight stunning venues for business or social events. Add to all this, the signature 'Taj' hospitality is an experience nothing short of sublime!



Best Hotel

5 Star Category

Trident, Gurugram



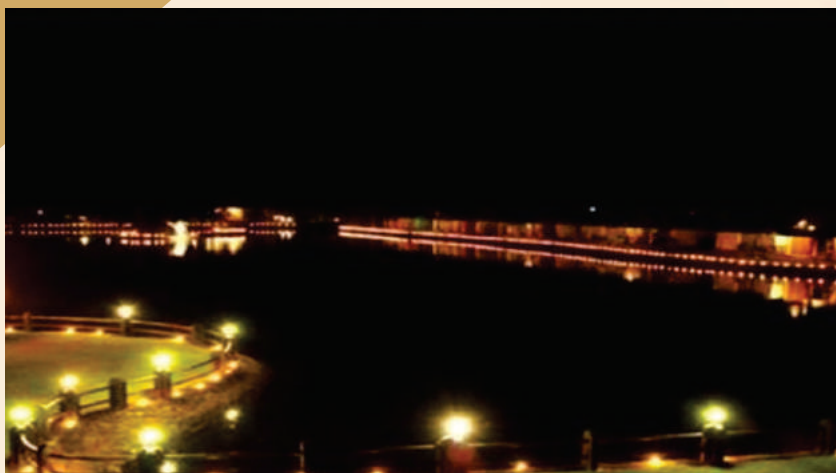
Since its inception in 2004, Trident, Gurugram has redefined the city hotel experience with natural elements and the luxury of height, light and space into its design. Spread over seven acres of landscaped greens, with large domes, walkways and reflection pools, Trident Gurugram has a resort-like ambience. Located in the Central Business District of Gurugram, a part of New Delhi's National Capital Region, it is within easy distance of New Delhi's International and domestic airports. The hotel includes 129 well-appointed rooms, 6 Executive suites and a Presidential suite. The hotel offers state-of-the-art conference and meeting facilities, a temperature controlled swimming pool, the city's first 24-hour spa and award winning restaurants.



Best Hotel

4 Star Category

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 considered to be the longest lake in the country. Vivanta by Taj- Kumarakom, still maintains the beauty of its rustic surrounding on the banks of Vembanad Lake.

The main part of the hotel is on a heritage site housing the 150 years old Bakers Bunglow, once the residence of Bakers family a Christian Missionary. The hotel has a lot of guest activities like cycling, pottery, boating etc. and rabbits and geese for kids amusement.

The hotel organizes the house boat, the country boat facility for guests to venture into the Vembanad lake. The evenings are made live with lighting of Diyas around the lagoon, which is in the centre of the resort.



Best Hotel

3 Star Category

Hotel Bliss, Tirupati



Hotel Bliss is a 3 Star category luxury hotel located in the foothills of the world famous Tirumala Shrine, the abode of Lord Balaji. The hotel has 92 well appointed rooms, a multicuisine and pure-veg restaurant, 7 Banquet Halls to cater to 25-1500 pax, swimming pool, world class techno gym, steam bath. The hotel has received “Award for Excellence” thrice from Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, and 2 awards from Quality Control Forum of India.



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 hotel is located on the eastern shores of the picturesque Lake Pichola. 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.

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

The suites and rooms are decorated with replica paintings and period furniture from the toshakhana or royal storerooms. The Durbar Hall Sabhagaar and Crystal Gallery are resplendent with rare paintings and objects d'art.



Best Heritage Hotel

Basic Category

Samode Haveli, Gangapole, Jaipur



Samode Haveli is a small intimate hotel offering personalized service. It has been meticulously restored and integrated into a unique property. This unique atmosphere of the contemporary and the historic gives Samode Haveli a warm & friendly atmosphere enabling guests to relax and treat it as a home away from home!

With its understated luxury, antique furniture, furnishings and original work-of-art, the hotel is a celebration of traditional values and gracious living.

The hotel has won the National Tourism Awards in 1998, 2008, 2009, 2011 & 2013 and the Conde Nast Traveler – Gold List 2015.



Best Hotel Based Meeting Venue

The Ashok, New Delhi



Set on 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 with 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 Stand-Alone Convention Centre

Leonia International Centre for Exhibition & Conventions, Hyderabad



An awe inspiring venue with seamless structural, operational and technical features which make conferences or conventions or any kind of event a complete hassle free experience. The main aspect of this venue is the 40044 sq.ft, pillar less main hall accommodating 6000 plus delegates at a time. It is equipped with 13 flexi meeting rooms, 1 boardroom and a vast array of residential rooms. The main hall is made of Gerflor flooring of Olympic standard and can be quickly converted into a sporting complex accommodating 4 tennis courts, 5 badminton courts, 1 basketball court and 1 volleyball court. Additionally, the venue features various world class facilities and in-house expertise in event management.



Hotel Providing Best Facilities for 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, including an accessible Kitty Su, the award winning night club of the hotel. 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 away to accommodate guests on a wheel chair and both lobby and banqueting levels of the hotel have dedicated restrooms for differently abled guests.

The Lalit New Delhi is also a fair and equal opportunities employer and has employed differently abled individuals.



Best Eco-Friendly Hotel

ITC Maurya, New Delhi



ITC Maurya is named after the famous “Mauryan” dynasty, which gave Indian history its golden age where art, culture and architecture flourished. ITC Maurya is the first and largest hotel in the world to achieve “LEED Platinum” rating of USGBC in the existing building category.

Winner of various national and international awards on energy and environment, ITC Maurya is a part of the ITC group which is carbon positive, water positive and recycles all solid wastes. ITC Maurya has taken pioneering role in water recycling and waste management, besides efforts on renewable energy.



Best Stand-Alone Restaurant

Khyber Restaurant, Mumbai



Khyber Restaurant, a 175 seat restaurant, was started by Om Parkash Bahl in 1958. Destroyed in a fire in 1985 it reopened in 1988 designed by Parmeshwar Godrej. It features the spectacular art of most renowned artists MF Hussain and Anjolie Ela Menon on its walls.

Serving North-West Frontier cuisine, Khyber restaurant in Mumbai has played host to a number of international celebrities including Prince (now King) of Luxembourg, Demi Moore, Goldie Hawn and recently Brad Pitt and the Defence Minister of Canada.

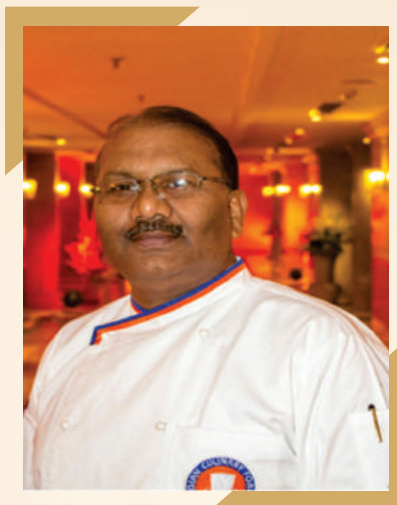
Winner of the same award earlier in 1997, it is renowned as much for its interiors as it is for its cuisine.



Best Chef

(4 Star to 5 Star Deluxe, Heritage Classic & Grand Category)

Chef Arvind Rai, The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi



Chef Arvind Rai started his career as Kitchen Executive Trainee in 1987 with ITDC soon after completing the 3 year Diploma in Hotel Management from IHM, Pusa, New Delhi. After two years of rigorous on-the- job training took over charge as Chef at Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort and thereafter as Chef Incharge of Hotel Khajuraho Ashok. Since then he is posted at the Flagship hotel of ITDC, The Ashok, New Delhi.

Chef Rai has mentored and trained several Chefs over the years and as part of ISO 22000:2005 food safety team of the Hotel has ensured strict food safety and quality control measures.

He has successfully executed several Indian Food Festivals in Moscow, Buenos Aires, Budapest, Johannesburg, Taipei etc. where the best of Indian cuisine was showcased.

Presently posted as Executive Chef, he leads the team which innovatively crafts the best of Indian Gastronomy for various national and international dignitaries.



Best Lady Chef

Chef Madhumita Mohanta, The Lalit Great Eastern, Kolkata



Born in 1974, Chef Mohanta grew up in a multicultural background. She has completed her Diploma in Hotel Management from IAM, Kolkata and joined The Park, Kolkata as Management Trainee. With 20 years of rich experience working in countries like Singapore, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, etc she has mastered the Western, Arabic, Oriental & Indian Regional Cuisines. She had taught Food Production to destitute children for 5 years in Kuwait. She loves re-inventing recipes and innovating new presentations of known recipes. Among her renowned celebrity guests, she distinctly recalls Michael Schumacher during her work tenure in Bahrain.

She intends to keep going ahead with her innovations and experiments on new recipes and reviving old and forgotten recipes of the world.



Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishment approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India (Gold & Silver)

House of Kapaali, Greater 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. 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 Kapaali yoga, 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!



Most Innovative & Unique Tourism Product

Hanuwantiya and Jal Mahotsav, Madhya Pradesh Tourism



Utilising the backwaters created at the Indira Sagar Dam and the Omkareshwar Dam, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has developed a backwater tourism hub in the form of Hanuwantiya.

Hanuwantiya is an innovative project which offers the serenity of nature. Applying a thought of innovation here, the Government of MP has been organising Jal Mahotsav. This event blends adventure and tranquility together in one single destination.

The fifteen day extravaganza manifests the cultural ethos of the region while offering fun sports and adventure activities amid the beauty of nature.



Best Responsible Tourism Project/Initiative (Joint Winner)

Sikkim



“Nature” has undoubtedly been the greatest tourism strength of the state. Nature friendly concepts like ‘Eco- Tourism’ and ‘Responsible Tourism’ have always been the priority of the State Government. Hence, responsible responsiveness is an instinct that people of Sikkim have been living with. Some great initiatives of State Government are ban on smoking and plastics, Green Mission, total Sanitization Programme, and Organic Mission.

Organic Mission when connected with Eco Tourism has gained double attraction for tourist particularly at Home stays. Visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of Sikkim but also gain health benefits by consuming organic products.

Village/ Rural tourism/ Home-stays are successful ventures both in terms of ensuring economic benefits to the local community as well as picture perfect serene natural holiday experience for the tourists.



Best Responsible Tourism Project/Initiative (Joint Winner)

Responsible Tourism in Kumarakom

Department of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala



The Kerala Government declared Kumarakom as one of the pilot destinations of Responsible Tourism in 2007 in efforts to undo the negative impacts of tourism. Instead of urbanizing a rural society, the initiative found a way to make an income from their traditions. Programmes were conducted to develop souvenirs which were made a part of the village life experience package whereby tourists were encouraged to watch artists at work and try their hand at this native crafts making. A host of awareness campaigns were also held to replant mangroves, to identify new bird reserves and to encourage land owners to restart their paddy cultivation as part of this responsible tourism initiative.



Best Tourism Friendly Golf Course

Jaypee Greens 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.

The 18 hole championship golf course is 7347 yards par 72 with 14 lakes and 89 white bunkers.

With a fleet of 70 well maintained golf carts and 200 well trained English speaking caddies, the immaculately maintained golf course is indeed a golfer's delight. Jaypee Greens has been the venue for a number of national & international golf tournaments. Along with an ISO 9001-2008 & ISO 14001-2004 certification, Jaypee Greens has won a number of awards in the past and has a proven record of a high level of customer satisfaction.



Best Wellness Centre

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



Somatheeram Research Institute & Ayurveda Hospital in Kerala, founded by **Mr. Baby Mathew** in **1985**, is set on a stunning stretch of golden sand and offers authentic Ayurveda programmes with Dosha-specific meals.

Today India's First Ayurveda Resort "Somatheeram" enjoys an unparalleled position for providing high quality traditional Ayurveda, Yoga and Meditation through the well-known brand name **Somatheeram Ayurveda Group**. The Group is taking conscious efforts on overall Health of humanity, Eco-Friendly concept, Environmental preservation and Social responsibility.



Best Medical Tourism Facility

Apollo Health City, Hyderabad



Apollo Health City embarked on its mission of touching lives in the year 1988 (30 years ago). Apollo Health City, Hyderabad comprises of 451 bedded Quaternary care hospitals with Cancer Institute, PET CT Centre, Bone Marrow Transplant Centre, Centre for Kidney, Liver, Heart and Lung Transplants and Robotic surgeries, APOKOS- Rehab center, Nursing School, Nursing College, Institute of Hospital Administration, College of Physiotherapy, PG Medical Education, MBA health care Management, College of Emergency Medicine, Telemedicine, Medvarsity, Stem cell therapy, Preventive care & Life style, Rejuv & Rehabilitation, **community outreach- SAVE A CHILD HEART, SAHI, CURE foundation, Women's health Empowerment & Larngectomee Society.**

The hospital is accredited by **Joint Commission International (JCI) USA.**



Best Film Promotion Friendly State/ UT

Madhya Pradesh



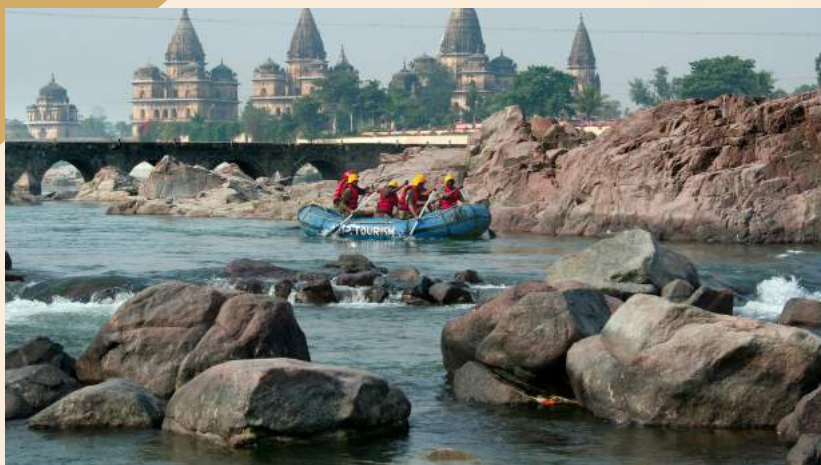
Madhya Pradesh offers a rich diversity in terms of culture and locations, making it a great place for shooting and promoting films. There are nearly 500 picturesque locations in the heartland of India in the form of a sprawling wildlife terrain, Heritage properties, Pilgrimages and leisure spots.

The State's dedicated Film Office/Commission facilitates such projects through a single window clearance with utmost ease and transparency. Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation works as a nodal agency for the same.



Best State for Adventure Tourism

Madhya Pradesh



Madhya Pradesh is home to diverse water bodies, landscapes, jungles, heritage sites and mountainous terrains which make it a perfect place for Adventure sports. In the last few years, efforts have been made by the State Government to promote adventure tourism. Several tourist locations in the state now offer thrilling adventure activities which include Water Sports, Parasailing, Trekking, Rock Climbing, River Rafting, Hot Air Ballooning etc. Moreover, the state with 10 national parks, 25 Wildlife sanctuaries, several rivers, lakes and mighty mountains is also monitoring these activities for safety and regulations.

