



Government of India  
Ministry of Tourism

# NATIONAL TOURISM AWARDS 2010-2011

अतिथिदेवो भव  
Atithidevo Bhava

अतुल्य! भारत  
Incredible! India



## MESSAGE

### Subodh Kant Sahai

Minister for Tourism  
Government of India

Tourism, has developed into one of the world's largest industries and a major engine of economic growth and employment generation in most parts of the world. It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that tourism in India has also witnessed a steady growth, both in terms of Foreign Tourist Arrivals and Foreign Exchange Earnings. However, when compared to the global scenario, the share of India in world tourist arrivals remains at only 0.6%. The objective of my Ministry is to increase India's share in world tourist arrivals to 1% by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan. This would result in achieving 11.37 million Foreign Tourist Arrivals by 2016. Further, the Ministry has targeted 1495.82 million Domestic Tourism Visits by 2016.

One aspect that has adversely impacted tourism in our country, both international and domestic, relates to unsatisfactory hygiene and cleanliness at important tourist destinations. This factor has emerged as a major road-block to full realization of our tourism potential. My Ministry has taken the initiative to put in place a comprehensive strategy to effect cleanliness at tourist destinations under the "Campaign Clean India".

I know that these are tough challenges and involve in many cases change of mindset but we are an industry that excels during difficult times and rises to challenges. I urge all members of the tourism, travel and hospitality industries to put their best foot forward and leave no stone unturned in ensuring that "Incredible India" gets its rightful place as a leading tourism destination in the world.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of the National Tourism Awards 2010-11 and wish them success in their future endeavours.

(Subodh Kant Sahai)





## MESSAGE

**Sultan Ahmed**  
Minister of State for Tourism  
Government of India

The Travel, Tourism and Hospitality sector is one of the most fulfilling service sectors of the economy where one deals with the very idea of fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of the customers and providing an experience that is remembered for lifetime. We, in India have taken this fulfillment of dreams and aspirations into our very ethos from time immemorial with our credo of 'Atithidevo Bhava'.

Each and every organization and individual that has been recognized with the National Tourism Awards this year has contributed in their own ways to the promotion and development of Tourism in India.

The Ministry of Tourism is encouraging the innovativeness and resilience of the industry by providing policy direction and promotional support through its various schemes and policies. I would also like to take this opportunity to make a special mention of the various States and Union Territory administrations that are making extra efforts in developing new destinations as well as providing infrastructure and promotional inputs, thus complementing the efforts of our Ministry.

I congratulate the winners of the National Tourism Awards as well as extend my heartiest felicitations to all our colleagues in the Tourism industry and hope that this year would continue to bring more laurels to Incredible India.

(Sultan Ahmed)





## MESSAGE

**R.H. Khwaja**

Secretary  
Government of India  
Ministry of Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism has consistently striven for promoting Safe, Honourable and Sustainable Tourism in the country. We work in very close synergy with all stakeholders in the Travel, Tour and Hospitality Industry. It is this synergy which has enabled our country to unceasingly strive for improving its level of hospitality to visitors in the true spirit of “Atithidevo Bhava”.

National Tourism Awards are acknowledged as the standard bearer of outstanding achievements and recognition of tourism industry stakeholders in the country. Ministry of Tourism aims at complete objectivity and transparency while assessing the relative merits of awardees. It is extremely gratifying that our joint efforts with stakeholders of hospitality sector serve as a standard motivation to achieve higher levels of performance culminating in the ultimate recognition of winning the National Tourism Awards. Let us all continue to work together in the spirit of **one family, one vision, one mission – the spirit of Indian Tourism.**

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

(R.H. Khwaja)



# **BEST STATE/ UNION TERRITORY : COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM**

**Rest of India - First Prize**

**Madhya Pradesh**



Madhya Pradesh is known as the heart of Incredible India not only because of its geographical location but it is also a home of heritage, culture and wildlife. The State has touched new heights during the year 2010 -11 with an annual revenue growth rate exceeding 20% in consecutive years.

The highly creative promotional campaigns on T.V, Radio and in the print media have also attracted nationwide attention. The State is today one of the leading destinations in India with respect to Investment in Tourism Infrastructure, Inbound and Domestic Tourism.

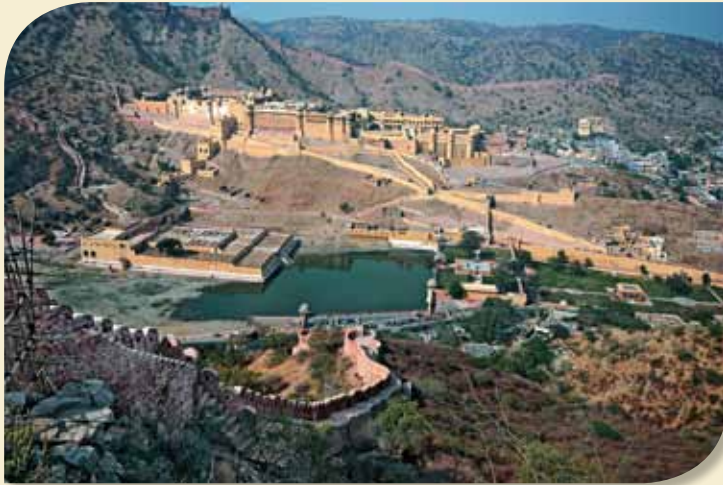
The performance on the tourism infrastructure development front is even more striking. The State has introduced Caravan Tourism and Intra State Air Connectivity.



# BEST STATE/ UNION TERRITORY : COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

Rest of India - Second Prize

Rajasthan



Folklore of heroism and romance resound from the formidable monuments that majestically stand to tell the tale of a bygone era. The magic of vibrant Rajasthan – its rich heritage, colorful culture, exciting desert safaris, shining sand-dunes, amazing variety, lush forests and varied wildlife – make it a destination nonpareil. Rajasthan is often portrayed as one vast open-air museum, with its relics so well preserved that it delights even the most skeptical traveller.

Major tourist places and monuments have been spruced up or renovated. Historical monuments like Jantar Mantar Jaipur, Amber, Kumbhalgarh and Chittor have been beautified and light & sound shows, floodlights etc. have been started to add value to the site seeing. Jantar Mantar or observatory has already been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Other monuments in fact are on their way to become world class monuments and models for rest or such heritage properties to emulate.

Rajasthan is also known as land of most colorful fairs & festivals in the country. To further augment its appeal and charm Rajasthan Tourism has upped the scale of these festivals by making them more interesting and captivating.





## **BEST STATE/ UNION TERRITORY : COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM**

**North East and Jammu & Kashmir**

**Sikkim**

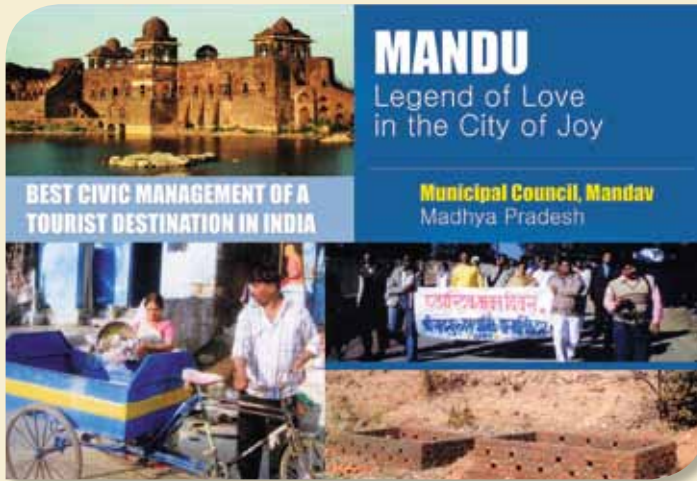


Sikkim, the land of Peace and Tranquility, is situated in North Eastern India sharing three international borders nestled in the lap of Mt Khanchendzonga which Sikkim reveres as the Guardian Deity. One of the 26 bio-diversity hotspots of the world, it is a veritable treasure house of some of the world's most beautiful streams, lakes and waterfalls, flora and fauna. With a rich and diverse Culture, fairs & festivals are celebrated throughout the year. Tourism products with unique mix of nature, culture and adventure offer the visitors an indelible experience of the Sikkimese way of life. With such exciting terrains ranging from 800 ft to 28,208 ft, Sikkim, the Himalayan essence, remains embossed in every memory.



# BEST CIVIC MANAGEMENT OF A TOURIST DESTINATION

Municipal Council of Mandav (Mandu)  
Madhya Pradesh



The work done by Municipal Council of Mandav (Mandu), District Dhar, in Madhya Pradesh is dedicated to the overall development of the city. The Council performs with active participation of local community and civic bodies. It has intermittently taken focused initiatives for the improvement and development of Mandav. The Council is not only generating awareness to keep the city clean and green but at the same time creating a high level of awareness about eco-preservation amongst the general masses. The historical and religious aspects of Mandav throw a different set of challenges and problems and the Mandav Municipal Council effectively meets those challenges to create a world class environment.





# BEST HERITAGE CITY

## Hyderabad



### Conservation Efforts in Hyderabad: Linking Past to Present

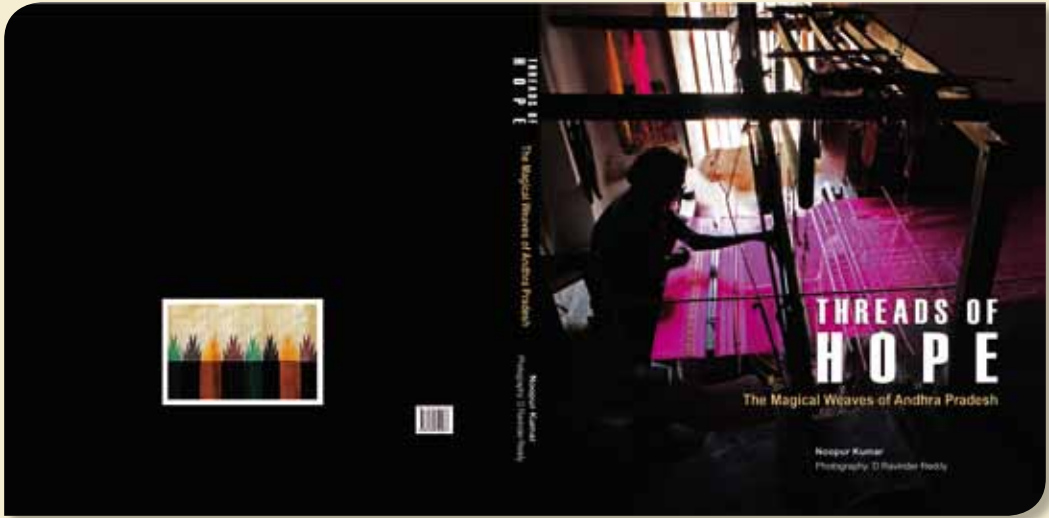
Hyderabad, a city of palaces and minarets, is undergoing rapid urbanization and development, fulfilling the growing city's demands. Responsibility of maintaining a link between the past and present lies on the citizens of today. The city has transformed a lot since the Asaf Jahi rule to the present day. The efforts to save the Built and the Natural Heritage need to be appreciated and constant efforts are required to link the history to the future of the city now.



# EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHING

English

## Threads of Hope The Magical Weaves of Andhra Pradesh



‘Threads of Hope – The Magical Weaves of Andhra Pradesh’ documents the craft of handloom weaving in Andhra Pradesh. The state has the largest concentration of weavers in India, second only to Tamil Nadu, and after agriculture, weaving remains the main source of livelihood here. From the exquisite Kalamkari to the melange of colours at Mangalagiri, Narayanpet, Dharmavaram, Venkatagiri, Ponduru, Gadwal, Uppada and many more, the book is a leisurely stroll through the vast repertoire of magical weaves that Andhra Pradesh offers to the world.

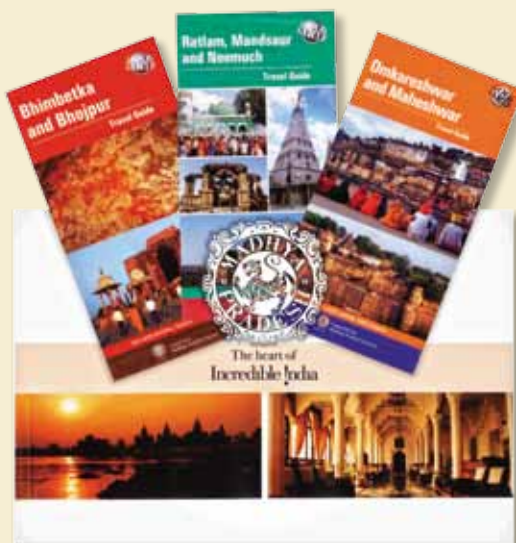
The author Noopur Kumar is a freelance writer and author of the book, ‘Hyderabad – Portrait of a City’. The photography has been done by the acclaimed photo-journalist, D Ravinder Reddy, whose works have featured in numerous national and international journals.



# BEST TOURISM PROMOTION PUBLICITY MATERIAL

(States and Union Territories)

Madhya Pradesh Tourism



Over the years, Madhya Pradesh Tourism has been acknowledged for its high – quality publicity materials. The photographs stand out and speak for the destinations. The layout and design is also done in keeping the brand identity of the state.

The travel guides on – ‘Bhojpur - Bhimbetka’, ‘Maheshwar - Omkareshwar’ and ‘Ratlam – Neemuch - Mandasaur’ apart from being a very handy and compact resource are also a treasure trove of relevant information packed in pocket size books.

The MPT Corporate Booklet is a compilation of the facilities available at the various properties of Madhya Pradesh Tourism.



## BEST TOURISM PROMOTION PUBLICITY MATERIAL

(States and Union Territories) - Special Prize

### Himachal Pradesh Tourism



Himachal Pradesh, the Land of Gods, is one of the most favourite vacation destinations of India. Its high mountains, snow-covered peaks, beautiful green hills, mesmerizing valleys make it all the more amazing for an ardent traveller. The state offers breathtaking scenery and four seasons of exciting activities from climbing and hiking to skiing, shopping and romancing.

Himachal Pradesh has introduced a scheme for the promotion of rural areas “Har Gaon Ki Kahani” involving the local stakeholders by way of publishing the unending streams of stories, fables, tales and enchanting folklores so as to develop the destinations finding a mention in these sagas.



## BEST TOURISM FILM

“MP Ajab Hai, Sabse Gajab Hai”  
Madhya Pradesh Tourism



‘MP Ajab Hai, Sabse Gajab Hai’ is a unique and innovative advertisement film by Madhya Pradesh Tourism produced by ‘Ogilvy & Mather’ using the art of Shadowgraphy. Through this remarkable effort, Madhya Pradesh Tourism has been able to enliven an ancient art, now on the verge of being extinct. Popular tourist destinations of Madhya Pradesh have been depicted amazingly in this film, bringing out the true essence of the State. Encapsulating every facet of the State, the film reveals the unmatched diverse experiences the State offers to its visitors in the form of art, culture, nature, religion and history.





# MOST INNOVATIVE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

[www.keralatourism.org](http://www.keralatourism.org)



The website [www.keralatourism.org](http://www.keralatourism.org) has been planned and developed as an authentic source of information on the State of Kerala. The site is available in different international and national languages.

Annually, the website gets 28 lakh visits and its brand channels gets 32 lakh video views. The monthly online newsletter as part of this website goes to more than one lakh people.

The website features Video, Photo and Audio galleries, Virtual Reality Movies, Royalty-free contents and Five-year Festival Calendar. It also offers various user-friendly facilities like Intelligent Itinerary Planner, Online Reservation, Online Hotel finder, Online C-form submission, Online Accreditation for industry partners, Royalty-free content for

promotion and Message-board for interaction between travellers and travel industry etc.

Kerala Tourism also implemented various innovative projects like live web cast and documentation of festivals, social media campaigns and various digital content generation for destination promotion.





## **MOST INNOVATIVE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(Special Prize)**

[www.hornbillfestival.com](http://www.hornbillfestival.com)



*Dr. Yan Murry and Mhathung Murry (R)*

Hornbillfestival.com was developed at a time when proper information on Hornbill Festival of Nagaland was not available on the internet. During the year 2011, the website received visitors from 85 countries. Each year, the website responds to hundreds of enquiries from tourists wishing to visit the festival. With time, the website started providing various online services to tourists based on their requirements.

The website has played a major role in spreading awareness about the Hornbill bird which is facing extinction and was awarded the eNorthEast Award 2011 in the 'Tourism & Environment' category.

Dr. Yan Murry and Mr. Mhathung Murry hail from Wokha district in Nagaland. They are partners at Naga Web Solutions - the firm which developed Hornbillfestival.com.



## BEST HERITAGE WALK

Delhi Tourism and Transportation  
Development Corporation Ltd.



Most Indian Cities with a long history are a result of centuries of growth in the course of which new elements are juxtaposed with the older ones. The older areas of the city represent the history, tradition, heritage and culture, architecture and local craftsmanship and so they should be looked upon as assets. There is a need to make the citizens aware of the importance of their environment and help them to develop a harmonious relationship with it. In this regard heritage walks help to draw the citizens and tourists into areas of rich cultural and architectural heritage and help them relate to the historic parts of the city in a more personal and intimate manner.

In an attempt to increase citizen awareness and drawing attraction of tourists in the key historic areas of Delhi, INTACH Delhi

Chapter initiated the concept of organizing heritage walks in regular manner in the year 2005 with the support of Delhi Tourism. The Heritage Walks are being organised at almost all the historical zones of Delhi.



## **BEST AIRPORT**

**(Class X Cities)**

### **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad**



Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad is located around 25 kms from Hyderabad city. Built to handle 40 million passengers per annum, the Airport is also designed for New Large Aircrafts (NLA), including the Airbus A380. Hyderabad city has the potential to become the gateway of the country. Hyderabad has less than two hours of flying time to all major Indian metro cities and 3 to 5 hours flying time to Middle East and South-East Asian countries. Taking advantage of the rapidly expanding Indian aviation sector and leveraging Hyderabad's strategic location, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Hyderabad has well established the city of Hyderabad prominently on the global aviation map, thereby contributing to the prosperity, growth and all round economic development of the region.



## BEST RESPONSIBLE TOURISM PROJECT

Empowerment of Women through Literacy India & Fair Trade -  
Kuoni Travel (India) Pvt. Limited



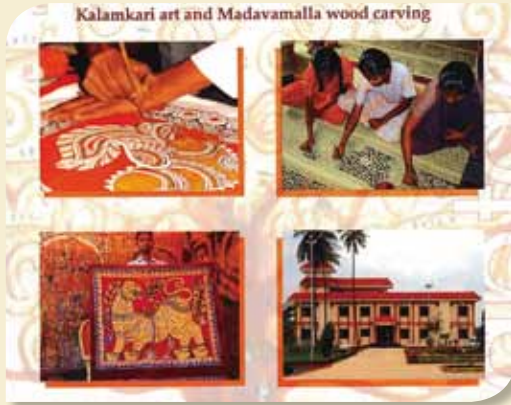
*Mr. Dipak Deva  
(CEO Destination Management,  
India & South Asia)*

Kuoni Travel India Pvt Ltd, Destination Management's strategic approach in Corporate Responsibility is to integrate social and ecological issues in business processes and so coordinate to economic success in the long term. The Company has tied up with a non-profit organization, Literacy India as an extension of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative with the objective of empowering underprivileged children and women by making them self-sufficient. Literacy India is a part of the Fair Trade Forum in India which Kuoni promotes as well for its travel. Kuoni's other Corporate Responsibility initiatives include Child Protection, climate change, supply chain management and human rights in the tourism industry, at a global level.



# BEST RURAL TOURISM PROJECT

Srikalahasti, Andhra Pradesh



Andhra Pradesh, considered the “Essence of Incredible India”, has great diversity and richness of tourist destinations. Government of Andhra Pradesh has developed a Craft Centre, a Rural Tourism Project at Srikalahasti with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Tourism, Government India. This project cherishes, houses and promotes the world class arts & artifacts of Andhra Pradesh i.e., Kalamkari paintings (refers to the art of hand-painting using pen / stylus and vegetable colours on cloth); Wood Carving (refers to carving by hand of different figures/ pictures on wood using basic implements – locally called “Koyya Bommala Thayyari”) etc. As part of Capacity Building - DRDA, Chittoor district has taken up the soft skill training program for artisans through tourism. A committee is formed to train in operating and maintaining the existing unit and to explain the process of Kalamkari Art and Madavamalla Wood Carving. APTDC has developed a restaurant and accommodation block which are being operated & maintained by the trained local community. More than 1178 artisans have already benefited with the project directly. The Government in association with the DRDA and the artisans work together to promote the craft centre through brochures, website and by representing in fairs & festivals within India and abroad.





## **MOST INNOVATIVE AND UNIQUE TOURISM PROJECT**

**(Joint Winner)**

Black Beauties of Rewari- Steam Heritage Destination  
DRM, Delhi Division, Northern Railways



The historic run of the Fairy Queen on the 17th October, 1997 culminated in setting a Guinness world record and brought focus on steam locomotives. Rewari Steam Loco Shed was thereafter planned as a centre for preserving the heritage of steam railways for posterity.

The Rewari shed has, in the last two years, undergone a metamorphosis. A dilapidated structure with decaying engines has with a lot of hard work, commitment, focus and vision transformed into the finest steam locomotive shed of the world, and also perhaps the finest steam heritage tourism destination in the world with nine working steam locomotives and various tourist facilities. This is also an exemplary example of creation of a new world class tourist destination.





# MOST INNOVATIVE AND UNIQUE TOURISM PROJECT

(Joint Winner)

Pilgrim-cum-Cultural Centre at Solophok, Sikkim -  
Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim



*Statue of Lord Shiva*



*Replica of Jagannath Dham*

The Pilgrimage-cum-Cultural Centre at Solophok aims at promoting Religious Tourism, coupled with Village and Eco tourism.

Sikkim has been an abode of peace and exemplary harmony among the people of different faiths. The land is blessed by the Guru Padmasambhava and its air vibrates with the spiritual essence of Great Masters. To bestow on the visitors, this spiritual fervor, this project was envisioned by the Government of Sikkim.

This unique Pilgrim-cum-Cultural Centre has a main temple of 108 feet height on which is based the 87 feet high statue of Lord Shiva in the sitting posture at the Solophok hill. Replicas of four dhams, Jagannath, Rameswaram, Dwarka and Badrinath, twelve Jyotirlingas, offer one platform for Shiva devotees along with Nandi bull, Sai Dwar, Sai Temple, Kirat Dwar, Kirateshwar Statue and Shiv Dwar.

The entire area has a nice landscaping, tree plantation and gardens.



## BEST WELLNESS CENTRE

### Somatheeram Ayurvedic Hospital and Yoga Centre, Kovalam



Somatheeram Ayurvedic Hospital & Yoga Centre Pvt. Ltd., a unit of Somatheeram Health Group, is managed by Dr. Polly Mathew Arampankudy, Chairman & Managing Director, and Mr James P. Arampankudy, Joint Managing Director. It's the first Ayurvedic resort in India and it is located at the seaside near Kovalam in Kerala.

Established in 1989, the Centre has been awarded the “Green Leaf Classification” by the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala. The resort offers 66 bungalows resembling the traditional Kerala architecture. Somatheeram’s national and international guests enjoy genuine Ayurvedic treatments under the supervision of an expert team of Ayurvedic doctors and more than 70 therapists.

Somatheeram also conducts certificate courses on Panchakarma therapy in association with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).



## TOURIST FRIENDLY RAILWAY STATION

### New Delhi Railway Station



The premier railway station of the capital, the New Delhi Railway Station was opened in 1924 as a wayside station and was formally inaugurated on the 16th April 1956 as a single platform station. This station that witnessed the pomp & grandeur of the last chapters of the colonial India now handles almost three hundred passenger trains and over five lakh passengers everyday.

During the last two years, this station has witnessed a metamorphosis, in terms of its infrastructure, aesthetics, passenger amenities and tourist facilities. These improvements have added a new dimension to this already very popular and important station of the capital.

The New Delhi Railway Station has now emerged as a major lifeline for tourists under the proper care and custody of the Delhi Division of Northern Railways.



# MEDICAL TOURISM FACILITY

## Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune



*Mr. Bomi Bhote*



*Mr. Sachin Dandawate*



Ruby Hall Clinic (a charitable trust) had a humble beginning when the founder chairman Padmabhushan Dr. K.B. Grant, started a 2 bedded nursing home in 1959.

Today, the hospital boasts of 550 beds, including 130 Intensive Care beds, with 500 panel Doctors and 1500 staff. It was the first hospital in Pune to receive NABH & NABL Accreditations by Quality Council of India.

The Department of Medical Tourism was started three years ago providing complete end to end services for overseas patients. It is the first hospital to perform complex Cardiac Surgeries in Lagos, Nigeria and has done more than 50 Bone Marrow Transplants for Overseas patients.



## BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM UK

M/s TUI Travel PLC, UK



*Mr. Ripan Dhawan*



*Mr. Deepak Bhatnagar*

TUI Travel PLC is one of the world's leading leisure travel companies, active in 180 countries, with over 250 trusted brands, 200 products and more than 30 million customers. It employs approximately 53,000 people operating from 31 key source markets worldwide. The group operates a pan European Airline consisting of 155 aircraft and owns about 3500 retail shops plus more than 100 brands of Tour Operators.

From the most popular holiday brands to an unparalleled collection of specialist travel providers, TUI offers a wide range of experiences and expertise for every conceivable type of traveller. TUI Travel entered India in 2005 with a joint venture agreement with Le Passage to India demonstrating their focused strategy for India.



# BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM NORTH AMERICA

Indus Travels Inc, Canada



*Mr. Praveen Syal*

Indus Travels is devoted to bringing the best in both quality and value to custom tours to India. The company concentrates on designing tours that introduce travellers to the amazing complexity of culture and environment. It strives to offer these tours at unbeatable prices and with unparalleled comfort. Its itineraries cater to travellers looking for both small groups and highly personalized, flexible travel experience. Most of the tours are private and can be customized to the client's interests.





## BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM EUROPE

M/s Kuoni Europe



*Mr. Stefan Leser - Executive Vice-President,  
CEO Emerging Markets & Specialists Division*

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

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



## **BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM WEST ASIA & AFRICA**

**M/s Lama Desert Tourism (LCC),  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates**



*Mr. Kulwant Singh*

Lama Tours is a reputed and professionally managed Destination Management Company in Dubai, UAE established in the year 1997. It is a part of the Lama Group that is diversified into various business sectors.

Lama Holidays LLC, a division of LAMA Group organizes wide range of customized tours to individual and group travellers to all over India.

Lama is also an active partner in various promotional tie ups and marketing activities promoting India worldwide. With the operation of the first time ever desert safari experience in India, the company is making INDIA as the leading destination.



# BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM EAST ASIA

M/s H I S Co. Ltd, Japan



*Mr. Akira Hirabayashi*  
*President*



*Mr. Noriaki Koga*  
*India branch*

I would like express my sincere appreciation on behalf of H.I.S. Co. Ltd to know that H.I.S. was rewarded as the best overseas tour operator for 2011 too.

India is a country that is rapidly realizing its tourism industry with evidence of a growing economy. This positive growth definitely is very encouraging and vital to promote “Incredible India” further in the year to come.

India’s positive growth in Japanese and International arrivals in recent year and more added capacity in to India/Japan routes by Air India and Japan Airlines is another positive factor for long term sustainability of our expansion project in Indian market.

I am sure 2012 will be more promising for India and H.I.S. as well, your continuous efforts and support for H.I.S. India will be highly appreciated.

In conclusion, once again thank you (Arigatou, Shukhriya) for the prestigious award and we will continue our every efforts to grow together.

*Akira Hirabayashi*



## BEST OVERSEAS TOUR OPERATOR TO INDIA FROM AUSTRALIA

M/s Adventure World, Australia



*Mr. Andrew Mulholland*

For over 30 years, Adventure World has been crafting holidays for Australians to India. The company takes great pride in sharing their experience with their clients to create holidays that allow them to discover the truly amazing destination that is India. The company sees fantastic continuing growth opportunities for India as a leisure travel destination as it offers so many different kinds of experience for travellers from its world renowned and diverse cuisine, historical and religious sites to people who are very passionate about their culture and so willing to share this incredible destination with visitors.



## BEST OVERSEAS CHARTER OPERATOR FOR INDIA

M/s Pegas Touristik, Russia



*Mr. Abdullah Cankaya  
Dy General Director*

Pegas Touristik is one of the largest operator in Russia which completed its 16th year in Russian Tourism business life with a volume of 1.5 million people per year. Pegas started to operate to India (Goa) in 2004 with 900 passengers and in 2011 had gone up to 34219 passengers not only to Goa, also extension tours to North India (Agra, Delhi, Jaipur). It is the first operator to have direct flights not only from Moscow or Saint Petersburg but also from Ufa, Samara, Perm, Novosibirsk, Rostov on Don, Yekaterinburg and Orenburg.



## BEST FOREIGN JOURNALIST FOR INDIA

Mr. Eric Hiss, USA



Eric Hiss regularly navigates the world in search of off-the-beaten path, unexpected and enlightening stories. In a career spanning two decades, he has written for more than 40 publications and blogs about everything from Bollywood’s film industry to Icelandic pop bands. He also accomplished what many consider an impossible feat (at least according to an Eighties song), he wrote a guidebook about walks throughout his hometown of Los Angeles.

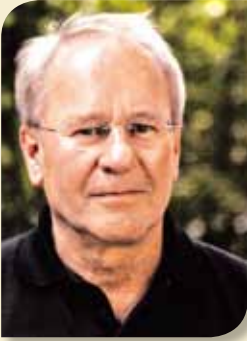
The Spa magazine article “Passage to India” at its heart was inspired by a memorable first trip to India a decade ago. The trip encompassed everything from daily meditations along the Ganges during Shivarathri, to a tiger sighting in Panna National Park, to dinner at swank restaurants in New Delhi.



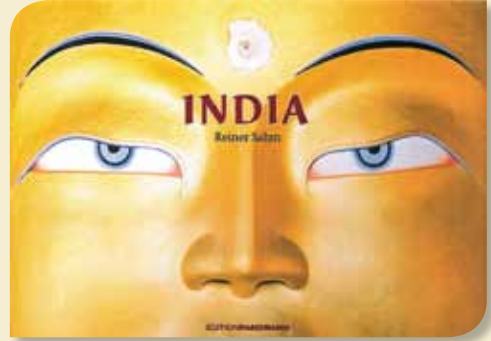


## BEST FOREIGN PHOTOGRAPHER FOR INDIA

Mr Reiner Sahn, Germany



*Mr Reiner Sahn*



Reiner Sahn first travelled to Rajasthan and since then wider-ranging journeys followed throughout the whole country. The attraction of the atmosphere of India has never released its hold on him. He is particularly interested in the country's past, which is reflected in the architecture, the customs of the people and their festivals. This illustrated volume presents impressively composed images of architecture and landscape panoramas from all parts of the country, which reveal the incomparable cultural wealth of a country in which the world religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism were all founded.



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

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



# TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category I - Second Prize

M/s. Select World Tours (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



*Mr. Arjun Sharma*

The conglomerate SWT - Le Passage to India is India's premiere Travel Management Group, headquartered in New Delhi. The group consists of several SBUs and niche brands to cater to the various aspects of travel. It has a network of 22 owned offices, 15 International Representative Offices and 3 Strategic International Alliances in Japan, Nepal and Bhutan. The company prides itself on exceptional service, innovative niche products and high quality trips that extend to every aspect of travel.

The company with 700 professionals offers the best service and experience to the tourists.



# TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category I - Third Prize

M/s. Thomas Cook (India) Ltd., Mumbai



*Mr. Madhavan Menon*

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd backed by its pioneering legacy of more than 130 years of India operations, is the largest integrated travel and travel related financial services company in the country, offering a broad spectrum of services including Foreign Exchange, Corporate Travel, MICE, Leisure Travel, Insurance, Visa & Passport services and E-Business.

Travel Corporation (India) Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of Thomas Cook (India) Ltd, is India's premier destination management company and specializes in incentive and special interest tours, conferences, air charter and cruise ship ground operations, while investing in eco responsible and socially aware tourism.



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category II - First Prize

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



*Mr. Rohit Kohli*

Established in 1977, Creative Travel is today amongst India's largest private and family owned Destination Management Companies. Their attention to detail and creativity in planning is fostered by the independence given by family ownership which gives them an inherent advantage in quality control, continuity in projects and accountability.

Backed by a team of over 135 professionals and a footprint covering all of India and the region, the company has earned a reputation for being amongst India's most quality conscious travel companies.



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category II - Second Prize

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



*Mr. Vikram Madhok  
Managing Director*

Abercrombie & Kent has been in India for almost three decades now. The company is committed to provide travel experiences that enhance and change lives by delivering special moments in peerless comfort and style with unparalleled value and expertise. Its network spans the country.





## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category III - First Prize

M/s. Trail Blazer Tours India Pvt. Ltd., Noida



*Mr. Jehangir N. Katgara, CMD*

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

Today, TBi, as it is popularly known, has over 275 professionals at 14 offices across the country and an international presence in Canada, USA, Australia, Belgium, South Korea and China through its representatives who work closely with local tour operators and destination management companies.

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



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category III - Second Prize

M/s. Orient Express Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



*Mr. Kanti Poddar*

Established on 26th September, 1947, Orient Express Travels & Tours is the oldest tourism company of India - has many "Firsts" to its credit, namely:-

- First Tourism company to diversify into Hotel business when it built Five Star Deluxe Hotel Chandela at Khajuraho.
- It is the only company which received national and international acclaim for having brought Khajuraho and Shekhawati on World Tourism Map.
- Only company whose Founder has been honoured by the Government by naming main town square of Khajuraho "Shyam Poddar Chowk".
- First tourism company which was honoured by Govt. of India for having organized a unique celebration called "Khajuraho Millennium".



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category III - Third Prize

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



*Mr. H.S. Duggal*



*Mr. P.S. Duggal*

Incorporated in 1992, Minar with a dedicated team of professionals has moved forward with clear understanding that growth will come from new and non-traditional markets. With representations in Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran, Spain and Portugal, the company takes pride in presenting to the world a brand with quality, technology and innovation serving million of tourists from FIT's to charter movements.

Minar is a member of international and national travel trade associations like ASTA, PATA, IGLTA, IATO and TAAI.



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category IV - First Prize

M/s. Top Travel & Tours Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



*Mr. R.K. Mathur*

*“Awards always inspire us to strive for excellence and maintain the recognition in coming years.”*

The recognition from the Ministry of Tourism in the form of First Position for prestigious National Tourism Award - Category IV, too is an inspiration for us. This award is an encouragement for us to continue providing topmost service and tourism products to the tourists who want to explore the world. It will be the ‘Sixth’ time that our efforts have been recognised in our journey of 27 years. We are humbled to receive this Award and will strive to maintain the top standards set by us.

*R.K. Mathur*



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category IV - Second Prize

M/s. Travel INN (India) Private Limited, New Delhi



*Mr. Ravi S. Kalra*

Travel Inn (India) Pvt Ltd is a tour operating company for over 25 years reaching travellers from all across the globe. They run tours for a host of operators across India, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet.

Ravi Kalra has been with the Indian tourism industry for the last 35 years. Over the years, Ravi and Gurmeet Kalra have passionately established Travel Inn as a trusted brand in wildlife, culture, adventure and high end luxury segments.



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category IV - Third Prize

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



*Mr. Bharat Atree*

Caper Travel Company is an Inbound Travel Solution Company who promote India as destination worldwide inducing travellers from across the Globe to Visit India. Since its inception in 1998, It has been growing at a fast pace aspiring to emerge as one of the foremost travel companies in India .The very fact that we are a young company, we are open to new ideas, flexible & adaptable to our clients needs.

It is a group of young, energetic and enthusiastic team of professionals headed by young and dynamic leader Mr. Bharat Atree with a combined field experience of over 5 decades. The company would also like to credit much of heady success to its corporate philosophy-” Atithidevo Bhava”.





# TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category v - First Prize

M/s. Kash' Venture Travels Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



*Mr. Mohan Tickoo (MD) & Mr. Ravi Tickoo (DO)*

Established in 1985, Kash' Venture Travels (KVT) has grown successfully over the past two decades as a leading service provider of Culture, Adventure and Special interest tours across India. KVT is a professional, reliable and ecologically responsible travel company with highest standards of customer service, safety and satisfaction. Although, the company's programs feature "off the beaten track" highlights and places that are carefully chosen to add value and enrich the travel experience there are constantly researching and promoting new routes and destinations, which over the years have proved overwhelming successes.

Committed to sustainable tourism practices, a Responsible Tourism Policy is integrated into all aspects of company's operations and is also directly involved in conservation initiatives and community programs in some of India's key tourism impact areas.



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category v - Second Prize

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



*Mr. Vikas Abbott*

Vasco Travel, is owned and managed by the Abbott Family which has been a part of the Indian Tourism Industry since three generations. The vast experience is reflected not only in the inbound tour services but also across the entire gamut of services. They specialize in corporate service whereby they cater to the smallest requirements of their clients. The company has grown not only, in terms of turnover and revenues but also in terms of the product variety. on the inbound tourism front, the company has the experties to organise tour not only in India but the entire sub-continent.



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category v - Third Prize

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



*Ms. Shanti Kohli - Managing Director*

Amber Tours Pvt. Ltd. was founded in 1972 by late Mr. Avinash Chander Kohli and since its inception Amber Tours goal has been to provide quality Tourism with emphasis on Leisure, Cultural, Monumental and Adventure Tourism in which Mr. Kohli pioneered the concept of White Water Rafting in the country in 1976 and established the first Rafting Camp on the Ganga above Rishikesh.

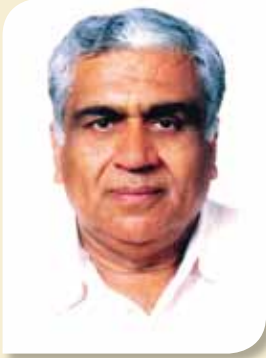
With over 39 years in business, Amber Tours is presently run by the second generation headed by Shanti Kohli and Naveen Kohli who continue to follow the traditions set by Mr. Kohli to provide Luxury Travel for their Inbound Tourists.



# TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category VI - First Prize

M/s. Shikhar Travels (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



*Capt. Swadesh Kumar*



*Ms. Meenakshi Prabhakar*

Shikhar Travels, a leading travel company in India, established in 1979, has experience of 33 years and the infrastructure to look after both individuals and Groups.

Having started as an Adventure tour operator, the company is specialized in mountaineering and trekking expeditions. It undertakes a variety of activities like: Camel Safaris, Jeep Safaris, Bicycle Tours, Wildlife Tours and River Cruises. It organizes conferences, educational tours, Luxury Travel, Incentive tours, Pilgrimage and Cultural tours. Its services include ticketing and car coach rental.



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category VI - Second Prize

M/s Welcome Travels, New Delhi



*Mr. Ramesh Wattal*

Welcome Travels a unit of Welcome Destinations Pvt. Ltd, is an elite Destination Management Company headquartered in New Delhi, organizing Cultural and special interest holidays across the Subcontinent, while promoting responsible and sustainable tourism.

With high quality service and innovative ideas, the team of seasoned professionals make sure the holiday experiences in India are unforgettable.



## TRAVEL AGENT/INBOUND TOUR OPERATOR

Category VI - Third Prize

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



*Mr. Surpal Singh Deora and Mr. Vineet Chauhan*

Maxxfun Holidays is one of the premier tour operators based in Delhi providing personalized services to a select clientele. The company believes in offering the most exotic and unique destinations to travellers.

The company is involved in various special interest tours other than the regular tour packages to India namely Tribal Tours, Art & Painting Tours, Cancer Awareness to Rural Rajasthan on motor bikes, International Leadership Seminars at Metro cities, Heritage Hotels Tours, Vintage Car Tour, Destination Weddings and many more activities which falls in unusual India tours categories.

It has been growing with a very professional team of tourism management from the premier institutes of India.





# TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

Category I - First Prize

M/s. Mercury Car Rentals Limited, New Delhi



*Mr. Sunil Gupta, CEO*

“We are delighted to receive the prestigious National Tourism Award and are thankful to the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

This motivates us to redouble our endeavors in providing the highest international quality of service to our customers, based on continuous investment in technology, training and fleet. This enables us to provide best-in-class services focused on reliability, safety & compliances.

*Sunil Gupta*



## TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

Category I - Second Prize

M/s. Bakshi Transport Service Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



*Mr. G. S. Sawhney*  
(Managing Director)



*Mr. K. S. Sawhney*  
(Exec. Director)

Once again the Blessings of our “Bade Sardarji” Sd. Gurbachan Singh Sawhney has succeeded in igniting the passion to provide perfect services to all “Travellers /Tourists” by virtue of providing our latest fleet of Volvos - with all facilities, Luxury AC & Mini Coaches with Air Suspension, Small & Large Luxury Cars of all types.

*K. S. Sawhney*



## TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

Category I - Third Prize

M/s. KTC (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



*Mr. Sarabjit Singh*

KTC (India) Pvt. Ltd, formerly known as Karachi Taxi Company, was established in 1943. KTC is one of the oldest tourism organizations in India. It caters to the tourist requirements with a large fleet of luxury cars and coaches of various models. Over the years, KTC has acquired a reputation of being a service oriented company.



## TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

Category II - First Prize

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



*Mr. Deepak Gupta, CEO*

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



## TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

Category II - Second Prize

M/s. Ex-Soldiers Tourist Taxi Service, New Delhi



*Mr. Baldev Singh Bal*

After Serving Indian Army, in the year 1968, I started my business under the name M/s Ex-Soldiers Tourist Taxi Service. Since then I am putting all efforts for the success of my business. As a result today Ex-Soldiers Tourist Taxi Service is one of the leading tourist transporters of Delhi and Northern India. We are operating with a fleet of all types of luxury cars and coaches both Indian and Imported.

Our mission is to provide satisfactory services to our clients and have long lasting business relationship with them based on my commitment.

*Baldev Singh Bal*



## TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

Category II - Third Prize

M/s. Alwar Tourist Transport Service, New Delhi



*Mr. Krishan Dutt Yadav  
(Proprietor)*



*Mr. Prashant Yadav*

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





## TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

Category II - First Prize

M/s. Touraids (I) Travel Services, Agra



*Mr. Ashok Kumar Jain*  
Chairman



*Ms. Usha Jain*  
Director

Established in 1986 with three Cars and one Coach, presently the company owns one of the largest fleet of Cars and Coaches having network offices at Agra, Gwalior, Jhansi, Khajuraho, Varanasi and Jaipur with total strength of more than 300 tourism professionals and committed staff and serves the clients with total dedication and commitment. It is the first company to introduce safety belts in all the coaches and individual branding of the Destination Management Companies.



## TOURIST TRANSPORT OPERATOR

Category II - Second Prize

M/s. Shreya Travels, Nagpur



*Capt. Vijay Kamal Golchha, CEO*

M/s Shreya Travels, Nagpur was founded by Proprietor Smt. Manisha Vijay Golchha along with CEO Capt. Vijay Kamal Golchha in the year 1994. Over the years, “Shreya Travels, Nagpur” has grown to become one of the leading Tourist Transport Operator in Central India, catering to the needs and requirements of each and every category of domestic and foreign tourists, Corporates and Multi-national Companies.



## DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

Rest of India - First Prize

M/s. Choudhary Yatra Co. Pvt. Ltd., Nashik



*Mr. Premchand  
Choudhary*



*Mr. Chaturbhuj  
Choudhary*



*Mr. Mahendrapal  
Choudhary*



*Mr. Brijmohan  
Choudhary*

During last 29 years the company has served more than 12 lakh pilgrims by organising Economical package tours to various religious, historical and tourist places in India with Nepal.

The company organises tours through latest Luxury Buses including Trains and Flight with lodging & boarding. The company owned a fleet of 35 AC & 40 Non AC Tourist Buses.



## DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

Rest of India - Second Prize

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



*Mr. E.R.C. Panicker*  
Chairman



*Mr. Babu Panicker*  
Managing Director

Panicker's Travel (India ) Pvt. Ltd, an ISO: 9001-2008 Certified Company is one of the leading and oldest Tour operators and Travel Agents in India. Founded in 1966 by Mr. E.R.C Panicker, having its head office at New Delhi .The Company has grown from strength to strength, winning numerous awards and has a loyal customer base throughout India and abroad. Being a truly independent company, Panicker's Travel provides unbiased first hand advice helping to get the right holiday destination and accommodation to suit their respective needs.

Panicker's Travel is one of the first tour operators to have introduced website in India offering Real-time booking for sight seeing and package tours.



## DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

Rest of India - Third Prize

M/s. Rao Travels (Regd.), New Delhi



*Mr. Survepalli  
Subba Rao*



*Mr. S. Srinivas Rao*



*Mr. P Sudhakar Rao*

Rao Travels was estd. in 1977 by Shri. Survepalli Subba Rao as a domestic tour operating company with focus on budget tours with high end fleet of luxury cars & coaches. In terms of USP the company promises abides on 5 principles - Reliability, Punctuality, comfort, safety and moderate pricing to suit every budget.



## DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

Promoting Jammu & Kashmir

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



*Mr. A.K Mohan, Mr. A.V. Rao and Mr. A.V. Praveen*

Southern Travels Pvt. Ltd. started 4 decades ago with network of offices in Metropolitan cities in India. The company introduced latest model Volvo coaches and cars to their fleet and running well designed Package Tours offering best accommodation with traditional hospitality to various historical and religious places and organizing conferences to fulfill the aspirations of budget class tourists by releasing advertisements in News Papers / TV attracted thousands of tourists from Southern States of India to Jammu & Kashmir region. The guiding principles for success of the organization is sincere efforts, transparent dealings and treating tourists as their guests.



## DOMESTIC TOUR OPERATOR

Promoting North East Region  
including Sikkim

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



*Mr. Deepak Gupta, CEO*

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





## BEST ADVENTURE TOUR OPERATOR

M/s. Kash' Venture Travels Pvt. Ltd.,  
New Delhi



*Mr. Mohan Tickoo (MD) & Mr. Ravi Tickoo (DO)*

Founded in 1985, Kash' Venture Travels (KVT) has emerged as one of the leading Adventure Travel Companies in India with special focus on product development and sustainable tourism practices.

KVT, has developed a good service infrastructure and a team of skilled, professional, well experienced field staff to undertake specialized niche adventure activities which include trekking, biking , multi-activity and soft adventure products across India, Nepal and Bhutan. The company has adopted the "Leave No Trace Policy" in all its operations across Himalayas and beyond and is also supporting some conservation programs for local communities in tourism impact regions in the country.



## BEST MICE TOUR OPERATOR

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



*Mr. Rohit Kohli*

Established in 1977, Creative Travel is today amongst India's largest private and family owned Destination Management Companies. Their attention to detail and creativity in planning is fostered by the independence given by family ownership which gives them an inherent advantage in quality control, continuity in projects and accountability.

Backed by a team of over 135 professionals and a footprint covering all of India and the region, the company has earned a reputation for being amongst India's most quality conscious travel companies.



# MOST INNOVATIVE TOUR OPERATOR



Responsible Voluntourism in India -  
M/s. Ibex Expeditions Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi



*Anita and Mandip Singh Soin    Ibex Expeditions Volunteers from the UK teaching at Chitardai School*

Ibex Expeditions has a legacy of organising new and unique tours in India since its inception in 1979 as pioneers of customised adventure, luxury and safari travel.

The Ibex humanitarian interventions in journeys bring Responsible Volunteering to worthy projects that demonstrate that tourism can do a lot of good and benefit host communities.

Ibex gets Voluntourists from overseas who impart teaching skills at Chitardai School in Deogarh in rural Rajasthan. This is an innovative way of getting tourists involved with a unique activity of 'Giving back'.



## TOUR OPERATOR PROMOTING NICHE SEGMENTS OTHER THAN ADVENTURE AND MICE

### Medi Connect India

(A Division of Indian Holiday Pvt. Ltd.)



*Mr. Rajesh K. Sharma*

Medi Connect India, the Medical Tourism division of M/s. Indian Holiday Pvt. Ltd, was set up in the year 2005. Medi Connect India promotes advanced medical treatments available in India to patients all over the world.

The company is approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and are closely associated with internationally accredited (JCI and NABH) hospitals across India to facilitate wide range of treatments and procedures to international patients.

In addition, Medi Connect India extends consultation regarding choice of hospitals and treatments as per clients' budget, preferences and facilitates treatment to patients at all major entry points in India including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad.



## BEST HOTEL

Five Star Deluxe

### The Oberoi Rajvilas- Jaipur, Rajasthan



Located just eight kilometres from Jaipur, The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur is situated on 32 acres of lush gardens, flowering trees and cascading fountains. The hotel offers 54 Premier Rooms, 13 Luxury Tents, one Royal Tent, two Luxury Villas with Private Pools and one Kohinoor Villa with a Private Pool.

A 260-year-old Shiva temple and a Rajasthani haveli (mansion) on the premises of the hotel have been carefully restored. Extensively renovated and restored, the haveli serves as the Oberoi Spa that offers holistic, Ayurvedic and Western therapies for

beauty and relaxation.

The Oberoi Rajvilas revives the princely lifestyle of India's legendary Rajput princes and offers consistently high standards of facilities and services.

The Oberoi Rajvilas is built in a traditional Rajasthani fort style. Antique mounted wooden statues have a contemporary feel in the lobby, along with beautiful brass hand worked urlis or large bowls filled with floating flower petals. Old armory that is majestically mounted on the walls is a constant fascination for guests. The master artist, Mr. Ghanshem Nimbark, painted the beautiful gold leaf hand painted wall murals, and colourful Indian miniature paintings throughout the fort. Original paintings by renowned Indian artist, Mr. Parikh Maity are also part of the Modern art collection.



## BEST HOTEL

Five Star

The Gateway Hotel, Ernakulam, Kerala



The Gateway Hotel Ernakulam is located at downtown Marine Drive, a kilometer from the city's lifeline M.G.Road - Kerala's busiest commercial hub. Adjacent to the backwaters the Hotel offers 108 rooms with modern amenities and stunning view of the sea and the harbour.





## BEST HOTEL

Four Star

Vivanta by Taj, Kumarakom, Kerala



Baker's Bungalow at Kumarakom, Kerala, was built by George Alfred Baker, an Essex missionary, on the banks of the Vembanad Lake, the great backwater that stretches southward from Cochin for more than 70 miles. This idyllic house beside the lake was subsequently acquired by the Taj in 1977.

The Hotel Vivanta by Taj-Kumarakom is 30- minute drive from Kottayam railway station or an hour's drive from Cochin city.

This "little jewel" of Kumarakom, as it is fondly called, offers 28 rooms in five different categories spread over an area of 15 acres. Hence it offers each guest a distinct space of his own to lounge back, relax and celebrate the special moments of life in the luxury of nature.

There are numerous activities in the resort that both the young and 'young at heart' can take advantage of which include bird watching in the nearby bird sanctuary, fishing in the resort's own lagoon, pottery and clay modeling, cycling, nature trails in the nearby village of Kumarakom etc.





## BEST HOTEL

Three Star

The Gateway Hotel, Vadodara, Gujarat



The Gateway Hotel Akota Gardens, Vadodara is situated in the heart of Vadodara - a city steeped in many traditions also a flourishing commercial hub. It is well connected to the industrial belt and at the same time very close to the airport. It has 86 well appointed rooms and state-of-the-art banquet halls which can facilitate 20-2000 guests.

The Hotel is a Green Globe Benchmarked (Earth Check Silver Certified) and also ISO 22000 Certified.



## BEST HOTEL

Two Star

Hotel Pandian, Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Hotel Pandian, unit of Harrington Hotels Pvt.Ltd., a Two Star Hotel in Egmore, the accommodation hub of Chennai, has 90 A/C & Non A/C rooms, Multi-Cuisine Restaurant, Bar, Banquet Halls & Travel Counter, offering 24 hour Check-out, Wi-fi, Safe Deposit, Same Day Laundry & Doctor on call.

Testimony to the true South Indian warmth and

hospitality as well as friendly and courteous service and value for money are the numerous awards that have been conferred on the Hotel.



## BEST HOTEL

### Heritage Grand

## Shivniwas Palace, Udaipur, Rajasthan



The crescent-shaped palace was built in the early 20th century, in the reign of Maharana Fateh Singh and has been meticulously maintained and preserved for guests.

The palace was reserved exclusively for visiting dignitaries and guests of the House of Mewar. Today it is a Grand Heritage Palace Hotel, combining the elegance of the last century with modern 21st century amenities.

Shiv Niwas Palace offers beautiful, yet differing suites and rooms to choose from 17 individually decorated suites carry original furniture and portraits that have been with the royal family for generations. All the suites look out on to the natural panorama of Udaipur. Unparalleled splendor and spaciousness characterise each room.



## BEST HOTEL

### Heritage Classic

## Malabar House Cochin, Kerala



Once a traders residence during the Dutch & British period, The Malabar House has been transformed into a unique heritage hotel in the historical heart of Fort Cochin. Home to a carefully curated art collection, the hotel highlights Kerala's composite culture and seamlessly combines tradition & contemporary design with flawless service. Each of the 17 rooms & suites is designed to the highest comfort and furnished with select antiques & art.

Malabar Junction, the award winning gourmet restaurant, is the crossroads of tradition & innovation, of South India and the West. Divine, the wine lounge creates a magical setting to celebrate the emergence of Indian wines.

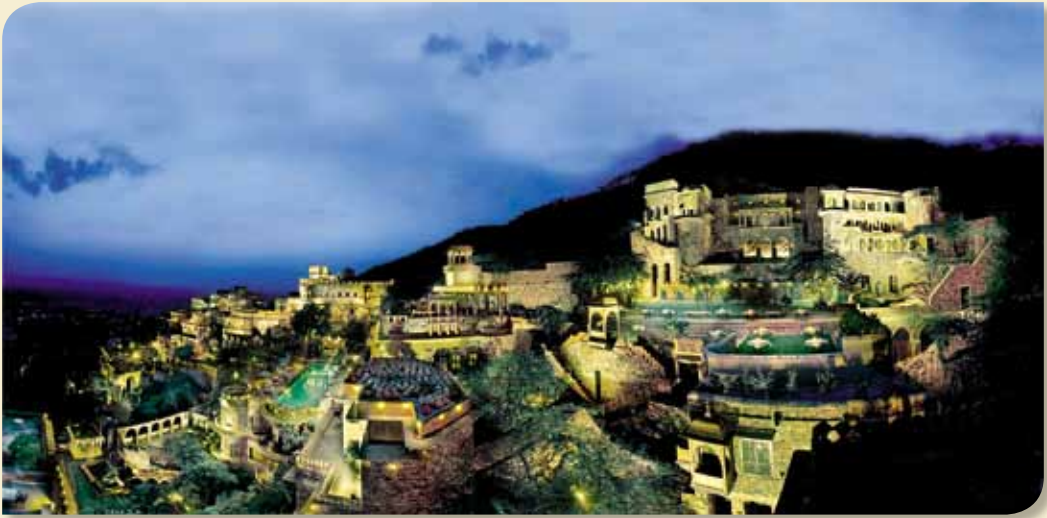




## BEST HOTEL

### Heritage

## Neemrana Fort Palace, Alwar, Rajasthan



Neemrana Fort Palace, the flagship of Neemrana Hotels, which was first spotted in 1977 as a vast and splendid ruin, has become synonymous in India as a foremost example of architectural restoration for reuse. The word 'Neemranification' has now come to symbolize a viable and sustainable heritage tourism involving the local communities by generating local employment and empowerment so that their rural pride resurges to win the battle to counter migration to urban slums.

In conjunction with the Neemrana Music Foundation, Neemrana Fort Palace is actively involved in promoting the art and culture of India. There are weekly performances entailing Indian and Western classical dance, musical performances, workshops and theatre by renowned artistes. Guests get the opportunity to learn about Indian heritage and the opportunity to interact with maestros in the arts.



## BEST ECO FRIENDLY HOTEL

ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru



The ITC Gardenia is a manifestation of ITC Hotels' two-decade old sustainable development initiatives. It embodies ITC Hotels' 'Responsible Luxury' ethos blending the once incongruent concepts of 'sustainability' and 'luxury'. It is an amalgamation of world class green best practices with contemporary design elements, providing the best in luxury, in the greenest possible manner with eco-embedded products, eco-easy services and eco-sensitised associates. The hotel has not only been accredited with the highest recognition of being the World's largest and Asia's first LEED Platinum rated building for its 'Responsible Luxury' ethos but also paved the way as a role model for the global hospitality industry to emulate.



# HOTEL PROVIDING BEST FACILITIES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED GUESTS

ITC Maurya, New Delhi



With the very air of the place exuding a sense of luxury and comfort, ITC Maurya is the country's finest luxury Hotel. The organisation has structured the assessment of societal performance through Key Performance Indices, which now include a number of differently abled persons employed.

Of its total strength, ITC Maurya has chosen to employ a sizable number of persons

with disability. This is the highest in any five-star hotel in Delhi. Out of the total of 1079 employees, 22 are differently abled.

ITC Maurya is also the first hotel in Delhi to conduct a comprehensive accessibility audit by disabled activist, Shivani Gupta of AccessAbility. The Hotel has taken great care in making the physical environment accessible and disabled friendly. These measures include accessible Guest Rooms, parking bays, reception desk, coffee shop, pool side etc., wide corridors, accessible elevators and rest rooms, among other facilities.





## BEST STANDALONE CONVENTION CENTRE

### Leonia International Centre for Exhibitions and Conventions, Hyderabad

(A Unit of Leonia Holistic Destination)



Leonia International Centre for Exhibitions & Conventions (LICEC) is developed and operated by Leo Meridian Infrastructure Projects & Hotels Limited (LMIPHL). It is situated at Leonia Holistic Destination, Hyderabad.

- LICEC's main hall has an area of 4645 sq.mtr and can accommodate 6000 plus delegates.
- The main hall can be converted into an indoor sports arena accommodating two squash courts, five badminton courts, one basketball court, one volleyball court and four tennis courts.
- LICEC has state-of-the-art acoustics with Sound from Funktion One, UK and Lighting from Martin, USA. It also has an in-house event management & technical team.
- LICEC has 460 rooms, a centre for integrated medicine, 36 meeting rooms, auditoriums cum cinema theatres, outdoor venues, various outdoor & indoor activities and numerous F & B outlets at its vicinity providing a complete hassle free end to end MICE experience.



## BEST HOTEL BASED MEETING VENUE

Hotel Le Méridien, Kochi



Recognized as one of the leading meetings and events destinations in the global arena and celebrating more than 10 years of success, the International Convention Centre at Hotel Le Méridien Kochi has been the stage for domestic and international conferences ranging from 15 to 10,000 guests. The facility to cater to different needs of different clientele, the capability to meet the demand of multiple breakaway halls along with the option of three outdoor venues over 18 acres of pristine green land has converted the International Convention Centre to one of the finest MICE destination in the country.



## **BEST CHEF**

**4 Star, 5 Star, 5 Star Deluxe,  
Heritage Classic and Heritage Grand Hotel**

**Chef Arvind Saraswat**



*Chef Arvind Saraswat*

A glittering career and an association with Taj Group over 43 years, that's Chef Arvind Saraswat. During the journey that saw him rise to the pinnacle of Director – food production, he went on to set up landmark restaurants and had received many accolades, culinary awards from various heads of the state and important personalities.

An extensively travelled iconoclast inventor and a perfectionist, he has shaped the career of many a distinguished Chef in the country and abroad.

Chef Saraswat has authored many books on culinary arts that are regarded as invaluable to the hospitality industry. He is an honorary member in various bodies of elite Chefs of International repute.

An artist, he remains inseparable from his culinary world even today.



## BEST CHEF

1 Star, 2 Star, 3 Star, Heritage Basic Hotel  
and Standalone Restaurant

Chef Sabyasachi Gorai



*Chef Sabyasachi Gorai*

Chef Saby (as Sabyasachi Gorai is popularly known ) is Director of Kitchens for Ai, the Japanese restaurant, Lap the club, Olive beach, Olive Qutab and the moving kitchen by Olive. Long regarded and rated as one of the top chefs of India, recently he was awarded and featured in the elite list “Gourmet Gurus” of the country by Food and Night Life magazine.

Chef Saby recently represented India in the “World Tour of Chefs against Hunger” in South Africa to work for charity. He is also a very active member of the Chef’s Society in India and promotes the culinary profession.

He was also a guest chef at the Salone De Gourmet Madrid, 2011. His mouth watering recipes have been regularly featured in the gourmet section of leading newspapers and magazines.

The recently concluded Formula 1 event in Delhi also saw delectable menu catered by the renowned Chef.



## BEST LADY CHEF

Chef Veena Arora



*Chef Veena Arora*

Chef Veena Arora spent her childhood in Thailand and cherished Thai food because her father – a Soldier of The Indian National Army- settled in Thailand after the war.

Knowing the Authentic Thai Cuisine from Thailand, she started her career by joining Holiday Inn in 1994 as a Thai Food Consultant for the Thai Restaurant 'SILK ORCHID'.

Later in 1996, she joined HOTEL IMPERIAL as Consultant Chef for their proposed South Asian Restaurant – THE SPICE ROUTE. Ever since then she has been running The Spice Route to make it one of the best in the World.



# BEST STATE: CAMPAIGN CLEAN INDIA

## Sikkim



Sikkim, is one of the 26 bio-diversity hotspots of the world and is a veritable treasure house of some of the world’s most beautiful streams, lakes & waterfalls and flora & fauna.

When the State is bestowed with such abundance it is the responsibility of the people to take care of the environment and preserve the eco-system. The Government has taken all possible steps to “Keep Sikkim Clean and Green”, which is evident from the fact that Sikkim has been adjudged as the Best State in various fields including Nirmal Rajya Award for total sanitation coverage.

The State has formally adopted Cleanliness Strategy by providing garbage collecting vehicles, garbage bins at various tourist destinations and public places. The local bodies work in close co-ordination in undertaking garbage collection, disposal and recycling. Either heavy penalty or 6 months imprisonment is liable to be imposed to the defaulters. Health and Hygiene related topics have been included in the syllabus at both Primary and Elementary Levels.

Avenue plantation along various roads has been taken up extensively through people’s participation. The Green Taxis initiative has been taken up to reduce the solid waste disposal along the roads while travelling.



## Notes