



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India  
Ministry of Tourism

# National Tourism Awards

2016-17

अतिथिदेवो भव  
Atithidevo Bhava



Presented by :  
Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

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दस्तावेज  
**K.J. ALPHONS**



विजय जयंत; देश कोरः विक्रम  
विक्रम विक्रम विक्रम  
MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR TOURISM  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

### MESSAGE



I extend my warm greetings to all on the occasion of World Tourism Day. On this day we take a pledge to transform India into one of the most sought after destinations for both domestic and international travelers.

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 realizing the dreams and aspirations of the customers and providing an experience that is remembered for life time. We in India have taken this into our ethos from time immemorial with our credo of 'Atithidevo Bhava'.

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

I extend my heartiest congratulations to all the National Tourism Award winners and take this opportunity to thank you all for the continuous support and commitment to the cause of growth of Indian Tourism.

**K.J. Alphons**

Incredible!India

अतुल्य!भारत

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301, Transport Bhawan, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 Tel : 91-11-23717969, 23710431 Fax : 91-11-23731506  
E-mail : mos.tourism@gov.in

अतिथिदेवो भव  
Atithidevo Bhava

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**Rashmi Verma, IAS**



MESSAGE

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SECRETARY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
NEW DELHI



At the outset, I would like to congratulate all the National Tourism Awards winners of 2016-17. The National Tourism Awards celebrate the success of the Indian tourism and hospitality industry which contributes significantly to the economic and social growth of the country.

The tourism sector in India has grown in the last year. The Foreign Tourist Arrivals in the year 2017 were 10.04 Million registering a growth of 14% over 2016. The Foreign Exchange Earnings during 2017 were Rs.1,77,874 Crore registering a growth of 15.4% over 2016. We need to work hard to maintain this momentum so that both Foreign Tourist Arrivals and Foreign Exchange Earnings could be further increased in the years to come.

Ministry of Tourism under its flagship scheme of Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD has sanctioned 98 projects for an amount of Rs.6724.63 Crore approximately in different parts of the country. Improvement in infrastructure is also being backed with enhanced connectivity to provide easy accessibility to the tourist destinations. Ministry of Tourism has also identified 17 Sites in 12 Clusters for development as Iconic Tourism Sites in the country. These along with the Adopt a Heritage Project initiative aims to provide basic and advanced amenities at various heritage sites and monuments. Ministry of Tourism is also giving adequate focus for the development of wayside amenities to provide a better tourism experience to the tourists.

I take this opportunity to exhort all stakeholders in tourism and travel industry to come forward for accelerating development in the tourism sector and to strive for greater success.

**Rashmi Verma**

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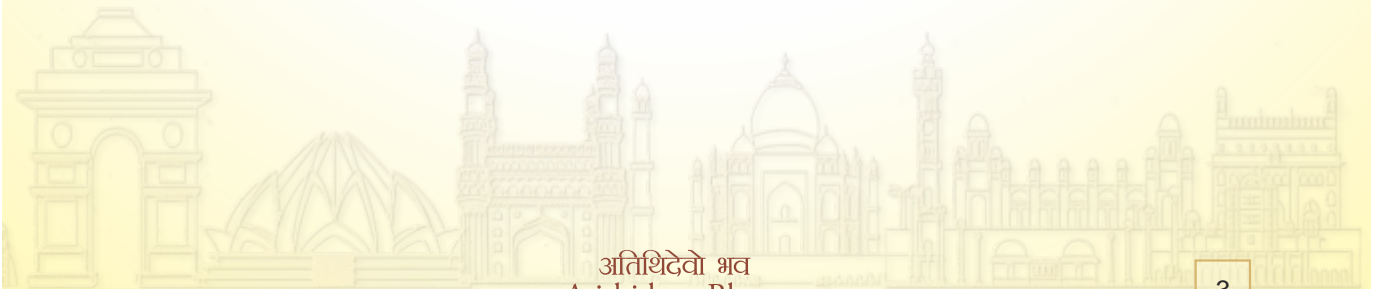
## HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNERS

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

*Excellence in Publishing in Foreign Language  
Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala*

*Best Wellness Centre  
Somatheeram Research Institute & Ayurveda Hospital Pvt. Ltd., Kovalam,  
Kerala*

*Best Tourist Transport Operator (Category I)  
M/s. Ecos (I) Mobility & Hospitality Private Limited*





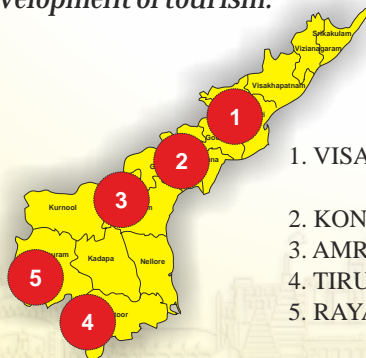
**Best State / Union Territory:  
Comprehensive Development of Tourism**

**Rest of India – First Prize  
Andhra Pradesh**



*Andhra Pradesh boasts of a naturally, ecologically, culturally and religiously rich and diverse variety of tourist destinations. The State of Andhra Pradesh having the longest eastern coastline has many heritage sites, forts, citadels and architectural masterpieces which reflect the art and craftsmanship, architecture and culture that originated on this land.*

*For promoting AP Tourism as a global tourism brand, the “Andhra Pradesh Tourism Culture and Heritage Board” with independent Tourism Authority and Culture Commission was created in the year 2016. AP Tourism has established 5 tourism hubs and adopted Hub & Spoke model for the development of tourism.*



1. VISAKHAPATNAM HUB: Visakhapatnam – Vizianagaram – Srikakulam Districts
2. KONASEEMA HUB: East Godavari – West Godavari
3. AMRAVATI HUB: Krishna – Guntur – Prakasam
4. TIRUPATI HUB: Chittoor - Nellore
5. RAYALSEEMA HUB: Kurnool – Kadapa - Anantapuramu

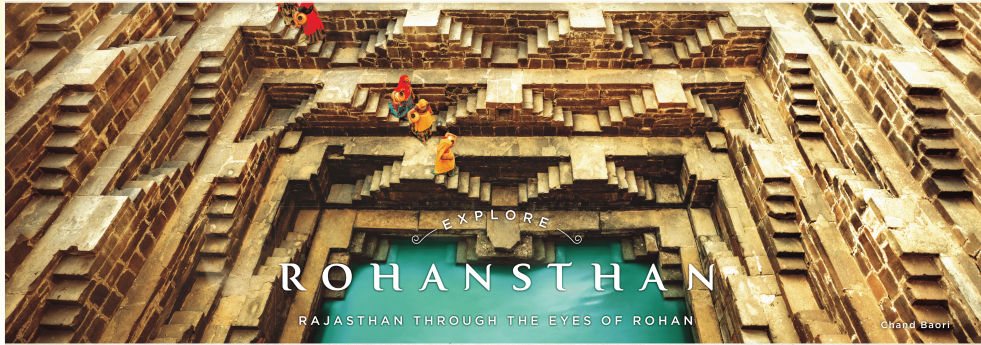


Best State / Union Territory:  
Comprehensive Development of Tourism

Rest of India – Second Prize  
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 one of the prominent tourism destinations in the country. 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. Kerala's stress on sustainability is perfectly complemented by innovative marketing and promotional techniques, helping it evolve into a paradigm for 'Responsible Tourism'.*



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

Rest of India – Third Prize  
Rajasthan  
(Joint Winner)



*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. Rajasthan, the Land of Kings is synonymous to heroism, royalty and honour. Historic tales of battles fought and romance of the riches adorn the walls of the state. Music, art and dance are woven into every inch of this land which is carved in every grain of sand. Fairs and festivals celebrated in the State are vibrant examples of the rich cultural heritage of the State. New festivals such as Lake Festival Udaipur, World Music Festival Udaipur, Photo Festival Jaipur, Bhakti Utsav Pushkar have been introduced to attract more and more tourists.*



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

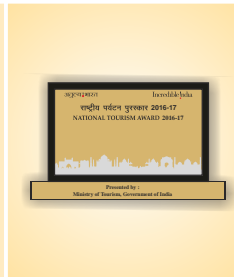
Rest of India – Third Prize  
Goa  
(Joint Winner)



*Goa is a dream tourist destination for all the tourists visiting India. This beautiful coastal State is the most enchanting place in the Western Ghats of India with its green stretches of land and natural picture perfect landscapes. Goa is also called "Queen of the Beaches". It is also a bird watcher's paradise and also a home to some of the most captivating waterfalls in India. The distinguishing feature of Goa is the Sunny beaches. The religious tourists can find a pleasant refuge at the ancient temples and churches in Goa. Goa hosts some of the world famous festivals like Wine Festival, Food Festival along with the traditional Shigmo and Carnival. When it comes to the exquisite cuisine of Goa, then the tourists can go for the simple yet spicy seafood. Goa is also a biodiversity hotspot and is rich in flora and fauna.*



Best State / Union territory:  
Comprehensive Development of Tourism  
(Jammu & Kashmir and North  
East including Sikkim)



Sikkim

*Sikkim as a tourism destination has come a long way and has built its reputation as the cleanest safest and one of the most tourists friendly State in India. Sikkim has set new benchmarks for responsible travel in the country. Homestay has rapidly made way for sustainable community based tourism in less developed areas, while eco-friendly policies have lent new vigor to the virgin Himalayan wilderness that drapes the region's mountains. Organic farming is the new mantra in Sikkim and is being promoted in a big way. The Government proposes to convert Sikkim into a fully organic state. With a new airport, Sikkim is all set to welcome more tourists.*



## Best Maintained Differently Abled Friendly Monument

Archaeological Survey of India -  
For Qutb Complex, Delhi



*Archaeological Survey of India at Qutb Minar, a World Heritage Site has made best possible efforts to provide disabled friendly amenities at Qutub Complex. Barrier free movement is ensured by providing ramps, separate toilet for Divyang tourists are available. Braille signage, Sign Language film, tactile path near exit and Braille booklets are also made available to facilitate Divyang tourists over Qutb Complex.*



## Best Tourist Friendly Railway Station

Secunderabad



*The Qutb Minar is a soaring, 73 m-high tower of victory, with a diameter of 14.32 m at the base and about 2.75 m on the top. Qutbu'd-Din Aibak laid the foundation of the Minar in AD 1199, to which subsequent additions were made by his successor Iltutmish and Firoz Shah Tughlak. The tower has five distinct storeys, each marked by a projecting balcony. The Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, to the north-east of the minar is the earliest extant mosque built by the Delhi Sultans. A 7 m-high iron pillar stands in the courtyard of the mosque. Other monuments in the complex include the tomb of Iltutmish - a plain square chamber of red sandstone, profusely carved with inscriptions, geometrical and arabesque patterns in Saracenic tradition, the Alai Dawraza and the Alai Minar.*



Best Airport  
(Class X cities)

Sardar Vallabhai Patel-  
International Airport, Ahmedabad



*The Sardar Vallabhai Patel International Airport (SVPI Airport) Ahmedabad is the Airport of India's first World Heritage City. The geographic location of the Airport makes it suitable for connectivity to major important international and domestic destinations including Middle East, Europe, Africa and South East Asia. Ahmedabad Airport is the 3rd largest Airport of Airports Authority of India and 8th largest Indian Airport in terms of traffic. The Airport handled 9.12 million passengers in Year 2017-18. SVPI Airport is surrounded by lush green gardens, has multi cuisine restaurants, lounges, presence of various International Brands, Forex facilities and the Airport is designed for convenient handling of specially abled air travellers .*

*Ahmedabad Airport has risen to ASQ rating of 4.8 on the scale of 5. The Airport has been awarded the “Most Improved Airport” in the Asia-Pacific region for the year 2017 by Airport Council International.*



## Best Airport (Rest of India)

### Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore



*The busiest airport of Madhya Pradesh, Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport is predominantly connected to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Raipur, Nagpur, Goa and other major cities. This airport hosts Domestic and International flights and cargo facility.*

*The state-of-the-art integrated terminal building of the DABH Airport is set in a sprawling 18,000 sqm area. Its world-class facilities and services include spacious lounges, 16 check-in counters, Self-check-in kiosks, Baggage Trolleys, Restaurant, Snack Bar, VIP/CIP lounges, superb city connectivity, Prepaid Taxis, Child Care Room, Braille Signages, Divyang-Track, Solar Plant, traditionally painted interior, Free WiFi and Tourism Information Centre etc.*



## Best Heritage City

Ahmedabad  
(Joint Winner)



*India's 1st World Heritage City Ahmedabad, well known for Indo-Islamic Monumental art and architecture, intricately carved wooden Havelis. Founded by Sultan Ahmedshah in 1411 on pre-existing sites of Ashawal and Karnavati. City was encompassed by massive brick fortification on banks of Sabarmati. Equally significant; for its traditional settlement of p ls, multi-cultural co-existence for centuries, besides the prominence in textile industries. Association with Mahatma Gandhi and freedom struggle add to city's stature.*

*Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is a pioneer in people-centric Urban conservation since 1996, with establishment of 1st heritage cell in India. This has led to awareness creation, framing of heritage regulations, conservation and restoration of invaluable heritage buildings.*



## Best Heritage City

### Mandu (Joint Winner)



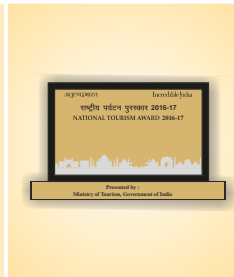
*Mandu is a celebration in stone of life and joy. Each of Mandu's structures is an architectural gem. The glory of Mandu lives on, in its palaces and mosques in legends and songs, chronicled for posterity. Here, the magical palaces effervesce royalty, while the darwazas reflect the history of imperial conquests. Floating over its own reflection in the twin lakes, the Jahaz Mahal looks like a ready-to-sail ship. Mandu's other renowned marvels include- Mahmud Khilji's Tomb, Ashrafi Mahal, Baz Bahadur's Palace, Dilawar Khan's Mosque etc.*

*Serious efforts have been consistently made by the authorities and local people to ensure conservation and cleanliness of Mandu's vivid heritage.*



## Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination in India Category – A

Greater Hyderabad  
Municipal Corporation, Telangana



*Hyderabad has come up with innovative perception of availing toilets for public & tourist in private restaurants, petrol pumps which caters the needs for tourists who tour the city. Under swachh Hyderabad, GHMC has constructed several categories of toilets across the city like BOT, Pre-fabricated, Sulabh, Engineering & She-Toilets (E-Toilets). Adequate drinking water facilities are provided at the tourist places by the Department of Tourism and water supply board for public to use.*

*Innovative initiatives and special thematic drives are conducted to sensitize the citizens of Hyderabad on Swachh Bharath movement. Beautification of tourist spots by way of developing green islands, development of lawn & floral beds, green curtain development along the walls.*



## Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination in India Category – B

Municipal Council, Omkareshwar,  
& M.P. Tourism Board



*Omkareshwar, a town in Khandwa District of Madhya Pradesh, is home to one of the 12 Jyotirlinga shrines. Every year, lakhs of pilgrims visit this significant town, located on the banks of river Narmada. The city has been applied with a better civic management model in the recent times to provide better amenities to pilgrims, tourists, and locals. Under this initiative, several measures had undertaken for better disabled and old aged-friendly infrastructural development, sanitization, cleanliness, better water distribution, efficient utilization of energy, public safety measures, entertainment, beautification, and much more. These efforts have transformed Omkareshwar into a smarter tourist destination.*



## Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination in India Category – C

Saputara Notified Area Authority



*Saputara at an elevation of 1000 mt. above sea level is amongst the most well-planned and organized hill stations in India. Its approach towards civic management has been unique and inspirational. Currently, Saputara Notified Area Authority working together with Tourism Department has undertaken number of initiatives including building up Public toilet blocks and Bio toilets, appointment of IEC supervisor to sensitize local communities, best waste management systems, installed systems for recycling, re-use of papers and separate awareness program on “Beat the Plastic”. In addition, best practices have been followed for improvement of area security and incident management.*



## Swachhta Award

### Indore, Madhya Pradesh



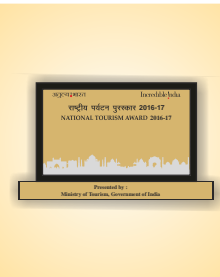
*Declared twice as the cleanest city of India under 'Swachh Bharat Mission', Indore – commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh is rigorously following the mission of cleanliness with an aggressive and integrated approach. This futuristic city with historic roots has witnessed an unprecedented mass-enthusiasm and greater awareness for cleanliness. Several dynamic initiatives have been taken in improving cleanliness in the city by providing smart and sustainable solutions to public. These include an advanced drainage system, hygiene awareness at eateries, modern public-toilets, integrated solid waste management, garbage-free zones, sewage treatment projects, door-to-door garbage collection, Swachhta App, mechanized sweeping, ultra-modern garbage-transfer stations, biomethanization plants, and e-waste initiatives.*



## Best Heritage Walk

Indian National Trust for Art and  
Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Delhi Chapter

(Joint Winner)



*INTACH Heritage Walks introduces citizens as well as tourists to different aspects of monuments and neighbourhoods of rich cultural and architectural heritage. The walks are conducted at multiple locations around the city of Delhi – ranging from UNESCO World Heritage Sites to unprotected sites and historic neighbourhoods. They include regular walks every weekend that are open to the public, as well as walks customized according to the interest and convenience of the clients. Till date, walks have been conducted on more than fifty different routes and themes, which include different sites as well as varied emphasis – on history, architecture, cuisine, nature, and on living heritage such as markets.*



Best Heritage Walk  
Indore Heritage Walk  
(Joint Winner)



*'Indore Heritage Walk' is an effort towards conserving, renovating and promoting the rich heritage of Indore. It aims to offer the visitors, an exciting and fascinating Urban Heritage Experience. The walk encapsulates the vivacious history of Indore and helps to connect the tourists with its heritage, culture, architecture, food and traditions.*

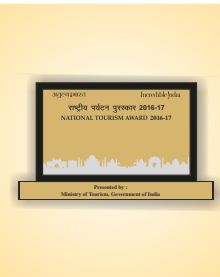
*This guided 2 km walk covers some of the oldest monuments in the city, mostly related to the Maratha and British era. These include Kala Vithika, Boliya Sarkar ki chhatri, Krishnapura Chhatri, Veer Sawarkar market, Rajwada, Banke Bihari Temple, Gopal Mandir, Imambada, Sarafa, Shiv Vilas Palace etc.*



## Most Responsible Tourism Project / Initiative

Responsible Tourism Project,

Wayanad, Kerala



*The responsible tourism initiative of Kerala Tourism Department has been able to provide the traveler meaningful journeys with a greater understanding of the destinations local culture while minimizing the negative socio-cultural and environment impacts. The comprehensive strategies for Wayanad as part of its responsible tourism campaign have been initiated by the Kerala Tourism Department which have helped in improving the quality of life and empowering the local community members in the Wayanad Region. Capacity Building has been undertaken to involve one and all so as to provide a totally unique rural experience for the tourists such as paddy field visit, tribal art center, plantation visit Bee keeping etc.*



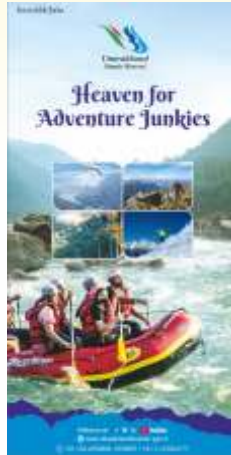
## Best State for Adventure Tourism

Madhya Pradesh

(Joint Winner)



*Madhya Pradesh is home to diverse water bodies, landscapes, jungles, heritage sites and mountainous terrains which make it a perfect place for Adventure sports. Several tourist locations in the state now offer thrilling adventure activities which include Water Sports, Parasailing, Water Skiing, Jet Ski, Speed Boat, Kayaking, Canoeing, Sailing, Windsurfing, Trekking, Rock Climbing, Nature Walks, Cycling, River Rafting, Hot Air Ballooning, Ziplining, Paragliding etc. The Jal Mahotsav at Hanwantiya in the state is a newly introduced water tourism destination in Madhya Pradesh. The State with 10 National parks, 25 Wildlife Sanctuaries, several rivers, lakes and mighty mountains is also monitoring these activities for safety and regulations.*



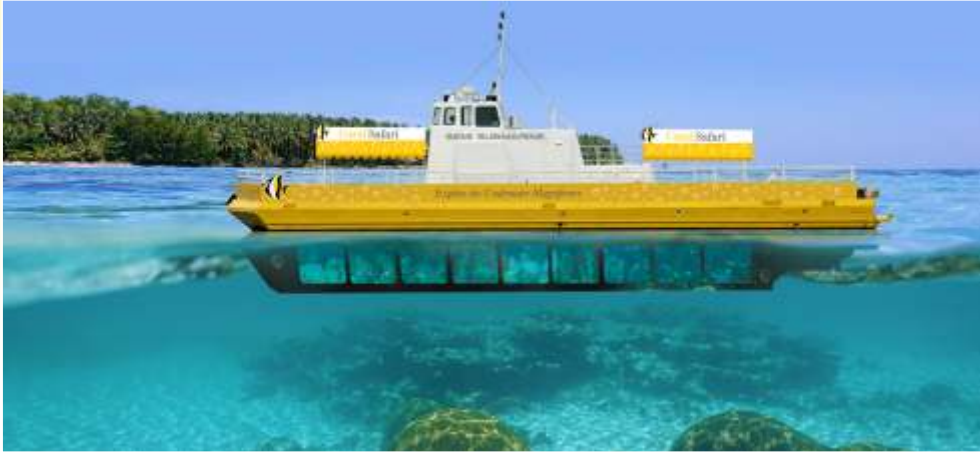
## Best State for Adventure Tourism

Uttarakhand

(Joint Winner)



*Among the towering peaks and deep river valleys of the Himalayas lies the mountain state of Uttarakhand. With awe-inspiring landscapes that are home to holy shrines, elusive wildlife, and unparalleled outdoor experiences. The hills of Uttarakhand have all the ingredients for adventure packed with excitement and thrills. Mountaineering, trekking, skiing, river rafting, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, aero sports to name a few, are available to experience in this State. The state of Uttarakhand boasts of various Wildlife Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and is also a paradise for Bird watching.*



Most Innovative & Unique Tourism Product  
M/s. Heaven On Ocean Tourism Pvt. Ltd.  
For Coral Safari in Andaman & Nicobar  
(Joint Winner)



*“Coral Safari” developed by M/s Heaven On Ocean Tourism Pvt. Limited, Chennai operates Semi-submarine under water safari which is a complete family adventure trip into the ocean to explore the underwater magnificence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Started in 2016, persons of all ages including differently abled can enjoy the marine beauty in the safety of a uniquely build vessel which is sinkproof and incorporates safety features which provide a fully air conditioned comfort with huge glass windows providing best viewing experience to nearly 140 tourists on each trip.*



## Most Innovative & Unique Tourism Product 21 Gun Salute Heritage and Cultural Trust

For Vintage Car Rally

(Joint Winner)



*A unique motoring event, namely the '21 Gun Salute International Vintage Car Rally and Concourse Show' promotes India as a Heritage Motoring Tourism Destination. The event shares a lot about Indian Culture and Motoring Heritage on a global scale and attracts motoring enthusiasts as well as tourists from the country as well as abroad. This event provides ample opportunities for people to have fun with their family and friends at the unique Heritage Motoring Event which involves local traditions, hospitality, cultural themes, local foods and festivities. The 21 Gun salute Concourse Show is proving to be an increasingly important facet in promoting India as a motoring tourism destination.*



Mr. Samik Kumar Ray

Best Tourist Guide

Mr. Samik Kumar Ray



*Samik Ray working as RLG (East), approved by Govt. of India, Department of Tourism, since 1984 with great success. Usually he deals with tourists from UK, USA, Spain, Italy, etc. and often receive the recommendations from international tour companies and individuals for guide service.*

*He has made specialised innovative tour programmes to cope with new dynamics of tourism business, taught tourism and folklore at universities as guest faculty, delivered lecture at seminars, chaired sessions at National seminars on Tourism, and edited the journal 'Tourism Theory and Practice', wrote articles in different academic journals and chapters on tourism study books.*



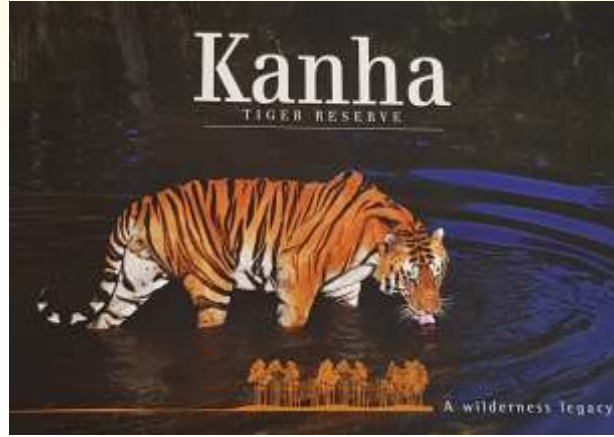
Mr. Radhika Prasad Omre

Best Wildlife Guide

Mr. Radhika Prasad Omre

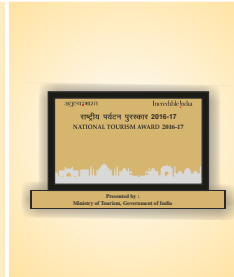


*Radhika Prasad Omre has been a guide at Panna Tiger Reserve for 12 years. He has seen Panna through the successful revival of the reserve. Often in contact with NGOs and foundations, he has helped to equip the guides with resources such as books and clothing, and he is regularly a point of contact for Forest Officials. R.P., as he is affectionately known, is a resident of Madla Village and a graduate of Bhoj Open University.*

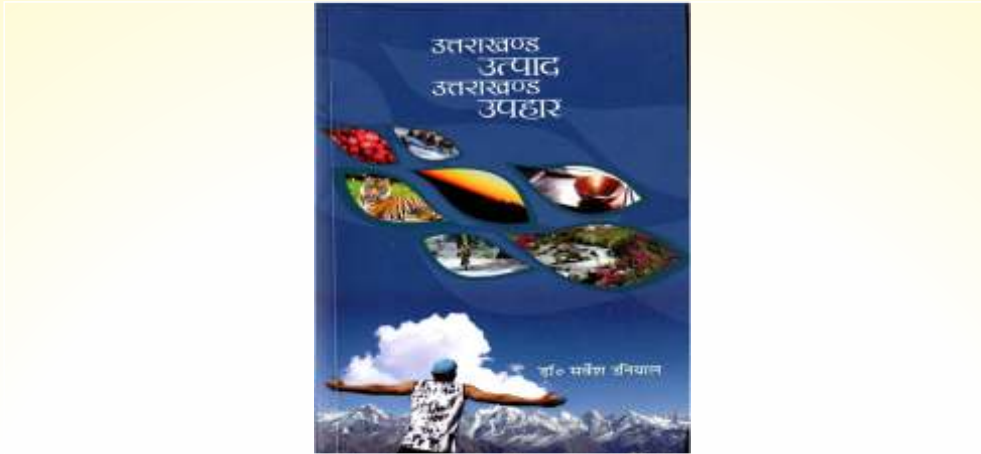


Excellence in Publishing in English

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board  
For Coffee Table Book on  
'Kanha Tiger Reserve'



*The coffee table book showcases one of the finest protected areas and best tiger landscapes in the country - Kanha Tigre Reserve. The coffee table book is a labour of love of forest officers, photographers and tourists and showcases the flora and fauna and physiographic attributes of Kanha Tiger Reserve which is a perfect destination for photographers as well as tourists.*



## Excellence in Publishing in Hindi

Dr. Sarvesh Uniyal, Srinagar, Uttarakhand  
For Publication,  
'Uttarakhand Utpad Uttarakhand Uphaar'



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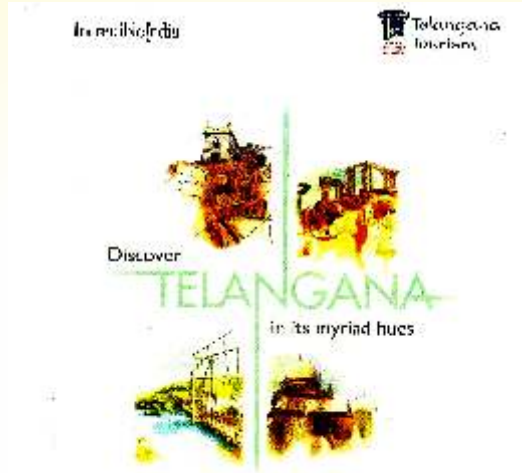


Excellence in Publishing in Foreign Language

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board-  
For Madhya Pradesh Corporate Brochure  
in German Language



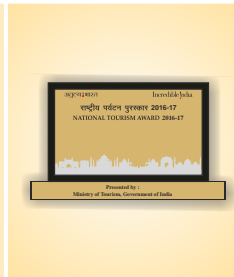
*Madhya Pradesh Tourism has produced a Corporate Brochure in German to address the demands about information on tourism destinations in the State of Madhya Pradesh in the German market. The brochure showcases various colourful offerings of the state that encompasses temples, forts, festivals, cuisine and the natural beauty in the State.*



Best Tourism Promotion Publicity Material  
(State Government / Union Territory)

Youth Advancement , Tourism & Culture  
Department, Government of Telangana

For Publication 'Discover Telangana in  
its Myriad Hues'



*The Discover Telangana, in its Myriad Hues is a comprehensive booklet produced by the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Telangana. The publication is a comprehensive description of various facets of the youngest state of the country- Telangana. The book highlights an array of archaeological and heritage sites, dating back to the Mesolithic era to the present times which dot the landscape of Telangana. Along with the history the book gives a glimpse of Telangana's art, crafts, and handlooms that are world famous. It also serves as a ready guide to prospective tourist and provides information on tourist destinations and tour packages within the State.*



Best Tourism Promotion Publicity Material  
(Private Stakeholders)

M/s. Le Passage to India Tours and Travels  
Pvt. Ltd., NOIDA

For Pocket Travel Brochure



*Le Passage travel brochures not only aim to promote tourism in India but also showcase the true character of each destination that is featured. The design team used sketches and caricatures instead of real time images for better aesthetics that immediately grab and hold attention of travelers, to avoid any preconceived notions. The content is carefully curated to provide novel travel experiences that are more exploratory and meaningful. The offerings in the brochure are beyond the usual tourist sights and showcases lesser known products and local experiences under destination specific highlights to ensure 'The journey of a lifetime, every time'.*



## Best Tourism Film

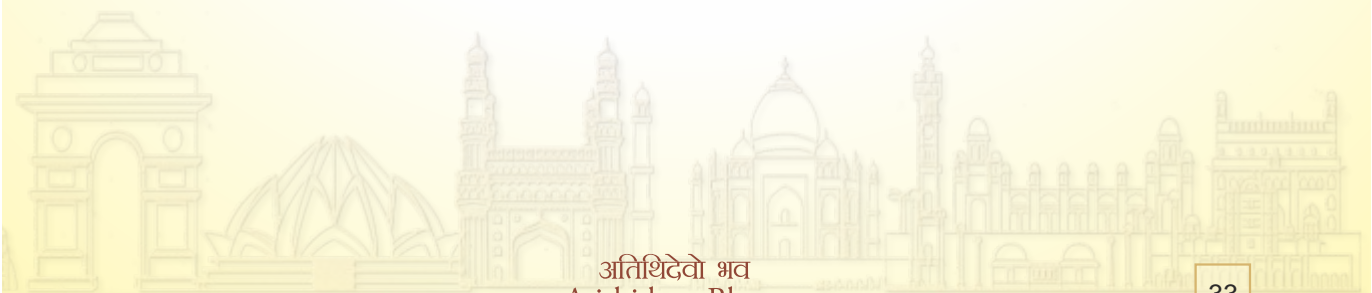
Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

For the film - 'Live Inspired'



*The theme of the film “Live Inspired” is drawn from experiences of travellers to Kerala who are continually inspired by the capacity of this place to joyfully integrate multiple religious, cultural and ideological strains. In a world that is being segregated into separate rooms and exclusive spaces,“ The film is a tribute to a land that celebrates the idea of living together with our differences and diversities.”*

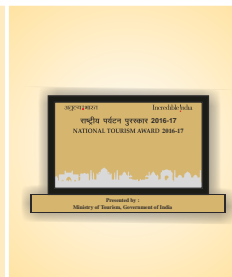
*One can look at the film as a three minute window to a way of life. In a deceptively simple manner, the film juxtaposes several ideologies and religions that overlap and seep into each other to reveal a multi-hued tapestry of singular beauty. Live sound and subtle music add to the realness of the film.*





Most Innovative use of Information Technology  
(Social Media / Mobile App / Website)

Department of Tourism,  
Government of Rajasthan - For its website



*Rajasthan Tourism is being promoted through its exciting revamped brand new website since 2016 -17 which has made a huge impact on promotion and marketing of the State in the international markets. The new Rajasthan Tourism website through most innovative use of Information Technology on a continuous basis with high engagement and large followers has helped in reaching out to the global traveler and promoting destination on social media.*

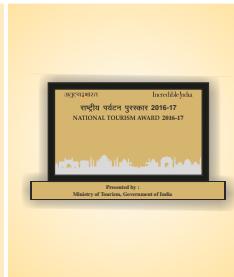


Mr. Bharat Atree – Chairman & MD

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category I – First Prize

M/s. Caper Travel Company Pvt. Ltd.



*Caper Travel Company Pvt. Ltd is a leading Destination Management Company of Indian subcontinent. Caper Travel pioneers in providing comprehensive travel solutions for leisure, groups, charters & business travellers, backed by real-time travel technology and unmatched products. Since inception the company has been growing rapidly, aspiring to emerge as one of the foremost travel solution companies in India. Fairly young, the company is receptive to new ideas, flexible and adaptable to its clients' needs.*

*Tour Operations is the core business of the company and it has now diversified into other allied Tourism related services like Hospitality, Travel Technology and Aviation with several SBUs and brands under its umbrella.*



Mr. Brijesh Kumar Singh

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agency

Category I – Second Prize

M/s. SDU Travels Private Limited



*SDU Travels Private Limited, with its head office in New Delhi has many years of experience in travel industry. The company is in the business of inbound tours and has its branches in USA and UK, subsidiaries in various countries. The agency deals with clients from round the globe.*



Mr. James Kodianthara  
Executive Director



Mr. Sheikh Ismail  
Vice President

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category II – First Prize

M/s. Concord Exotic Voyages (I) Pvt. Ltd.



*Concord Exotic Voyages, has a pan-India presence and offers various tourism products of India to the world. Company handles over 30,000 tourists with 100 highly experienced professionals; is equipped for handling large number of inbound tourists by way of charters, GITs and FITs.*



Mr. J.N. Katgara

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category II – Second Prize

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



*Trail Blazer Tours India Pvt Ltd is owned by the Katgara Group, pioneers in the travel and tourism industry. TBi, as it is popularly known, has over 275 professionals at 14 offices across the country and has an international presence in Canada, Australia, South Korea, Germany, Mexico, Brazil, Spain, United Kingdom, Japan 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.*



Mr. Giri S Nithani



Mr. Ravinder Kumar

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category III – First Prize

M/s. Indian Legends Holidays Pvt. Ltd



*Indian Legends Holidays Pvt Ltd started in 2008 with Far East Countries being its core of Inbound Tourism business. Since then, the agency has diversified its operation. The agency puts all its strength & resources to firmly establish its presence in various markets and also by introducing new innovative culture and adventure tour packages. One of its core growth areas has been Buddhist market where it has established itself as a strong operator providing quality services.*



Mr. Pandiyan Kumaravel



Ms. Mythily Pandiyan

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category III – Second Prize

M/s. Cholan Tours Private Limited



*Cholan Tours Private Limited is a renowned Destination Management Company in India offering tailor-made trips since 1999. Over the past 19 years, it has built reputation on the quality of service it offers. It has 14 offices in India, over 300 employees to ensure excellent client coordination. Being a successful DMC in India, it has wealth of experience, dedicated team of professionals driven by the zeal of entrepreneurship.*



Ms. Lisa Alam Shah



Mr. Michael Haider Ali

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category IV – First Prize

M/s. Micato Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd.



*Micato India is an inbound tour company specializing in luxury tours. Founded in 1990, Micato India is an affiliate company of Micato Safaris, headquartered in the USA. It is a pioneer in Cruise Tourism and is proud to be associated with the world's top cruise lines as well as top travel global networks. The Micato brand represents over fifty years of expertise in the inbound market and stands for quality service of the highest standard.*



Mr. Bashir Karnai



Mr. Nazir Karnai

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category IV – Second Prize

M/s. Centre Tour & Travels



*Centre Tour and Travels has been in travel business for four generations. It has a Head office in Srinagar, Kashmir with branch offices at New Delhi and overseas office in North America, Vancouver. Centre Tour and Travels is managed by professional and committed team and offers wide range of Indian travel itineraries.*



Mr. Jay Girish Kajaria



Ms. Khushbu R Sampat

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category V – First Prize

M/s. Erudite Travel Consultants LLP



*Erudite Travel Consultants LLP is a boutique Inbound Tour Operator specializing in offering state-of-the-art custom & unique tours to India. The company focuses on offering personalised service and authentic Indian experiences to its esteemed guests. It mainly deals in high-end individual and group tours. The company strives to develop new products and promote tours to India in emerging markets.*



Ms. Archana Mathur



Mr. Subodh Kumar Mathur

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category V – Second Prize

M/s. Unitop Tours & Travel Private Limited



*Unitop Tours & Travel offers expeditions across Incredible India. Unitop encapsulates its duty to operate inbound tours for groups / individuals. The company manifests speciality in carving a niche for Buddhist pilgrims from Southeast Asian countries. Banking on roaring success and a colossal experience of 18 years, team Unitop strives towards keeping the spirit of “AtithiDevo Bhava” alive.*

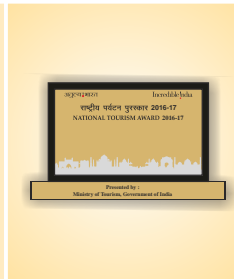


Mr. Saransh

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category VI – First Prize

M/s. Sanyog Gupta Voyages



*Sanyog Gupta Voyages specializes in offering tours to every corner of India and has become a preferred choice for clients and trade partners.*

*Since the company was founded, it has urbanized into one of the largest global wholesale tour operators. Years of know-how and experience in organizing holidays have accumulated and the company has steadily and systematically developed its position on the tourism market.*



Mr. Deepak Modgill  
Managing Director

Inbound Tour Operator / Travel Agent

Category VI – Second Prize

M/s. Alluring India Destination Pvt. Ltd.



*Alluring India Destination, since 5 years of its inception has been promoting safe travels across India. Aiming to always create itineraries consisting new destinations and unique experiences, they handle clients majorly from the USA, UK, and Middle East.*

*Through the years, the agency is offering meticulously tailor-made travel plans to its clients. Being responsible for sustainable tourism, the agency encourages its clients to plant trees during their travel across India to offset the carbon footprints.*



Mr. Sarab Jit Singh  
Managing Director



Mr. Gurudev S Ahluwalia  
Director

Tourist Transport Operator

Category II – First Prize

M/s KTC (India) Pvt. Ltd.



*KTC (India) Pvt. Ltd., was established in 1943 as a Tourist transport Operator Company. KTC (India) Pvt. Ltd., is the oldest and largest luxury Car/ coach operators. The agency has pioneered the art of luxury car and coach travel in India and has earned many laurels and accolades.*



Mr. Amrit Mann

Tourist Transport Operator  
Category II – Second Prize

M/s Mann Tourist Transport-  
Service Pvt. Ltd



*M/s Mann Tourist Transport Service Private Limited is committed to quality and luxury, while providing services to its clients. It has been setting up benchmark in the tourism industry by introducing innovations in tourist transportation. It has offices and fleet in all metro cities in India for providing one point tourist transport solution.*



Mr. S. Subba Rao



Mr. S. Srinivasa Rao

Tourist Transport Operator

Category III – First Prize

M/s Rao Travels India Pvt. Ltd



*Rao Travels was established in 1977 by Shri. Surveppali Subba Rao, as a domestic tour operating company, focusing on budget tours using its own high end fleet of cars & coaches. A complete tour operating company, Rao Travels focuses on Historical, Adventure & Religious tours along with conferences in various parts of the country. The company strives to maintain high standards at affordable budgets to increase its volume of domestic tourists.*



Mr. Sanjay Nagar

Tourist Transport Operator

Category III – Second Prize

M/s FTT Cabs Pvt. Ltd



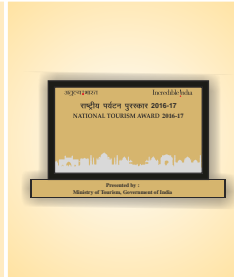
*The company was initially set up as a Sole Proprietary concern in 1985, later converted into a Private Limited company by the name, FTT Cabs Pvt. Ltd. The agency has a fleet of well maintained imported luxury cars and provides services of well groomed drivers & responsive staff.*



Mr. Abraham George

Best Domestic Tour Operator Promoting  
and Selling Tourism Products of Rest of  
India

Category – I  
M/s. Intersight Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd.



*Intersight Tours & Travels has 22 years of proven track record in the hospitality sector. Intersight is one of the leading holiday management providers in India ensuring customer satisfaction with its quality service and true value for money. The agency's corporate office is at Cochin and has branch offices in major cities in India as well as overseas.*



Ms. Meenakshi Bhardwaj

Best Domestic Tour Operator Promoting  
and Selling Tourism Products of Rest of India

Category - II  
M/s. Colors of India Tours Private Limited



*Colours of India Tours Private Limited is a Shimla based agency, established in the year 2010. It is one of the fast growing travel companies in the region. A team of 150 dedicated travel professionals of the agency functions with the shared vision of becoming one of the best b2c tourism companies by leveraging the potential of internet. In addition to its domestic operation, the agency now plans to focus on inbound tours to showcase colours of India to foreign tourists.*



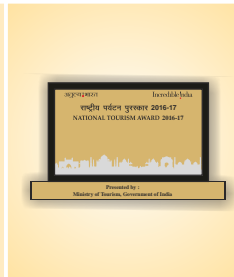
Mr. Abhay Ghanekar  
Director



Mr. Rahul Bhusari  
Director

## Best Domestic Tour Operator Promoting and Selling Tourism Products of Rest of India

Category – III  
M/s. Infinite Journeys Pvt. Ltd



*Infinite Journeys Pvt. Ltd. was founded in the year 2000 by a group of young management graduates in Pune. It is a professionally managed travel company having a team of well trained and well travelled experts. The agency's diverse services include air ticketing, hotel bookings, tour packages, visa assistance, travel insurance, wildlife and adventure tours to discerning travellers. The agency also specializes in offbeat travel experiences.*



Ms. Bhawana Gupta



Mr. Chetan Gupta

Best Domestic Tour Operator Promoting  
and Selling Tourism Products of Rest of  
India

Category – IV

M/s. RG Destinations Private Limited



*RG Destinations Private Limited is an ISO 9001-2008 certified company by JAS ANZ & IAF of Australia. Established over 16 years ago, the company has emerged as a large travel company reaching out to discerning travellers worldwide. The company provides personalized service to all its clients.*



Mr. Sanjay Jhawar



Mr. C.P. Bhatler

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

M/s. Neptune Holidays Private Limited



*Neptune Holidays is a Destination Management company committed for quality services and best logistic support. The agency was founded nineteen years ago by two brothers and today it has a team of over 150 people, providing tourism services in entire North east including Sikkim, West Bengal & Rajasthan.*



Mr. Ashok Koul  
Managing Director



Mr. Vinayak Koul  
Director

## Best Adventure Tour Operator – Inbound

M/s. Snowlion Expeditions Pvt. Ltd.



*SnowLion Expeditions Pvt. Ltd has been a pioneer in introducing unconventional trekking trails and products to enhance the experience of adventure travellers and enthusiasts from all across the globe. In more than 25 years of inbound adventure operations, the company has given top most priority to the traveller's safety, curiosity and satisfaction.*

*Adventure travel activities are the strength of the company. Being a team of passionate, trained and experienced professionals, SnowLion Expeditions has always focused on raising the standard of environmental sustainability and to take up adventure tourism a notch higher in the country.*



Mr. Ajeet Bajaj,  
Padma Shri Awardee  
Managing Director



Ms. Sherly Thomas Bajaj  
Director

## Best Adventure Tour Operator – Domestic

M/s. Snow Leopard Adventures Pvt. Ltd.



*Snow Leopard Adventures is the first ISO: 9000 certified Company in its field and it has introduced countless adventure seekers to the adrenaline-rush of the outdoors through its school, corporate and family programmes.*

*The Snow Leopard Experience is a combination of 4 “S” elements that drive its operation namely Safety, Skilled team, Sustainability and Service. 100-member team of Snow Leopard Adventures, includes experienced administrators, rafters, kayakers, climbers and naturalists.*

*Into its twenty-seventh year of operation, Snow Leopard Adventures is reputed to be among the best adventure tourism companies in Asia.*



Mr. Rajeev Kohli



Mr. Rohit Kohli

## Best MICE Operator

M/s. Creative Travel Pvt. Ltd.



*Creative Travel Private Limited is a professionally operated and privately owned Destination Management Company, which is in operation for over 41 years. It specialises in creating unique engaging experiences across India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Tibet and Maldives. The agency has won a number of national and international awards for its service in the field of tourism.*



## Best Hotel Five Star Deluxe Category

The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur



*Set charmingly on the banks of Lake Pichola, against the dramatic backdrop of the Aravalli Hills, The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur, recreates the romance of the past. Spread over 50 acres of landscape and standing on the 200-year-old hunting ground of the Maharana of Mewar, it features courtyards, rippling fountains, pools and verdant gardens. The intricate layout of interconnecting domes and corridors is flooded with sunlight, caressed by balmy breezes and offers magnificent views of the lake, the City Palace and Jag Mandir. The indoor and al fresco restaurants at the hotel offer a range of fine international and Indian cuisines.*



## Best Hotel Five Star Category

### The Trident Hotel, Chennai



*An oasis of warmth and luxury environs, Trident, Chennai is amongst the best hotels in Chennai. This luxury hotel welcomes guests with its elegant, low-rise design spread over five acres of verdant gardens. The 167 rooms and suites, tastefully appointed in muted and earthy tones, combined with handcrafted furniture and convenient amenities, are designed to make you feel at home during your stay at the hotel. The décor is distinctly modern with some delightful touches of local paintings and elegant furniture. While at the hotel, wake up to the sight of palm trees swaying in the wind or the turquoise waters of the swimming pool.*



Best Hotel  
Four Star Category

Taj Gateway Hotel, Chikmagalur



*The Taj Gateway Hotel, Chikmagalur which opened in the year 1999, offers serenity, privacy and exquisitely restored colonial architecture. Located in the coffee district of Karnataka, the hotel offers the best of nature in its lap along with heritage to explore. The hotel surrounds the guest with tranquil sights and sounds of nature.*



## Best Hotel Three Star Category

### Lemon Tree Hotel, Aurangabad



*Lemon Tree Hotel, Aurangabad is a visually stunning hotel set around a magnificent swimming pool, expansive gardens and wide open spaces. Located in the heart of Aurangabad, the hotel is a short journey from the legendary Ajanta and Ellora caves and is easily accessible from key manufacturing hubs like Chikalthana, Waluj, Chitegaon, Shendra and Paithan.*

*The refreshing interiors with a spectacular atrium are designed to bring the 'outdoors in'. The hotel offers 102 rooms and suites that either offer access to a lush garden, or present a panoramic view of the beautiful pool. Together with a business center, conference rooms, a 24X7 multi-cuisine coffee shop - Citrus Café, an eclectic pan-Asian restaurant – Republic of Noodles, the rejuvenating spa - Fresco as well as a fitness center the hotel is a perfect destination for all discerning guests.*



## Best Heritage Hotel

Grand Category  
The Oberoi Cecil, Shimla



*Nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, The Oberoi Cecil, Shimla is a charming luxury heritage hotel. During the times of the British Raj, it was the most exclusive hotel in Shimla, celebrated for its fabulous ballroom dances and fashionable clientele. 130 years later, this restored hotel retains much of its colonial charm and marks the return of gracious living. It has a crisp, white facade and smart, green terrace railings. Inside, a lobby punctuated with marble fireplaces leads to a comfortable lounge, which is lit from above by a skylight spanning the length and breadth of the hotel's atrium*



Best Heritage Hotel

Classic Category  
Hotel Deo Bagh, Gwalior



*Deo Bagh has 15 rooms spread across 5 wings facing a Nau Bagh. It houses architectural treasures within the property, including 17th-18th century Maratha temples, splendid cenotaphs and a pavilion with 36 arched doors, which makes Deo Bagh one of the unique heritage hotels in India.*



Best Heritage Hotel

Basic Category  
Hotel Samode Haveli



*The 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 touch 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.*



## Best Eco-Friendly Hotel

### Meluha The Fern, Mumbai



*Meluha-The Fern, 5 Star eco-friendly hotel, is located at the Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, Mumbai. The hotel boasts of 141 exquisitely designed guest rooms that reflect modern Indian sensibility; two restaurants, Tiara - an all-day dining restaurant and Cesky - a modern European fine dining restaurant and well equipped banquet facilities. The hotel has easy access to the entertainment, shopping and recreation centers of Mumbai.*



## Best Hotel Based Meeting Venue

### The Ashok, New Delhi



*The Ashok, set upon 25 acres of prime land in the Capital's diplomatic area has over the decades played host to discerning visitors from the world over and has emerged as an enduring symbol of the highest traditions of Indian hospitality.*

*The Ashok offers extensive convention services, from customer specific seminars to comprehensive convention packages along with the back-up of modern business amenities and communication services. The convention hall has trifurcation options and offers ultra-modern back-up in terms of seating, lighting and business facilitation props such as audio-video aids and simultaneous translation in various languages.*



## Best Standalone Convention Centre

### Adlux International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Kochi



*ADLUX International Convention & Exhibition Centre is an upcoming event venue located at Karukutty, Kerala. The venue is built with seamless structural, operational and technical features. The main attraction of the venue are 5 spacious halls that can host events accommodating between 250 to 13,000 persons. The centre is close to Kochi International Airport and well-connected by rail and road. It also has an Exhibition Centre which can quickly be converted into Tennis, Badminton, Volleyball courts or for any sporting event. Ample parking space, helipad, special facilities for differently-abled, business centre, guest rooms, multi-cuisine restaurant, event management etc are some of the key facilities.*



## Hotel Providing Best Facilities for the Differently Aabled Guests

The Lalit , New Delhi  
(Joint winner)



*The Lalit New Delhi has incorporated various bespoke features and facilities for the convenience and comfort of differently abled guests. Offering four dedicated rooms with inter-connecting set for attendants and fully equipped bathrooms for special needs, the hotel has dedicated one room for every hundred rooms for differently abled guests. All guest elevators are wide enough for wheel chair access along with Braille sign on every call button and an audio announcement for each floor. There is a dedicated parking slot with signage at the main porch along with a special ramp with anti-skid mat for facilitating the guests to enter the hotel through a dedicated access area. Restaurant tables are designed in a way to accommodate guests on a wheel chair and both lobby and banqueting levels of the hotel have dedicated restrooms for differently abled guest.*



## Hotel Providing Best Facilities for the Differently Abled Guests

The Ashok, New Delhi  
(Joint winner)



*The Ashok, set upon 25 acres of prime land in the Capital's diplomatic area has over the decades played host to discerning visitors from the world over and has emerged as an enduring symbol of the highest traditions of Indian hospitality.*

*The Ashok pays special attention to the needs of its differently-abled guests. It's nine restaurants, tea lounge, business centre, all indoor banquet venues and other facilities are wheel chair accessible. Wheel chair accessible sinks, towel racks, closet poles, anti-skid bath chair, grip rails are provided. Public toilets are available for both differently abled men and women in convention areas.*



Mr. Ashish Kumar Roy

Best Chef of India  
4 to 5 Star Deluxe and Heritage  
(Classic & Grand) Category

Mr. Ashish Kumar Roy  
Executive Chef, The Rambagh Palace, Jaipur



*Mr. Ashish Kumar Roy was Executive Sous Chef at Taj Bengal, Kolkata prior to joining Rambagh Palace as Executive Chef in 2008. He served as a pre-opening Executive Chef at The Gateway Hotel, Kolkata, since 2012 prior to his second stint as the Executive Chef of Rambagh Palace, Jaipur from 2017.*

*He joined the Taj leadership program in June of 2008 and has 29 years of culinary experience behind him. He has served Dr. Manmohan Singh, Ms. Hillary Clinton, Michael Douglas and also served as Chef-in-Charge of the War Ship at the prestigious fleet review for President of India, held at Visakhapatnam in February 2006. He holds a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Calcutta, a TD Diploma in Cookery from IHM, Calcutta, a Certificate in Food Principle in Cookery from City Guild, London and a P.G. Diploma in Hotel Management with 1st Class.*



## Best Incredible India Bed & Breakfast Establishment

Approved by the Ministry of Tourism,  
Government of India - Gold & Silver category

Rosegardens Homestay, Munnar, Kerala



*Rosegardens eco-friendly homestay located in Munnar, is set amidst an unending expanse of cardamom, rubber and tea plantations, providing an exotic aroma of the spice scented cool air. It overlooks pristine valleys and mountains that are home to exotic species of flora and fauna*



## Best Rural/Agri/Plantation Tourism Project

M/s. Indeco Leisure Hotels Pvt. Ltd.,  
Kumbakonam  
(Joint Winner)



*Indeco's mission is not just hotel business but also to create, responsible and sustainable tourism initiatives for the local communities in remote rural regions. While restoring Heritage, the organization transforms hospitality from a mere shelter to a unique experience with the involvement of the local communities. The organization aims is to offer economic and social benefit, equal opportunities to the rural as well as the urban people, protect nature, heritage, art, culture, beliefs, lifestyles and practices. The organization has been involved in capacity building for the local communities in hospitality related profession to enable local community participation in planning and execution of their work plans.*



## Best Rural / Agri / Plantation Tourism Project

M/s Grassroutes Journey Pvt. Ltd.,  
Mumbai  
(Joint Winner)



*Grassroutes is a social enterprise working to create livelihood opportunities for rural communities. Tourism has been adopted as a driver of change for implementing sustainable practices. Grassroutes has created a model of community based rural tourism wherein villages have been set up as hospitality centers that are completely run, managed and owned by the local communities comprising of 19 villages across 4 states in India namely, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. A large number of tourists have visited the Rural Tourism Projects created by Grassroots since the year 2006.*



**Best Medical Tourism Facility**  
**Apollo Health City, Hyderabad**



*Apollo Health City, Hyderabad which started in 1988 is accredited to the Joint Commission International (JCI) USA which is a certification recognized globally as the gold standard in Health care. Apollo Health City, Hyderabad covers the entire spectrum from illness to wellness and is thus a health city and not a medical city.*

*The hospital 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, etc*



## Best Tourism Friendly Golf Course

Jaypee Greens Golf Course  
Greater NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh



*Jaypee Greens is a world class Golf Course with multiple facilities to give tourists a memorable experience of Indian hospitality. Spread over 450 acres Jaypee Greens includes a Greg Norman design golf course, a large club house, 350 yards flood light driving range with 60 bays, 5 Star Resort hotel with 172 rooms, Six senses Spa, Integrated sports facilities with 16 different sports, sports academies with variety of accommodation options and 7 multi cuisine restaurants.*

*The 18 hole championship golf course is 7347 yards par 72 with 14 lakes and 89 white bunkers. The club house is equipped with a swimming pool, Gym, multi cuisine restaurant, locker rooms equipped with 200 lockers, steam, sauna and shower facilities.*



## Best Film Promotion Friendly State / Union Territory

Rajasthan



*Rajasthan takes you on an unforgettable journey. It's heritage, forts, places and havelis, Aravalli hill range, sand dunes, lakes, folk music, dance and colourful ethnic dresses, luxury trains have always delighted filmmakers across the globe. The land is a colorful bouquet of massive stunning experiences, diverse cultures, delectable cuisines and warm people, set amidst a rugged yet inviting landscape. In Rajasthan one can find every hue in Nature's grand palette – the red sands, the blue of royalty, the pink cities or the amber sunsets. Sight and sounds that are far removed from any city that will transport you into a folk lore. Music, art and dance is woven into every inch of this land which is carved in every grain of sand. The Department of Tourism of Rajasthan provides a single point online application and interaction platform to the film Producers.*



सत्यमेव जयते

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2016-17

अतिथिदेवो भव  
Atithidevo Bhava



Presented by :  
Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

अतुल्य! भारत  
Incredible! India

