

India

Supplement of TRAVTALK JANUARY 1ST FORTNIGHT ISSUE 2019

A DDP PUBLICATION

TRAVEL AWARDS

1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP SOUTH ASIA'S LEADING TRAVEL TRADE FORTNIGHTLY

TRAVTALK

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**INDIA
TRAVEL
AWARDS**

SATYAJEET RAJAN

Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

HONOURED THE AWARD WINNERS

Mark your 2019 calendar

Luxury TRAVEL SHOW

April 6 - 7, 2019

Mumbai

Allied TRAVEL SHOW

May 18 - 19, 2019

Jaipur

Wedding TRAVEL SHOW

July 13 - 14, 2019

Delhi

MICE TRAVEL SHOW

Nov 30 - Dec 1, 2019

Delhi

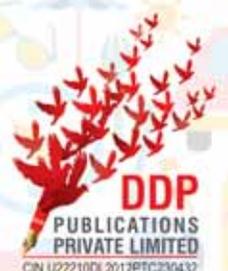
Venue to be announced

For more details:

sarika@ddppl.com, +91 98101 91852

punam.singh@gmail.com, +91 98111 58785

sonia.guru@ddppl.com, +91 8800396009





PUBLISHER'S NOTE

India presents a perfect blend of traditional and modern, preserving its rich culture and heritage besides encouraging contemporary infrastructure development. The country is fast moving towards becoming a major hub for tourists all over the world and we would like to support the efforts of individuals who have been instrumental in helping the tourism sector grow. The growth of the sector has a direct bearing on employment opportunities and in GDP contribution.

As a tribute, DDP Group decided to organise India Travel Awards and India MiCE Awards to recognise the achievers of the travel and tourism industry, who have worked steadfastly towards enhancing the environment to allow the growth of this business. These stalwarts need to be acknowledged, appreciated and encouraged in the most befitting manner.

Our highest honour, the Gold Maya, is awarded to those stalwarts who have shaped the industry in the way it is today by creating innovative ways and products to take the industry a notch higher. The earlier editions of the India Travel Awards and India MiCE Awards have set the beginning of a journey of long-term associations with some and a renewal of the bond with many others.

Overall, this edition of the India Travel Awards and India MiCE Awards was another successful chapter in this journey.

The awards will be travelling to various other cities in its subsequent editions. Thus, we take it upon ourselves, in our own small way, to revive and enhance tourism in various regions of India.

SanJeet

India Travel Awards

Vikramajit
CHAIRMAN

SanJeet
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

MARKETING
Sonia Butalia
Gaganpreet Kaur
Nitisha Jain

EDITORIAL
Peden Doma Bhutia
Devika Jeet
Nisha Verma
Amrita Ghosh
Akanki Sharma

DESIGN
Nityanand Misra
Vikas Mandotia
Nitin Kumar

PRODUCTION
Anil Kharbanda

CIRCULATION
Ashok Rana

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MIDDLE EAST:

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Maya descends on Agra to



The winners of India Travel Awards & India MiCE Awards 2018 with their trophies

As the perfect platform for recognising achievers from the travel, hospitality and MiCE industry, India Travel Awards in its latest edition, felicitated the best of the best from every segment of the travel and tourism fraternity.



NISHA VERMA

The India Travel Awards and India MiCE Awards concluded its latest edition with a grand ceremony at Hotel Clarks Shiraz, Agra. The event saw in attendance stalwarts of the travel and hospitality industry from across the country. The chief

guest for the evening was **Satyajeet Rajan**, Director General, Ministry of Tourism and the guest of honour was **Manvinder Sandhu**, First Runner up, Gladrags Mrs India Celebrating the achievements of travel professionals in travel and MiCE industries across the country, the award was given in a total of 74 categories.

Congratulating the audience for being a part of the industry, Rajan said, "Being an entrepreneur in India is difficult, and I must congratulate everyone for being a part of the travel business and achieving so much. We, at Ministry of Tourism, have always tried to help entrepreneurs if they

approach us with a concern or challenge. The tourism sector has been contributing immensely to employment generation in the country. It is the industry that make us take decisions which can in turn push the tourism sector to do better and achieve more. Each person outside India is either a tourist or



(L-R): SanJeet, Rupak Gupta, SMA Sheeraz, Himanshu Patil, Satyajeet Rajan, Manvinder Sandhu, Dilruba Pandey, P S Duggal and Deepak Bhatnagar

mesmerise tourism fraternity



a potential tourist, and all of us are ambassadors of our country.”

Rajan also claimed that those who focus on experiential tourism will be the game changers in the travel industry. “The ones who make trends and innovations are going to succeed much more than those who do not make innovations. I wish India Travel Awards and India MiCE Awards a big success. The selection process of these awards involves the industry at large and the way awardees have been chosen is very participative,” he shared.

The award ceremony was attended by 150 guests from the tourism and hospitality industry, acknowledged achievers in their field. **SanJeet**, Mentor, India Travel Awards, said, “It is our aim to recognise, felicitate and reward outstanding contribution to the MiCE industry. These awards are powered by TravTalk and MiCETalk, India’s leading travel and MiCE publications respectively.”

Talking about the industry, he said, “Indian tourism is the fastest growing among the G20 countries

and it will be responsible for 10 per cent of all jobs in India. Tourism has more funded start-ups than any other industry in India. The Indian MiCE industry is currently pegged at ₹25,000 crores and is expected to double in the next two years. The potential is therefore, huge. The India MiCE and Travel Awards have been instituted to recognise this excellence, hard work and success of this industry that is now synonymous with progress, development and opportunity.” He claimed that these awards, through their unique voting system, aims to celebrate

the large global players and even the smallest players who often go unnoticed.”

The awards were divided into four categories — Personal Awards for the legends and leaders of today and tomorrow, Business Awards for the organisations who have set benchmarks for themselves in their respective fields and have exceeded expectations, Trending Awards decided by the critics and meant for individuals with extraordinary work and Partner Awards for the partners who have contributed to make India Travel Awards a success.

The winners of India Travel Awards are selected through an online nomination process, followed by online voting and finalised after a jury verdict. Voting is carefully monitored to avoid duplications and maintain transparency. For the current edition, over 50,000 votes were cast.

PS Duggal, Executive Director, Minar Group, entered the Gallery of Legends at the prestigious ceremony. **Himanshu Patil**, Director, Kesari Tours, was chosen as DDP Trailblazer for his contribution in the growth of his company and the industry at large while **SMA Sheeraz**, Managing Director, Sheeraz Tours, was declared as DDP Face of the Future. 📌



Gallery of Legends | P S DUGGAL



► P S Duggal, Executive Director, Minar Travels, received the award for Gallery of Legends. He was felicitated by Sanjeet, Mentor, India Travel Awards, Satyajeet Rajan, Director General, Ministry of Tourism and Manvinder Sandhu, First Runner up, Gladrags Mrs India

Thanking the team of DDP Publications and India Travel Awards, P S Duggal, Executive Director, Minar Travels, said that he holds India Travel Awards in high esteem. “Despite many stalwarts in the industry, I am thankful to DDP Publications and the jury members for having chosen me and the company for this award. I know it would have been a tough decision for the jury, and I am really glad to have received it,” he said.

Having started as a banking professional at ANZ Bank, Duggal joined the company in 1992 and has since been part of the growth story. With 26 years of experience in the industry, Duggal now looks after the entire administration and accounts of the company whilst coordinating with all its offices across countries. Today,

Minar Travels is a market leader in Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, and has an international presence in 32 countries, with inroads in the Latin and North American markets as well as Europe and Asia. The company is one of the biggest aviation services and destination management companies in the country with 16 offices in India and nine overseas. It is also the GSA for eight airlines. The luxury division became a traveller-made DMC in 2018. That’s not all, the company’s MiCE division is also a huge success.

“Despite many stalwarts in the industry, I am thankful to DDP Publications and the jury members for having chosen me and the company for this award”



DDP Trailblazer | HIMANSHU PATIL



► Himanshu Patil, Director, Kesari Tours received the award for DDP Game Changer. He was felicitated by SanJeet, Mentor, India Travel Awards, Satyajee Rajan, Director General, Ministry of Tourism and Manvinder Sandhu, First Runner up, Gladrags Mrs India

For Himanshu Patil, Director, Kesari Tours, India Travel Awards has set very high standards for itself and is exceeding year after year. “I want to congratulate team DDP and hope they keep doing this good work. Your encouragement makes us strive to do better in life. Thank you DDP Publications and SanJeet for putting up this great show. We really feel honoured. The ceremony, designing and everything was so perfect. Right from the selection process to putting up the show, the entire process is a labour of love and I want to thank everyone for rewarding us,” he said.

“ Right from the selection process to putting up the show, the entire process is a labour of love and I want to thank everyone for rewarding us with this honour ”

An industry veteran with 30 years of experience and sharp insights into the travel industry, Patil inspires the youth to venture out and follow their passion and experiment with innovation. His latest initiative ‘Travosh’ offers Indian tourists a perfect match for every destination and season with a functional product range that promises prompt delivery. His company brings a smile on the faces of millions of tourists every year. As Vice President of Outbound Tour Operators Association of India (OTOAI), he ensures high-value proposition in every initiative towards business transformation.



DDP Face of the Future | SMA SHEERAZ



► SMA Sheeraz, Director, Sheeraz Tours, received the award for Face of the Future. He was felicitated by SanJeet, Mentor, India Travel Awards, Satyajeet Rajan, Director General, Ministry of Tourism and Manvinder Sandhu, First Runner up, Gladrags Mrs India

SMA Sheeraz, Managing Director, Sheeraz Tours thanked Team DDP and the industry at large for having honoured him with an award. “We started this business in Lucknow in 2007 which now has emerged to be one of the main markets as every tourism board and airline is focusing on Tier-II cities. Sheeraz Tours is a B2C company but we also have started a B2B company called Tripshapers.com. Today, we are working hard to improve tourism in our state and this award encourages us to do more. We will grow our market as well as grow our company.”

Through his 20-year long association with the industry, Sheeraz has earned the goodwill of various domestic and international tourism boards and airlines. As the founder of Sheeraz Tours in Lucknow, he has helped scale the company to new heights and has become one of the most trusted travel companies in North India. He is also the Director of Tripshapers.com, a B2B online portal company, where he plays an instrumental role in showcasing the Uttar Pradesh region as a potential outbound market from India.

“Sheeraz Tours is a B2C company but we have also started a B2B company. Today, we are working hard to improve tourism in our state and this award encourages us to do more”





Chief Guest | SATYAJEET RAJAN

Satyajeet Rajan, Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India was happy to attend the India Travel and MiCE Awards and called them a great motivator. “It is a very well-organised awards ceremony and has been conducted quite professionally. Those who make trends, innovations in this are going to succeed much more than those who do not make innovations. I wish India Travel Awards and India MiCE Awards a big success, and the way awardees have been chosen is very participative. The selection process of these awards is very good and involves the industry at large.”

► Satyajeet Rajan, Director General, Ministry of Tourism received the award for Chief Guest

Best Hospitality Professional in a Tourist Destination |

DEBASISH BHOWMIK

Debasish Bhowmick, Senior Vice President, Clarks Shiraz Agra, has been in the industry for a long time and has been at the helm of affairs at Clarks Shiraz Agra for quite some time. “It’s a good time to win an award. We are continuously striving in the industry and trying to do the best. It is always good to be recognised for what you have done in the industry and the journey you’ve had,” he said.

► Debasish Bhowmik, Senior Vice President, received the award for Best Hospitality Professional in a Tourist Destination



Distinguished Travel Technology Stalwart | DEEPAK NARULA

With innovation as key, Deepak Narula, Managing Director, GRNconnect.com, has achieved great heights in the travel industry. On receiving the India Travel Award for his contribution to travel technology, he said, “It is definitely a moment of glory for me and my team. We have always embraced technology since the beginning and have changed the way travel agents work through our innovations. We have always stayed ahead of our competitors as far as technology is concerned as we have always invested in latest technology and have solved many bottle necks faced by travel agents. We can proudly say that today GRNconnect.com is the most user-friendly system in the industry.”

► Award was received on behalf of Deepak Narula, Managing Director, GRNconnect.com for Distinguished Travel Technology Stalwart



Most Professional Inbound Operator |

DEEPAK BHATNAGAR

Deepak Bhatnagar, Managing Director, Amantran Travel, has worked in the inbound industry for a long time. On receiving the award, he said, “India Travel Awards encourages people to work hard, get nominated and finally get awarded.” Talking about what the government needs to do for inbound tourism, he added, “The government shall focus on three things — visa regime, air capacity and the poor image of India in international markets. The government needs to access the source markets, besides the visa and air capacity.”

► Deepak Bhatnagar, Managing Director, Amantran Travel, received the award for Most Professional Inbound Operator





Best Travel Insurance | RELIGARE HEALTH INSURANCE

B Shiva Shanker, Business Head — Travel Insurance & New Business Lines, Religare Health Insurance, received the award and said, “We are delighted to have this award and would like to thank all our customers, and particularly channel partners for supporting us. The India Travel Awards is an excellently-organised show and we are delighted to be a part of this.”

► The award was given to Religare Health Insurance and, received by B Shiva Shanker, Business Head - Travel Insurance & New Business Lines, Religare Health Insurance and Paritosh Kataria, Head – Marketing, Religare Health Insurance

Fastest Growing Mid Market Hotel Brand | VINNCA HOTELS

A ccording to Snehal Kulshreshtha, Director, Vinnca Hotels, their focus on Tier II, III, IV and V markets is what has made them win an award. “We also have a property that is running in Kolad, which is 3.5 hours from Mumbai. These are adventure tents set up in a 36-acre resort. These are unique, and I invite all the viewers to come and experience luxury in a tented accommodation. This award is encouraging and motivational. A great event like always, DDP is outshining itself every single year,” he said.

► The award was given to Vinnca Hotels and, received by Snehal Kulshreshtha, Director, Vinnca Hotels



Best Luxury Wedding & MiCE Resort | ANANTA UDAIPUR

P leased to receive the award, Satya Roy Choudhary, Vice President, Ananta Udaipur, said, “I have heard a lot about these awards, and it’s a pleasure to have won this award today. Ours is a 250-room-hotel with the banquet size of 14000 sq ft. On an average, we organise 60 luxury weddings and around 50 conferences in a year. Hence, with the number of events we conduct, we stand out in the entire Rajasthan and this is the reason we have won this award.”

► The award was given to Ananta Udaipur and, received by Satya Roy Choudhary, Vice President and Sudip Raha, General Manager



Best Luxury Travel Website | FABGETAWAYS.COM

T alking about their company Raaj Bajaj, Founder & CEO, FABgetaways.com, said, “It’s a members-only online luxury travel platform, where essentially we showcase deals of four- and five-star hotels across the world. We believe that this unique concept and the fact that within 7 months of being live, we have over 50,000 members who have subscribed to the platform, has won us this award.”

► The award was given to FABgetaways.com and, received by Raaj Bajaj, Founder & CEO and Kaushal Gandhi, Senior Manager - Business Development





Best Adventure Tents | VINNCA VILLAGE AT ROCKHILL ADVENTURE & RESORTS

Vinnca Village at Rock Hill Adventures & Resorts at Kolad offers a heaven of tranquillity, away from the stress of city life. It enjoys a reputation for exceptional hospitality, friendly and efficient service, comfortable luxurious tents and dormitory, good food and an interesting activity. **Snehal Kulshreshtha**, Director, Vinnca Hotels, said, "These are adventure tents set up in a 36-acre resort. These are unique, and I invite all the viewers to come and experience luxury in a tented accommodation."

► The award was given to Vinnca Village At Rockhill Adventure & Resorts and, received by Snehal Kulshreshtha, Director, Vinnca Hotels

Fastest Growing Hotel Brand | BEST WESTERN HOTELS & RESORTS

Tajinder Singh, Vice President - Sales & Marketing, BestWestern Hotels & Resorts, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, received the award on behalf of the company and revealed that they have a long-standing association with India Travel Awards. "This award allows us to socialise, get recognised and gives you an opportunity once in a year to say Hi! to our friends and colleagues. Since we started three years back, we have put a lot of effort to change the brand perception," he said.

► The award was given to Best Western Hotels & Resorts and received by Tajinder Singh, Vice President - Sales & Marketing



Best Travel Exhibition | GLOBAL PANORAMA SHOWCASE

Harmandeep Singh Anand, Managing Director and Founder, GPS, claimed that 2018 was a historic year for GPS. He said, "Everyone in the core team has worked hard for the last six years since the inception of the event." **Tanushka Kaur Anand**, Executive Director, GPS, said, "We are almost doing eight events a year and in 2019, we will be doing 12 events. Moving forward, we are going more towards digitalisation and are trying to enhance this event even more."

► The award was given to Global Panorama Showcase and, received by Harmandeep Singh Anand, Managing Director, Tanushka Kaur Anand, Director and Sobinder Singh Kohli, Director



Best Asian NTO | DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHILIPPINES

Seema Datt, Country Manager, Department of Tourism Philippines, believes that their team has been putting in a lot of effort, which is why they won the India Travel Awards. "We are putting in a lot of effort in training our trade partners about the destination and I think our efforts are well-rewarded with this trophy. Philippines is one of the most exotic places in the world, with world's top 3 beaches," she said.

► The award was given to Department Of Tourism Philippines and, received by Seema Datt, Account Director



Most Trending Destination | VISITFINLAND

For **Sara Sodhi Juneja**, Country Head, VisitFinland, the Indian travel industry has been warm. "We got a good welcome this year. Visit Finland re-entered the Indian market this year, and with the amazing experiences that we offer, the numbers have been growing in double digits. Hopefully, we look forward to gaining more market share from the Indian market and with the experiences of Santa Claus, Northern Lights, and igloo stay, it's a bucket-list destination and we hope to gain a lot of market share from India," she revealed.

► The award was given to VisitFinland and received by Sara Sodhi Juneja, Country Head, VisitFinland





Best Mice Organiser | MACH CONFERENCES

Ranjan Ghosh, General Manager, Operations, said that to receive the award was a great moment for the entire Mach Conferences team. "It is a great recognition for all our hard work, which we have put in throughout the year. Thank you to my team for making this happen. Also, I thank the DDP team for creating such a nice platform for MiCE players."

► The award was given to Mach Conferences and, received by Suresh Gupta, COO, Ranjan Ghosh, General Manager - Operations, Kamal Ahuja, Manager and Ankita Gulati, Deputy Manager

Best Organiser of Conferences – Domestic | ICE GROUP INDIA

Thanking the team of India MiCE Awards, Disha, Managing Director, Ice Group, said, "We are the best at what we do, and that's why we have won this award. We have done some good work during the year which has been noticed. It's one of the most professionally-organised award ceremonies that I have seen of late. Kudos to the whole team for the same."

► The award was given to Ice Group India and, received by Mohit Khanna, Director and Disha Shah, Director



Best MiCE Company | CONCEPT TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Feeling honoured to receive the award, Ashish Jagota, Executive Director, Concept Travel & Conferences, said, "It was a fabulous show and a great opportunity to meet everyone. I must say that the show reflects our responsibility towards the industry and we shall focus on doing good work and try to enhance the opportunity for the Indians in the MiCE industry."

► The award was given to Concept Travel & Conferences and, received by Vanessa Williams, Head, Business Development and Ashish Jagota, Executive Director



Best Venue for Launches – Tier II | PARADISE VILLAGE BEACH RESORT, GOA

Calling the award ceremony a great initiative by the team, Rishi Dandona, Managing Director, Paradise Village Beach Resort, Goa, said, "We have a 10-acre property right on the beach with 105-room inventory. We have two lakh sq feet of banqueting space and we are one of the preferred venues for launches. This is a great encouragement and thanks to the team of DDP for a great initiative."

► The award was given to Paradise Village Beach Resort, Goa and, received by Rishi Dandona, Managing Director and Mona Dandona, Chairman



Leading MiCE Operator | DNATA

Over five decades, dnata has established itself as an industry innovator in the Middle East. It is the leading travel management company in the region offering the most comprehensive range of corporate, leisure, partnership and trade services. With its constant expansion, it is today a one-stop shop for travellers across sixty countries.

► The award was given to dnata and received by Preetham Kiron, Managing Director and Dheeraj Rastogi, CFO





BEST MiCE Operator South East Asia

TRAVELBULLZ

Kanwer Deep Singh, Founder & President, TravelBullz, claims that getting multiple awards for every region in one night is a very humbling feeling. According to him, “The credit for this completely goes to our team across Hong Kong, Thailand and India. I want to thank our customers who have been supporting us and always voting for us, as well as our partners, who have been helping us to grow over the last eight years.”

► The award was given to TravelBullz and, received by Raman Deep Singh, Director MICE & Groups (Asia), Shikha Choudhry, General Manager – MICE

Fastest Growing MiCE Travel Agency

SKIL

Sharing that theirs is a new firm, Trishal Rao, CEO, SKIL, said, “We’ve been in the MiCE space for the last 2-3 years. I indeed thank DDP for appreciating us with this award. It’s a great motivation for our entire team and will help us take our company to bigger heights. For us, it is the result of team work and effort.”

► The award was given to SKIL and received by Ramanpreet Singh, Senior Partner and Trishal Rao, CEO



Best Organiser of Conferences – Abroad

ICE GROUP INDIA

Thanking the team of India MiCE Awards, Disha, Managing Director, Ice Group, said, “We are the best at what we do, and that’s why we have won this award. We have done some good work during the year which has been noticed. It’s one of the most professionally-organised award ceremonies that I have seen of late. Kudos to the whole team for the same.”

► The award was given to Ice Group India and, received by Mukesh Bhalla, Manager, MICE, Disha Shah, Director and Mohit Khanna, Director

Best Debut Business Hotel

FERN GOREGAON, MUMBAI

Sujit Gopinath, General Manager, The Fern Goregaon, Mumbai, thinks that it’s their guests who can best tell how good their property is. “The value proposition that we give as a debut business hotel is huge. We have got the numbers for being in proximity with Bombay Exhibition Centre. The kind of service and product quality we offer continuously and consistently has been amazing in the last couple of years, which has been rewarded today,” he shared.

► The award was given to Fern Goregaon, Mumbai and received by Sujith Gopinath, General Manager



Best Organiser of Incentive Programmes – International

AMBASSADOR EXPRESS HOLIDAYS

Thanking his team for doing a good job, Saurabh Mahajan, Director, Ambassador Express Holidays, said, “We are a MiCE company and are glad that my team was able to do some good work this year, the reason we were given this award by DDP. The awards ceremony was well-organised, crisp and reached out to both travel and MiCE segments very well.”

► The award was given to Ambassador Express Holidays and received by Saurabh Mahajan, Director

Best MiCE Experience & Innovation

ADIONA TRAVELS

Major Pradeep Dhariwal, Director of Sales, Adiona Travels, revealed that it was the second time in a row that they have got this award. “It is the hardwork of the Adiona Travels team. They are consistent, and I think many more such awards will be coming our way. Thanks to DDP Publications for encouraging us,” he claimed.

► The award was given to Adiona Travels and, received by Major Pradeep Dhariwal, Director of Sales and Sunil Nain, Director Inbound





Best Airline - International

SILKAIR

SilkAir is a full-service regional airline with its head office in Singapore. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore Airlines and operates scheduled passenger services from Singapore to 52 cities in 16 countries in Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, China, Japan and Australia. From India, SilkAir operates to eight cities and offers connections to not only Singapore, but further ahead for travellers across the country.

► The award was given to SilkAir and received on behalf of Jagdish Ram Bhojwani, General Manager

Best Global Distribution System

TRAVELPORT GALILEO

On winning the award, Anoop Tewari – National Head (Relationship Management), Travelport, said, “It’s a great recognition for which I thank TravTalk. We provide support to our airline and hotel partners through content and technology. To our travel agent partners, we give all possible solutions and content and I hope to keep on doing a better job.” On the award ceremony, he commented, “It was great to see such a big turnout in Agra and meet everyone under one roof. The event was organised in the best possible way.”

► The award was given to Travelport Galileo and, received by Anoop Tewari, National Head (Relationship Management) and Taruna Soni, Head- Marketing



Best MiCE Operator

ICON PLANNERS

Calling it a great show, Sunaina Chatterjee, CEO, iCON Planners, said, “Just like they say ‘Wah Taj’, I want to say ‘Wah DDPPL’, and I must thank all my team members, since it’s because of them that this is the third award for us in the years that went by. It’s a team effort and I also want to thank our patrons who’ve been with us throughout. The award ceremony was a great show. Today, MiCE is the buzzword, and even normal travel agencies want to get into this business. However, it is becoming specialised and I am sure it’s going to evolve. There is no going down from here.”

► The award was given to iCON Planners and, received by Sunaina Chatterjee, CEO and Ritesh Joshi, Head Corporate Travels



Best B2B Travel Portal

TRAVEL BOUTIQUE ONLINE

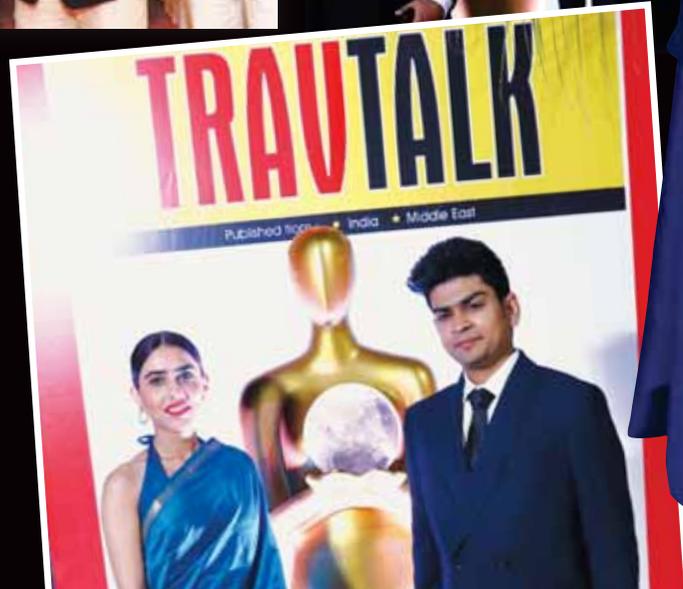
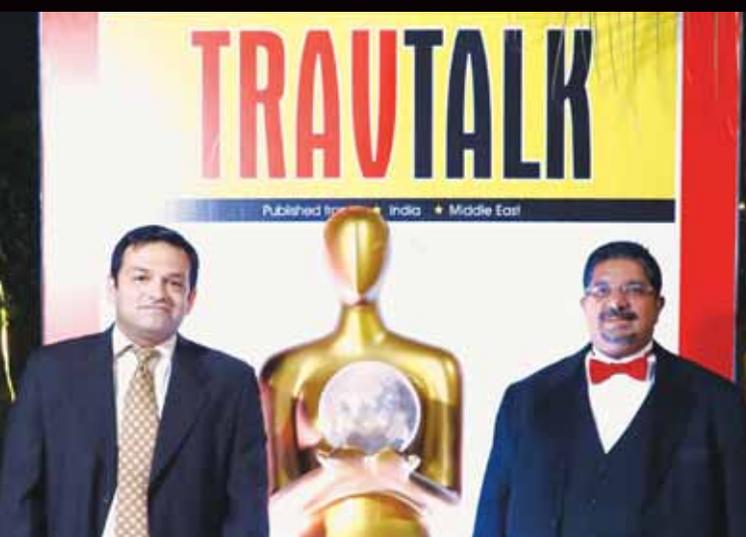
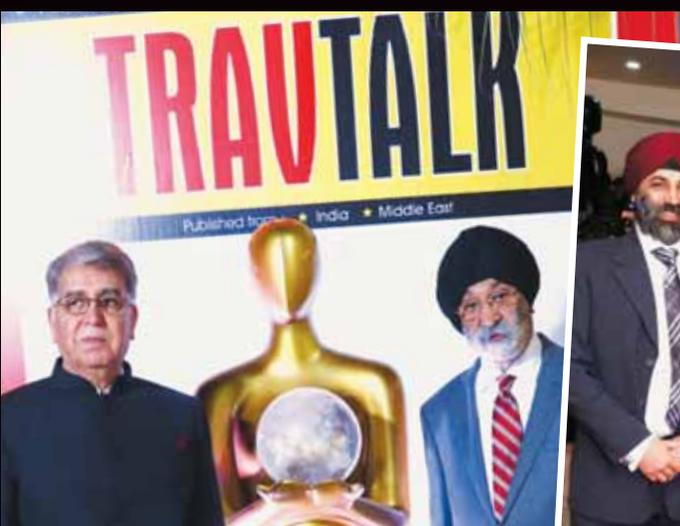
Ramen Ch Das, Sales Manager— Assam & Meghalaya, Travel Boutique Online was excited to receive the award. “In the Northeast, TBO is doing very well because we have a lot of products. We are not just doing ticketing or hotels, but also offering a lot of things like packages, holidays — international and domestic, hotels and DMCs. People in the Northeast want to go to international destinations. Travel agents are also giving good response and trying their hand at packages,” he said.

► The award was given to Travel Boutique Online and received by Ramen Ch Das, Sales Manager – Assam & Meghalaya





GLIMPSES of India Travel Awards





Best Global Emergency Assistance

TRAWELLTAG COVER MORE

Referring to India Travel Awards a great platform for the entire travel fraternity, **Deepak Singh**, AVP, North Zone, TrawellTag Cover More, said, "This is a great platform for the entire travel fraternity and the travel industry partners. We are working very hard in the industry. Since we are into the business for the last two decades, and have earned from the travel fraternity, we now want to return to this industry. This award brings a lot of recognition for us."

► The award was given to TrawellTag Cover More and received by Deepak Singh, AVP North Zone

Best Business Car Rental

Company | NILJYOTI TRAVEL AGENCY

Hailing from Tripura, **Sanjib Acharjee**, Proprietor, Niljyoti Travel Agency, claimed that they have been running their car rental company for a long time. "In Tripura, we used to lag behind in tourism sector, but it is developing now. Through these awards, we would like to let the industry know about the offerings in Tripura. It's a great tourism destination — green and peaceful. To take the region forward, we need support and promotion in the media," he shared.

► The award was given to Niljyoti Travel Agency and received by Sanjib Acharjee, proprietor



Best Luxury Tour Operator -

Outbound | AZURA HOLIDAYS

Sohail Hanafi, Director, Azura Holidays, believes that India Travel Awards is a great opportunity for budding travel agencies. "People from all over the fraternity come together and attend this programme where achievers are felicitated, and it's a great opportunity for all of us. I am glad to have been a part of it. Azura Holidays is a boutique travel agency and we deal with luxury holidays. Our company has been really working hard for the past five years in the luxury outbound market and I think our efforts are finally paying off and we are reaping the benefits with this recognition now," he claimed.

► The award was given to Azura Holidays and received by Sohail Hanafi, Director

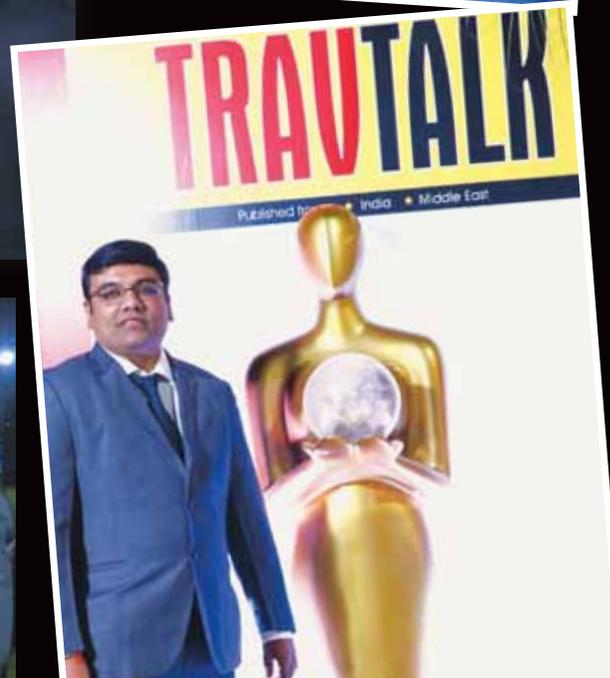
Best Foreign Exchange

Aggregator | FXKART.COM

After winning multiple awards for years, **Abdul Hadi Shaikh**, Co-Founder, FxKart.com, expressed his happiness saying that winning continuously for years gives them the confidence that they are doing the right thing. "I think that we deserve this award for putting a lot of effort, in terms of revolutionising the entire industry, and giving them the technology tools that they are craving for. Fortunately, for us, nobody is focusing on that, and, in the past 12 months, we have grown by leaps and bounds," he claimed.

► The award was given to FxKart.com and, received by Abdul Hadi Shaikh, Co Founder and Adnan Hasan Khan, Regional Manager - North India







Best Global Distribution System

TRAVELPORT GALILEO

On winning the award, **Anoop Tewari**, National Head (Relationship Management), Travelport, said, "It's a great recognition for which I thank TravTalk. We provide support to our airline and hotel partners through content and technology. To our travel agent partners, we give all possible solutions and content and I hope to keep on doing a better job." On the award ceremony, he commented, "It was great to see such a big turnout in Agra and meet everyone under one roof. The event was organised in the best possible way."

► The award was given to **Travelport Galileo** and, received by **Anoop Tewari**, National Head (Relationship Management) and **Taruna Soni**, Head- Marketing

Best MiCE Destination

THE DELTIN DAMAN

Deltin Daman is spread across 10 acres (40,300 sq metres) and boasts 176 rooms generously sized at 44 sq metres. Guests staying at the property can relish greenery and meandering pool. The property boasts plethora of facilities and amenities for guests. The spa has 7 treatment rooms and offers both Asian as well as European treatments. The Grandice ballroom accommodates 350 people in cluster-style seating. All in one, The Deltin is a luxurious Daman Hotel with a capacity of up to 2000 people.

► The award was given to **The Deltin Daman** and received on behalf of **Tanya Ahluwalia**, Vice President - Marketing & Sales



Best Wedding & MiCE Hotel

SAYAJI HOTEL KOLHAPUR

Manish Singh Kushwaha, General Manager, Sayaji Hotel Kolhapur, revealed that they opened the property in 2015. "Prior to that, from Pune to Goa, there was no such good destination in the entire region. Hence, there is a reason our group came up with this hotel, and it's a gift to the entire region. Since we opened the hotel, it's been growing in terms of revenue and ARRs day-by-day and it's been a much-needed landmark for the entire western Maharashtra," he said.

► The award was given to **Sayaji Hotel Kolhapur** and received by **Manish Singh Kushwaha**, General Manager



Best Customised Tour Operator – New Zealand

XTREME DESTINATIONS

Chintan Kayani, Director, Xtreme Destinations, believes that India Travel Awards are only getting better year by year. Owing the success of his company to his team, he said, "It's definitely the full effort of my team behind this award. We have won for the best Customised Tour Operator for New Zealand, and we are happy to receive the award. Thank you to the team of India Travel Awards and DDP Publications for putting up a great show."

► The award was given to **Xtreme Destinations** and, received by **Chintan Kayani**, Director, **Hemant Shah**, Director and **Neelanj Shah**, Finance and Marketing Advisor





Best Boutique Resort | THE WOODS AT SASAN

Talking about their property, **Maulik Bhagat**, Managing Director, The Woods at Sasan, said, "We have just opened our flagship property in Sasan Gir, where there are Asiatic lions. The Woods at Sasan has been made with a lot of passion and has a soul. There is an inspiration from the geopolitical boundaries where we are, and we really believe that getting an award for the property means that it's an award for the destination."

► The award was given to **The Woods at Sasan** and, received by **Maulik Bhagat**, Managing Director and **Sanjay Bhowmik**, Resort Manager

Best Experiential Tour Operator | COX & KINGS

Yusuf Poonawala, Senior Vice President, Cox & Kings, claims that an award like the India Travel Award adds more responsibility on their shoulders to live up to. "With this award, we strive to work harder so that we keep on shining and doing better. I want to dedicate the award for the full team of Bharat Dekho because of which we have got this. The ceremony was fantastically organised. There are a number of shows out there in the market, but the way the quality has been this year is brilliant and flawless," he said.

► The award was given to **Cox & Kings** and, received by **Nagender Panwar**, National Head Operations and Contracting and **Yusuf Poonawala**, Senior Vice President



Best Sports Tourism Company | GREYNOMAD

Rishav Jana, Manager — Business Development & Operations, Greynomad, claims that winning the India Travel Award is inspiring. "It motivates us to do better and work harder. It's a great recognition for our teamwork and makes us strive to work harder," he said.

► The award was given to **Greynomad** and, received by **Tanisa Mookerji**, Manager - Marketing and **Rishav Jana**, Manager - Business Development & Operations

Best Floating Casino Hotel | DELTIN CARAVELA

When in Goa, it's mandatory to visit the Deltin Caravela. Afloat on the Mandovi River, away from the crowds, Deltin Caravela is India's only Luxury floating Casino hotel. Get into your almost 500 sq ft suite and relish all the luxuries while trying your hand at almost 140 gaming positions. Deltin Caravela has 8 ultra-luxurious suites, skylight restaurant, spa, roulette and many other games for guests looking for some gaming time.

► The award was given to **Deltin Caravela** and received on behalf of **Tanya Ahluwalia**, Vice President - Marketing & Sales



Best Foreign Exchange Aggregator | FXKART.COM

After winning multiple awards for years, **Abdul Hadi Shaikh**, Co-Founder, FxKart.com, expressed his happiness saying that winning continuously for years gives them the confidence that they are doing the right thing. "I think that we deserve this award for putting a lot of effort, in terms of revolutionising the entire industry, and giving them the technology tools that they are craving for. Fortunately, for us, nobody is focusing on that, and, in the past 12 months, we have grown by leaps and bounds," he claimed.

► The award was given to **FxKart.com** and, received by **Abdul Hadi Shaikh**, Co Founder and **Adnan Hasan Khan**, Regional Manager - North India



Best Online Portal | ATLAS TRAVELS ONLINE

Hussain Patel, Director, Atlas Travels, claims that their hard work is what has earned their company the India Travel Award. “We are very excited to receive this award and we would like to thank you for recognising our efforts and awarding us with the 'Best Online Portal'. It is our continuous endeavour to provide the best deals to our customers and to increase our network in becoming the largest distributor,” he said.

► The award was given to Atlas Travels Online and, received by Amit Sharma, Area Sales Manager and Sachin Sharma, Zonal Head

Best Luxury Resort | THE FERN SAMALI RESORT

Sumit Rahate, General Manager, The Fern Samali Resort, commented that India Travel Awards is a beautiful platform for them to get recognised and rewarded by the hospitality and tourism fraternity members. “We have got this award, because of my team members, who have been providing a consistent service delivery and achieving the best guest satisfaction. I want to thank everyone who has voted for us for getting this award this year and one of many from the ITA to come,” he said.

► The award was given to The Fern Samali Resort and received by Sumit Rahate, General Manager



Best Customised Tour Operator – Europe | XPLORE DESTINATIONS

Chintan Kayani, Director, Xplore Destinations, believes that India Travel Awards is only getting better year by year. Owing the success of his company to his team, he said, “It’s definitely the full efforts of my team behind this award. We have won for the best Customised Tour Operator for Europe, and we are happy to receive the award. Thank you to the team of India Travel Awards and DDP Publications for putting up a great show.”

► The award was given to Xplore Destinations and, received by Chintan Kayani, Director, Hemant Shah, Director and Neelanj Shah, Finance and Marketing Advisor

Best Boutique Hotel | GOLDFINCH HOTEL MUMBAI

Thanking the India Travel Awards team, Subhadeep Datta, General Manager, Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai, said, “It’s a great effort and I thank you for recognising us. There has been a lot of hardwork by the team. The award is not only for me or the hotel, but the people behind it. Hence, Maya goes to everyone.”

► The award was given to Goldfinch Hotel Mumbai and received by Subhadeep Datta, General Manager



Best Casino Hotel | DELTIN SUITES

Located five minutes from Candolim beach, Deltin Suites is a Casino Hotel in Goa, which is known for its intimate and stylish ambience. The fine and commodious suites are 286 square metres and fashioned in shades of yellow and brown with playful design accents built along the cosy courtyard, which houses a swimming pool.

► The award was given to Deltin Suites and received on behalf of Tanya Ahluwalia, Vice President - Marketing & Sales



Best B2B Online Travel Portal

TRAVELBULLZ

Kanwer Deep Singh, Founder & President, TravelBullz, claims that getting multiple awards for every region in one night is a very humbling feeling. “The credit for this completely goes to our team across Hong Kong, Thailand and India. I want to thank our customers who have been supporting us and always voting for us, as well as our partners, who have been helping us to grow over the last eight years.”

► The award was given to TravelBullz and, received by Amit Paul Singh, General Manager Sales and Kanwer Deep Singh, Founder & President

Best Travel Agency | NEXTOURISM

For Dipak Dhumal, Travel Advisor – Domestic, Nextourism, it is a third-time win at the India Travel Awards. “It’s an excellent show and I am glad to receive this award. I would like to thank DDP Publications for recognising us for our efforts,” he said.

► The award was given to Nextourism and, received by Dipak Dhumal, Travel Advisor - Domestic



Best Emerging Tour Operator - Outbound

DEWBERRY HOLIDAYS

According to Ashish C Shah, Founder, Dewberry Holidays, having satisfied customers is what has earned them the award. “We are basically into outbound and our 90 per cent business goes into outbound. We don’t do domestic and weekend tours. Our customers have no complaints because of our networking and infrastructure. India Travel Awards is a fantastic platform where we can be recognised in the industry. We really appreciate the hard work behind the show,” he said.

► The award was given to Dewberry Holidays and, received by Ashish C Shah, Founder and Ashish D Shah, Chairman



Best MiCE Operator

ALTAIR HOLIDAYS

A complete service package for the customers, Altair Holidays aims to deliver excellent customer service and satisfaction through continuous variations, development and skill of their staff, along with technology. For MiCE travel, Altair Holidays helps its guests make hassle-free group tours with passenger satisfaction and prompt services. Their USP is to offer end-to-end solutions for ground planning and execution.

► The award was given to Altair Holidays and, received by Priyaank Ranka, Director and Amit Motwani, Director



Best Global Emergency Assistance

TRAWELLTAG COVER-MORE

Calling India Travel Awards a great platform for the entire travel fraternity, Deepak Singh, AVP, North Zone, TrawellTag Cover More, said, “This is a great platform for the entire travel fraternity and the travel industry partners. We are working very hard in the industry. Since we are into the business for the last two decades, and have earned from the travel fraternity, we now want to return to this industry. This award brings a lot of recognition for us.”

► The award was given to TrawellTag Cover-More and received by Girish Chandra Yadav, Regional Manager and Deepak Singh, AVP North Zone





Fastest Growing Luxury Travel Agency

T3 : TAKEOFF - TRANSIT - TRAVEL

T3 is the brainchild of three ardent travel enthusiasts and serves domestic travellers, but also an international client base. The company takes care to design typical travel itineraries, which are based upon first-hand experience of enthusiastic travellers. T3 is an extensive platform that makes sure that its clients derive the maximum benefit out of their travel.

► The award was given to T3 : Takeoff - Transit - Travel and, received on behalf of Dhruv Somaia, Director

Best Destination Management Company – Domestic

MOUNTAIN EDGE TOURS & HOLIDAYS

Mountain Edge Tours & Holidays is a reputed and premium travel company and offers a broad spectrum of services that include holiday and honeymoon packages, special interest tours, escorted tours for groups and senior citizens, weekend trips, hotel/resorts reservations, car services, airline reservations/charter, etc. The company offers a wide range of customised holidays, which suits the budget of every guest.

► The award was given to Mountain Edge Tours & Holidays and received by Prakash Kumar Raj, Director



Best Casino | DELTIN ROYALE

Offering luxury gaming for guests on three levels, and spread across 40,000 sq ft of space, Deltin Royale offers 850 gaming positions. One can also enjoy live entertainment including floorshows, bands, stand-up-comedy and much more. Keeping the palate of the guests in mind, it offers world cuisine buffets and A-la-carte menus.

► The award was given to Deltin Royale and, received on behalf of Tanya Ahluwalia, Vice President - Marketing & Sales

Best Tour Operator Outbound

S K TOURS & TRAVELS

Excelling in handling outbound packages, Salil Karulkar, Founder, SK Tours & Travels, thanked India Travel Awards for the recognition. "I am really excited to receive this award. Our USP is that we give prompt service to all our clients and all our packages are well-planned and well-organised. The show was fantastic and very well-organised," he said.

► The award was given to S K Tours & Travels and, received by Salil Karulkar, Founder



Fastest Growing B2B Travel Portal

MULTILINK WORLD

Multilink offers an innovative 'Business-In-A-Box' concept that provides opportunities in IRCTC online ticket booking agency, air ticketing agency, hotel and holiday package bookings, online mobile recharge agency, money transfer agency and more. The company is trusted by a strong network of over 20k agents all over India and is growing rapidly.

► The award was given to Multilink World and, received by Nikhil Shah, Director - Co Founder



Best European NTO VISITBRITAIN

On receiving the award, **Vishal Bhatia**, Country Manager, India, VisitBritain, said, "It's good to see that the India Travel Awards is moving away from the regional travel awards to make it a more consolidated award for pan-India presence. We have been doing great work with travel trade over the past year and are reaching out to new travel agents in Tier II cities now."

► The award was given to **VisitBritain** and, received by **Shuja Mehdi**, B2B Manager - India and **Vishal Bhatia**, Country Manager - India

Best Global Distribution System TRAVELPORT GALILEO

On winning the award, **Anoop Tewari** – National Head (Relationship Management), Travelport, said, "It's a great recognition for which I thank DDP Publications. We provide support to our airline and hotel partners through content and technology. To our travel agent partners, we give all possible solutions and content and I hope to keep on doing a better job." On the award ceremony, he commented, "It was great to see such a big turnout in Agra and meet everyone under one roof. The event was organised in the best possible way."

► The award was given to **Travelport Galileo** and, received by **Taruna Soni**, Head-Marketing and **Anoop Tewari**, National Head (Relationship Management)



Best Leisure & MiCE Resort CLARKS SHIRAZ, AGRA

Rupak Gupta, Joint Managing Director, UP Hotels, said that they have completely revamped the property. "Clarks Shiraz Agra has completely renewed itself and yet maintains the old-world charm. We have retained the heritage and upgraded all the facilities. We are a full deluxe hotel with all the rooms, public areas and conference halls renovated, yet maintaining good differentiation from the rest of the market by retaining the Indian hospitality and old-world charm," he said.

► The award was given to **Clarks Shiraz, Agra** and, received by **Geetha Subramanian**, General Manager Marketing & Sales, **Rupak Gupta**, Joint Managing Director (U.P. Hotels) and **Debasish Bhowmik**, Senior Vice President



Fastest Growing B2B Travel Portal | JUSTCLICKKARO.COM

Incorporated in 2009, JustClickKaro.com is an organisation of highly motivated and dedicated team of professionally-qualified travel specialists. It has established itself as a leading travel agency for managing travel-related services of the corporate clients, sub-agents and individual travellers. With time, the company has established itself as a unique and user-friendly service for booking airline tickets, by providing distinctive deals, being service oriented and cost-effective travel management company for our business associates/sub-agents/individuals.

► The award was given to **Justclickkaro.Com** and, received by **Navjot Bhasin**, Managing Director, **Sovinder Bhati**, VP Sales and **Pawanjot Bhasin**, Managing Director





Best Emerging Travel Management Company

STG JOURNEY INDIA

Arun Prakash Choubey, Managing Director, STG Journey India, received the award on behalf of their company. Speaking on the India Travel Awards, he said, "It is a great platform and has provided us with great encouragement. Whatever activities we will have in the future, this award will be helpful."

► The award was given to STG Journey India and, received by Arun Prakash Choubey, Managing Director

Best Global Emergency Assistance

TRAWELLTAG COVER MORE

Referred to India Travel Awards a great platform for the entire travel fraternity, Deepak Singh, AVP, North Zone, TrawellTag Cover More, said, "This is a great platform for the entire travel fraternity and the travel industry partners. We are working very hard in the industry. Since we are into the business for the last two decades, and have earned from the travel fraternity, we now want to return to this industry. This award brings a lot of recognition for us."

► The award was given to TrawellTag Cover More and, received by Deepak Singh, AVP North Zone



Best Business Hotel | THE SURYAA

Dhananjay Kumar, General Manager, The Suryaa New Delhi, believes that India Travel and MiCE Awards are genuine and prestigious. Speaking for their property, he said, "I completely believe in guest satisfaction. Hence, all our guest ratings have been quite good. I feel good on winning the award and the credit goes to our team members who have worked day in and out, 24*7 round the clock."

► The award was given to The Suryaa and, received by Dhananjay Kumar, General Manager, Chetan Kapoor, Director of Sales, Tooba Hasan, Manager - PR & Marketing Communication



Best MiCE Operator – Domestic

COX & KINGS

Yusuf Poonawala, Senior Vice President, Cox & Kings, claims that an award like the India Travel Award adds more responsibility on their shoulders to live up to. "With this award, we strive to work harder so that we keep on shining and doing better. I want to dedicate the award for the full team of Bharat Dekho because of which we have got this. The ceremony was fantastically organised. There are a number of shows out there in the market, but the way the quality has been this year is brilliant and flawless," he said.

► The award was given to Cox & Kings and, received by Yusuf Poonawala, Senior Vice President





Best Debut Hotel | ALOFT NEW DELHI AEROCITY

Suman Gahlot, General Manager, Aloft New Delhi Aerocity, said that she really felt elated on receiving the award. "It is a reminder to keep up the great work and efforts that the hotel and everyone associated to it has put in to make it win such a prestigious award in its first year of operations. We would also like to extend a vote of thanks to our guests, clients and patrons from across the globe," she added.

► The award was given to **Aloft New Delhi Aerocity** and, received by **Suman Gahlot**, General Manager and **Bhupinder Singh Rawat**, Director of Operations

Best Foreign Exchange Aggregator | FXKART.COM

Abdul Hadi Shaikh, Co-Founder, FxKart.com, expressed his happiness saying that winning continuously for years gives them the confidence that they are doing the right thing. "I think that we deserve this award for putting a lot of effort, in terms of revolutionising the entire industry, and giving them the technology tools that they are craving for. Fortunately, for us, nobody is focusing on that, and, in the past 12 months, we have grown by leaps and bounds," he claimed.

► The award was given to **FxKart.com** and, received by **Abdul Hadi Shaikh**, Co Founder



BEST B2B Online Travel Portal | TRAVELBULLZ

Kanwer Deep Singh, Founder & President, TravelBullz, claims that getting multiple awards for every region in one night is a very humbling feeling. "The credit for this completely goes to our team across Hong Kong, Thailand and India. I want to thank our customers who have been supporting us and always voting for us, as well as our partners, who have been helping us to grow over the last eight years."

► The award was given to **TravelBullz** and, received by **Kanwer Deep Singh**, Founder & President and **Amit Paul Singh**, General Manager - Sales



Best Luxury Camp | THE ULTIMATE TRAVELLING CAMP

Rajnish Sabharwal, Chief Operating Officer, TUTC, was really happy to receive the award, and said, "It's a pleasure to hold this trophy. This is dedicated to the team at the TUTC. Thank you so much DDP. It was a great evening and we really had a great time. We are ready to welcome guests right now for the Hornbill Festival at Kohima in Nagaland. After that, we would be receiving the guests at Allahabad for the Kumbh, which is in January 2019," he shared.

► The award was given to **The Ultimate Travelling Camp** and received by **Rajnish Sabharwal**, Chief Operating Officer





Best Wedding and MiCE Resort

CLARKS SHIRAZ, AGRA

Rupak Gupta, Joint Managing Director, UP Hotels, revealed that they have fully renovated the rooms, public areas and conference halls of the property recently. Debasish Bhowmik, Senior Vice President, Clarks Shiraz, Agra, said, "We are continuously striving in the industry and trying to do the best for our guests."

► The award was given to Clarks Shiraz, Agra and, received by Rupak Gupta, Joint Managing Director (U P Hotels) and Debasish Bhowmik, Senior Vice President

Most Promising NTO

NBTC HOLLAND TOURISM

Seema Datt, Account Director, NBTC Holland Tourism, claimed that Holland is much more than its capital Amsterdam, which is the most visited city in the country. "In Holland, Amsterdam is famous for its tulips, windmills, cheese factories, canals, cruises and as a cute little country. It is more like a global city for a tourist going to Europe. Of late, people have been discovering Holland a lot more when in Europe," she said.

► The award was given to NBTC Holland Tourism and received by Seema Datt, Account Director

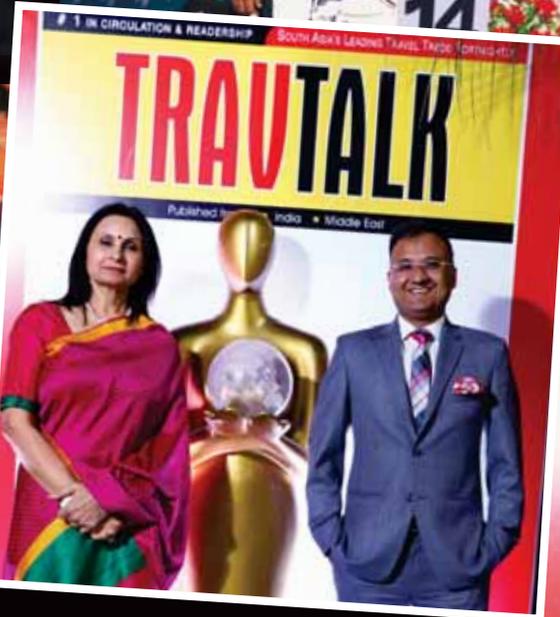


Hospitality Partner

CLARKS SHIRAZ, AGRA

Rupak Gupta, Joint Managing Director, UP Hotels, welcomed India Travel Awards and India MiCE Awards to the city of Taj Mahal. "The property is more relevant for the tourism industry, as Clarks Shiraz, Agra is actually the first big hotel that came up catering to tourism and a lot of industry stalwarts have been here for training and working. Most of the big travel agents have started selling Agra packages with this property only," he said.

► The award was given to Clarks Shiraz, Agra and, received by Rupak Gupta, Joint Managing Director, UP Hotels and Debasish Bhowmik, Senior Vice President





Nominations are now open

INDIA TRAVEL AWARDS SOUTH 2019

Contact:

priya.singh@ddppl.com, sonia.butalia@indiatravelawards.in, nitisha.jain@ddppl.com
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