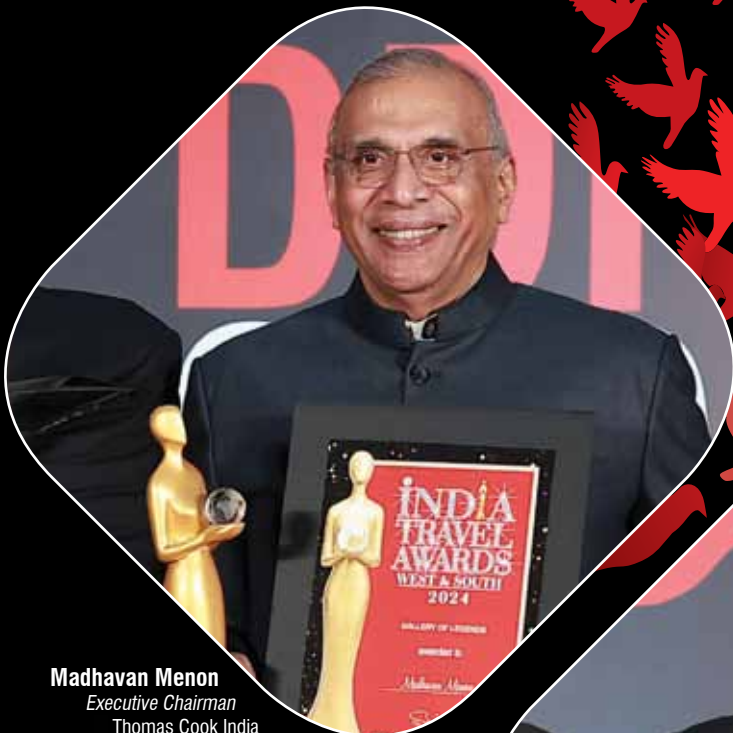


INDIA TRAVEL AWARDS

WEST & SOUTH



Madhavan Menon
Executive Chairman
Thomas Cook India



Pradeep Shetty
President, FHRAI & HRAWI
Director, Maharaja Hotels & Restaurants



Praveen Iyer
Chief Commercial Officer
Akasa Air



Neil Patil
Founder, COO & CTO
Veena World





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editor's note

Saluting the Pioneers of Tourism Excellence

The India Travel Awards 2024, held at the Sofitel Mumbai BKC on 13 August, was a resounding triumph, bringing together the crème de la crème of the travel and hospitality industry to pay tribute to exemplary leaders and achievers.

With an impressive 15,000 votes cast in this edition, this event recognised and celebrated the trailblazers who have made significant contributions to India's thriving tourism landscape, setting new benchmarks for the industry. Voting was conducted with utmost care to ensure transparency and avoid duplication, resulting in a fair and unbiased selection process. Following the completion of online voting, a distinguished jury, renowned for their expertise in the domain, meticulously assessed and chose the most deserving individuals and organisations as award winners.

The **India Travel Awards 2024** recognised several accomplished names in the industry. These leaders were celebrated for their dedication, innovation, and outstanding contributions, which have played pivotal roles in shaping the Indian tourism landscape.

The ceremony also showcased exceptional achievements across various categories, including Best Airline, Best Tour Operator, Best Hotel Chain, and more. This provided a glimpse into the immense talent and dedication within the Indian tourism and hospitality industry.

The award recipients epitomise the values of excellence, creativity, and resilience. Through their remarkable achievements, they have significantly enhanced India's reputation as a premier global tourism destination and showcased the authentic essence of Indian hospitality. From crafting unforgettable experiences for travellers to empowering the dedicated workforce behind the scenes, these visionary leaders have left an indelible mark in their relentless pursuit of excellence.

The India Travel Awards 2024 transcended mere ceremony, evolving into a celebration of the outstanding contributions and trailblazing achievements of individuals and organisations in the tourism industry. This momentous occasion inspired others to emulate their success, fuelling the continued ascendance of India's tourism sector to unprecedented heights.

SanJeet
Mentor
India Travel Awards





Sunset sojourns to salute: Celebrating pioneers in tourism

The India Travel Awards 2024, held at Sofitel Mumbai BKC on 13 August, was a resounding triumph, bringing together the crème de la crème of the travel and hospitality industry to pay tribute to exemplary leaders and achievers, who played a significant role in empowering the industry.

TT BUREAU

Now in its 10th year, India Travel Awards 2024 recognised and celebrated the trailblazers who have made significant contribution to India's thriving tourism landscape, setting new benchmarks for the industry. The awards process commenced with an online nomination phase, which saw enthusiastic participation from across the sector. The thought-provoking nomination form encouraged participants to reflect on their unique strengths, which resulted in an impressive panoply of distinct nomination categories.

With an impressive 15,000 votes cast in this edition, voting was conducted with utmost care to ensure transparency and avoid duplication, resulting in a fair and unbiased selection process. Following the completion of online voting, a distinguished jury, renowned for its expertise in the domain, meticulously assessed and chose the most deserving individuals and organisations as award winners.

The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, **David Matthews**, First Secretary, Head of Financial Services, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, British Deputy High Commission. The Guest of Honours were **Dr Sagnik Chowdhury**, Deputy Director General and Regional Director (West & Central India), Ministry of Tourism, Government of India; and **Chandrashekhar Jaiswal**, GM, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). The India Travel Awards 2024, which recognised several accomplished names in the industry, was presented by the esteemed Chief Guest and Guest of Honours along with **SanJeet**, Mentor India Travel Awards.

Appreciating the relationship between the UK and India, and optimistic future for the travel sector in both the countries, Matthews said, "Travel is bouncing back post-COVID. More and

more people from the UK are coming to India. Moreover, the UK has also become the most popular destination in Europe for Indian travellers. Indians are among the largest group to visit Britain. This is the significance of the UK-India relationship for the travel industry."

Highlighting the significance of the India Travel Awards in the tourism industry, Dr Sagnik Chowdhury, said, "This prestigious event often referred to as Oscars of the travel industry is a true celebration of achievements of those who have contributed to the growth of India's tourism sector." He also pointed out

The ceremony was a joyous celebration of the outstanding contributions and trailblazing achievements of individuals in the travel, hospitality and tourism industry

the challenges that need immediate attention, and remarked, "The past few years have taught us many lessons, but perhaps the most important is the need for sustainability. The Ministry of Tourism is working on initiatives that promote responsible travel, reduce carbon emissions and enhance the socio-economic benefits of tourism for local communities. Let us use our collective creativity, passion and determination to build a tourism industry that is not only profitable but also sustainable and inclusive."

Welcoming the attendees to the dream city, Mumbai, Chandrashekhar Jaiswal, emphasised that India Travel Awards has become an incomparable brand. He also highlighted the significance of

Maharashtra in India's tourism sector and said, "Maharashtra is home to the biggest repository of tourism in India with six World Heritage Sites, largest number of shrines, tiger reserves, and a lot more for any tourist."

Pioneering Excellence

To celebrate and recognise the innovation, and outstanding contributions, the golden trophy, Maya, was bestowed on exceptional leaders who have played pivotal roles in shaping the Indian tourism landscape. The recipients list includes: **Madhavan Menon**, Executive Chairman, Thomas Cook India, who entered the Gallery of Legends; **Pradeep Shetty**, President, Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) and Director, Maharaja Hotels and Restaurants, received DDP Trailblazer for 2024; **Praveen Iyer**, Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer, Akasa Air, was presented with DDP Game Changer for 2024; and **Neil Patil**, Founder, Chief Operating Officer and CTO, Veena World, humbly accepted the Face of the Future recognition.

The ceremony also showcased achievements across various categories, including Best Airline, Best Tour Operator, Best Hotel Chain, and more. This provided a glimpse into the talent and dedication within the Indian tourism industry, truly reflecting the vibrant spirit of Indian hospitality. On the occasion, SanJeet, expressed his heartfelt delight, saying, "This evening's award recipients epitomise the values of excellence, creativity, and resilience. Their achievements have enhanced India's reputation as a premier global tourism destination and showcased the authentic essence of Indian hospitality. From crafting unforgettable experiences for travellers to empowering the dedicated workforce behind the scenes, these visionary leaders have left an indelible mark in their relentless pursuit of excellence." The event turned out to be a joyous celebration of the outstanding contributions and trailblazing achievements of individuals and organisations in the travel and tourism industry of India.

Gallery of Legends



Madhavan Menon

Madhavan Menon, Executive Chairman, Thomas Cook India, entered the Gallery of Legends

A visionary leader and a man who walks the talk, Madhavan Menon, Executive Chairman, Thomas Cook India, entered the Gallery of Legends, which celebrated his commitment to ethics in India's tourism sector.

He has led major acquisitions, serves on various boards, and chairs charitable foundations. Accepting the award he said, "Awards are a way to recognise the achievements of the performance of individuals, and associations. Thomas Cook values innovative thinking and leverages latest technology, such as AI, to enhance customer interactions."

DDP Trailblazer



Pradeep Shetty

The DDP Trailblazer award was presented to Pradeep Shetty, President, HRAWI and FHRAI; and Director, Maharaja Hotels and Restaurants

The DDP Trailblazer award was bestowed upon Pradeep Shetty, President, HRAWI and FHRAI, recognising his transformative impact on the hospitality sector, not just in the Western region but across India. Upon receiving the award, Shetty said, "This recognises the efforts made by the hospitality industry at large, by the owners, associations, and all those who are supporting me. It inspires us to do much more. Awards like these play a vital role in boosting the morale of the younger generation and inspires them to consider careers in hospitality."

DDP Game Changer



Praveen Iyer

DDP Game Changer Award was presented to Praveen Iyer, Chief Commercial Officer, Akasa Air

Acknowledging Praveen Iyer, Co-Founder & Chief Commercial Officer, Akasa Air, as a dynamic business leader with a career spanning 23 years, DDP Game Changer award appreciates his instrumental role in propelling Akasa Air to new heights. Having worked both in India and overseas, he has grown revenues and contributed to increasing profitability and margins. He said, "This award is a testament to the power of hard work of our company in achieving remarkable milestones and becoming one of the world's fastest-growing airlines."

Face of the Future



Neil Patil

Face of the Future award was presented to Neil Patil, Founder, Chief Operating Officer (COO) & CTO, Veena World

Neil Patil, Founder, COO & CTO, Veena World, has been recognised as the Face of the Future in the travel industry. He is a multi-talented podcast host, who inspires new generation to embark on unforgettable journeys, sharing fascinating stories, practical tips, and expert insights that make travel accessible, enjoyable, and inclusive for all. He said, "I thank DDP for bestowing this award on me. There is a lot to explore in the travel industry, which is still at a nascent stage in India. There is a lot more to achieve for companies like ours, and for the new entrants."



Airline Professional of the Year



Sunil V A

The award was presented to Sunil V A, Regional Vice President, ISC & FE, Oman Air

Accepting the award, Sunil V A, Regional VP, ISC & FE, Oman Air, said, "I am really proud to be one of the recipients of this award tonight. After COVID, things really changed. Initially, we were operating to a lot of cities across India, and currently we operate to 10 cities. So, it has been a great rebound for us."

Outstanding Leadership in Luxury Hospitality



Manish Dayya

The award was presented to Manish Dayya, General Manager, Sofitel Mumbai BKC

Addressing the audience, Manish Dayya, GM, Sofitel Mumbai BKC said, "I am glad to be here at this event, which provides a platform for learning and networking. I commend DDP for their commitment to the industry through the prestigious India Travel Awards, which drives us to take pride in our work."

Pioneer in Industry Advocacy



Jay Bhatia

The award was presented to Jay Bhatia, Managing Director, Tulsidas Khimji Holidays

Proudly accepting the recognition, Jay Bhatia, MD, Tulsidas Khimji Holidays, said, "This is my second one from DDP and after 10 years this appreciation is yet again a humbling experience. It acknowledges years of hard work. Bringing in innovation is a challenge, and we work towards it every day."

Dynamic Leadership in Brand Expansion



Rajiv Kapoor

The award was presented to Rajiv Kapoor, General Manager, Fairmont Mumbai

Accepting the award, Rajiv Kapoor, General Manager, Fairmont Mumbai, said, "We are thrilled to be recognised for our efforts. These awards bring the entire hospitality industry together. This esteemed recognition motivates us to strive for even greater goals. The hotel will open in the city this November."

Transformational Leader of the Year



Abhishek Goyal

The award was collected on behalf of Abhishek Goyal, Executive Director & CEO, Aeroprime Group by his team

Abhishek Goyal, Executive Director & CEO, Aeroprime Group, expressed, "Recognising the potential for improvement, I established Aeroprime, with a focus on injecting innovation, and progressive concepts into world of airline management and GSA."

Brand Launch Excellence Award



Sandipan Bose

The award was presented to Sandipan Bose, General Manager, Momentos by ITC Hotels, Ekayaa, Udaipur

Sandipan Bose, GM, Momentos by ITC Hotels, Ekayaa, Udaipur, expressed his gratitude while accepting two awards at the India Travel Awards. He said, "They represent the hard work we put into our work. Your appreciation means a great deal, and it has been a motivating factor for us."

General Manager of the Year - Luxury Brands



Shafee Ahmed

The award was presented to Shafee Ahmed, Cluster General Manager, Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa, Bengaluru

Shafee Ahmed, Cluster GM, Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa, Bengaluru, said, "It is a proud moment to receive such an award from a recognised brand. Our company sees significant opportunities in the India market. The influx of hotel brands is also a positive sign, as I believe that, supply can create demand."

Emerging Leader Travel Startup



Jatinder Paul Singh

The award was presented to Jatinder Paul Singh, Co-Founder & Global CEO, Viacation Tourism

Beaming with pride, Jatinder Paul Singh, Co-Founder & Global CEO, Viacation Tourism, commented, "This award is a recognition of our progress and indicates that we are on the right track. I believe the credibility associated with this award is exceptionally high."

Sales & Marketing Professional of the Year



K S Sachin

The award was presented to K S Sachin, Director Of Sales & Marketing, Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa, Bengaluru

Over the years, K S Sachin, Director Of Sales & Marketing, Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa, Bengaluru, has worked with major 3- and 4-Star brands. With multiple pre-opening involvements, he has experience in conducting analysis of market readiness, and driving data driven decisions.

Process Excellence in Visa Outsourcing



VFS Global

The award was presented to Ragini Abichandani, General Manager, Operations & SPOC, IRCC South Asia, VFS Global; and Kersi Dastoor, GM, Operations, VFS Global

As the world's leading outsourcing and technology service specialist, VFS Global embraces technological innovations to support governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. With a responsible approach to technology, it is operating over 3,400 application centres in 153 countries.

Best Inbound Tour Operator-Australia



Turtle Down Under

The award was presented to Kunal Ramchandani, National Sales Manager, Turtle Down Under

Giving credit to his team, Kunal Ramchandani, National Sales Manager, Turtle Down Under, said, "This would not have been possible without the efforts of the entire team. It feels great when our travel partners support us. We will continue to strive for best and provide travel agents with the best services."

Fastest Growing Travel Company



Fly24hrs

The award was presented to Vaseem Parvez, Vice President, Fly24hrs Holiday

Vaseem Parvez, VP, Fly24hrs Holiday, received the award on behalf of the company. He highlighted the dedication of the team at Fly24Hrs. He said, "Kudos to the DDP Group for organising this award ceremony, providing a platform to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of individuals."



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practices that resonate with the contemporary demands of Quality Global Hospitality Education, ensuring the holistic progress and development of our students.

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Best Airport



GMR Hyderabad International Airport

The award was received by Ashish Kumar, Chief Commercial Officer (COO), Aero & Cargo, GMR Hyderabad International Airport; and Sangeetha C R, Head, Corporate, GMR Hyderabad International Airport

The airport is South and Central India's preferred aviation and logistics hub, catering to an array of international and domestic destinations. Ashish Kumar, COO, Aero & Cargo, GMR Hyderabad International Airport, said that GMR leverages technology extensively and is one of the most innovative airports.

Best Destination Wedding Resort in Udaipur



The Ananta Udaipur

The award was received by Teena Agrawal, Brand Manager, Ananta Udaipur; and Shivani Joshi, Brand Consultant, Ananta Udaipur

Highlighting the resort's commitment to maintain standards across diverse locations, Ashutosh Goyal, Director, Ananta Resorts, said that since 2019, they have onboarded eight properties, after promoters decided to form a company focused on franchising and management following the success of their hotels.

Fastest Growing B2B Travel Portal



ETrav

The award was presented to Heniel Rupaarella, MD, ETRAV Tech

Etrav is a B2B travel tech website that provides services including flights, holiday packages, hotel bookings, white label/XML, and visas. "We are thrilled to be honoured by DDP Group and the award goes to agents who have contributed to our growth this year," said Heniel Rupaarella, MD, ETRAV Tech.

Best Tourism Board for Experiential Travel



VisitBritain

The award was presented to Vishal Bhatia, Country Manager India, VisitBritain

While accepting the award, Vishal Bhatia, Country Manager India, VisitBritain, said, "I am thrilled to receive the award for the Best Tourism Board for Experiential Travel! A big thank you to our trade partners for their support. Special shoutout to our incredible India team for the support."

Best Wedding and MICE Hotel



Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre & JECC-Managed by Accor

The award was received by Manuj Rajhan, General Manager, Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre

Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre – South Asia's leading convention and exhibition centre – blends modernity seamlessly with functionality for global travellers. Spread over 42 acres, with 300,000 sq. ft of space and 226 rooms spanning multiple categories, the hotel offers an expansive setting for MICE.

Best MICE Tour Operator- West India



Explore Travelplus

The award was presented to Sunil Singh, Director, Explore Travelplus

Beaming with pride, Sunil Singh, Director, Explore Travelplus, said, "Such prestigious awards provide a platform for individuals to reflect on how they can improve themselves and contribute to the growth of MICE industry. They encourage us to think creatively and develop innovative ideas."

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Most Promising African Airline



Egyptair

The award was presented to Rasha Abdelmouneim, Country Manager, India & Sri Lanka, Egyptair

Rasha Abdelmouneim, Country Manager, India & Sri Lanka, Egyptair, affirmed, "This award means a lot to Egyptair, and I am honoured to be here as a guest today." Counting India as a major catchment area, the airline is keen to capture a significant market share, especially in the MICE segment.

Outstanding Contribution to Cultural Tourism



Tourism Office of Spain - Mumbai

The award was presented to Lisha Krishnan, Travel Trade, Tourism Office, Spain

Praising the India Travel Awards, Lisha Krishnan, Travel Trade, Tourism Office, Spain said "Thank you to everyone who nominated us and considered us eligible for this wonderful award." The NTO aims to create a bridge between Spain and India so that Indian travellers can experience the spanish culture.

Customer Excellence Award



Amadeus

The award was presented to Vishwanath, Senior Director, Engineering, Amadeus

Receiving the Customer Excellence award on behalf of Amadeus was Vishwanath, Senior Director, Engineering, Amadeus, who said, "Customer excellence is something that we strive to achieve at Amadeus, and we will continue to do everything possible to keep our customers satisfied."

Best Upscale Hotel Chain



Fortune Park Hotels

The award was presented to Amit Chawla, GM, Fortune Select Exotica, Navi Mumbai; and Yogesh Jadav, Vertical Sales Manager (Fortune Sales Team-West), Fortune Hotels

Accepting the Maya trophy on behalf of the hotel, Amit Chawla, GM, Fortune Select Exotica, Navi Mumbai said, "We have been working hard to elevate our brand for some time. I thank India Travel Awards for recognising our efforts." Fortune Park Hotels is a wholly owned subsidiary of ITC.

Best Business Hotel



Jaipur Marriott Hotel

The award was presented to Gautam Chhabra, Director, Sales & Marketing, Jaipur Marriott Hotel

Jaipur Marriott Hotel shined brightly at the India Travel Awards 2024. The hotel stated, 'A heartfelt thank you to all our guests for the incredible support and trust. We are committed to continuing our tradition of excellence. Here is to more milestones and unforgettable experiences together!'

Best MICE Hotel - South India



Crowne Plaza Kochi

The award was presented to Dinesh Raj, GM, Crowne Plaza Kochi; and Tittu Koikkaran, Director of Sales & Marketing, Crowne Plaza Kochi

Accepting the award on behalf of the hotel, Dinesh Rai, General Manager, Crowne Plaza Kochi, said, "We are thrilled to receive this award yet again. We did not rest on our laurels and this award is a testament of our team's hard work. Our efforts have resulted in a 55-60% growth in the MICE segment."



Best Emerging TMC in India



Cozmo Travel

The award was presented to Santosh Kanchan, Country Head, India, Cozmo Travel

As Cozmo Travel celebrates 10 years of operations, Santosh Kanchan, Country Head, India, Cozmo Travel, said, "Today we handle global corporate clients. We offer a complete package, and our hard work is being recognised and for that we are grateful. It is a great feeling to hold the Maya trophy."

Best African Tourism Board



South African Tourism Board

The award was presented to Deepika Nair, Acting Trade Manager, South African Tourism Board

South African Tourism promotes South Africa's natural beauty, wildlife, culture and heritage, the outdoors, sport and adventure opportunities, eco-tourism, and conference facilities. Its goal is to make it a preferred destination, in order to maximise the potential of tourism for the country.

Luxury Resort of the Year



Mementos by ITC Hotels, Ekayaa Udaipur

The award was presented to Sandipan Bose, GM, Mementos by ITC Hotels, Ekayaa Udaipur

From a shimmering lakeside to vast realms of the Magical Forest, this expansive property is surrounded by the Aravalli hills with 64 suites and villas, spread over 12 acres. It believes in responsible luxury, which has become the bedrock of belief and commitment for ITC Hotels.

Best Luxury Hotel - Madhya Pradesh



Anjushree Hotel, Ujjain

The award was presented to Amitava Saha, GM, Anjushree Hotel, Ujjain; and Yogesh Maloniya, Marcom Manager, Anjushree Hotel, Ujjain

Accepting the award, Amitava Saha, GM, Anjushree Hotel, Ujjain, said, "This acknowledgement motivates us to do good. Recognising Anjushree with the award highlights Ujjain's overall hospitality excellence. The award showcases Ujjain's ability to deliver world class hospitality services."

Most Promising MICE Tour Operator



Travelsukham

The award was presented to Mihir Shah, Director, TravelSukham

Based in Ahmedabad, the company recently introduced its new logo, which captures its essence. This award will enhance its company profile, increase client trust, and provide a valuable asset for our pitches to new clients, said its team member who was present to receive the award.

Best International Group Tour Operator



Kesari Tours

The award was presented to Zelum Chaubal, Executive Director, Kesari MICE

Accepting the award on behalf of Kesari Tours, Zelum Chaubal, Executive Director, Kesari MICE, said, "This recognition is both inspiring and heartwarming. The India Travel Awards have become an integral part of our industry and receiving this award motivates us to strive harder."

Best Travel Brand - South India



GT Holidays

The award was presented to Yamini Karthik, Co – Founder, Director, Operations, GT Holidays

India Travel Awards is one of the most prestigious travel awards and today we are representing South India here,” asserted Yamini Karthik, Co – Founder, Director, Operations, GT Holidays. Based in Chennai, GT Holidays offers complete solutions for business and leisure travellers across the world.

Best Wedding and MICE Resort- Maharashtra



Grape County Eco Resort & Spa

The award was presented to Gauri Chavan, Director, Grape County Eco Resort & Spa, Nashik; and Reema Khan, Group Head, Hospitality, Grape County Eco Resort & Spa, Nashik

Gauri Chavan, Director, Grape County Eco Resort & Spa, said, "This award is a testament to our commitment in showcasing Nashik as not only the wine capital of India but also its wedding capital. We are thrilled to be recognised as the best MICE and wedding resort in Maharashtra."

Most Promising Hotel Management College



BGS Institute of Hotel Management, Bengaluru

The award was presented to Chef Eabin Mathew, Principal, BGS Institute of Hotel Management, Bengaluru

“This award will be instrumental in helping us advance our ideas and secure a place in the industry,” said Chef Eabin Mathew, Principal, BGS Institute of Hotel Management, Bengaluru, adding, “This award is especially significant for our college, as we were only established two years ago.”

Best Customised Tour Operator



GET SET GO TRAVEL

The award was presented to Nirav Kapadia, Owner, Get Set Go Travel

Successfully completing 4+ years in the travel consultancy market Get Set Go Travel has set a benchmark for others in terms of client service. It offers complete end-to-end solution for travellers by working with a perfect panel of experts from the travel industry.

Best Transporter - Europe



Sasta Europe - DMC of Europe & UK

The award was presented to Akash Chhabra, Director, Sasta Europe – DMC, Europe & UK; and Rahul Parmar, Europe Head, Sasta Europe – DMC, Europe & UK

This award is a significant achievement for us. I believe it will generate more business for us and allow us to contribute significantly to the industry. Europe is a tough market for transporters, so we hope to support the industry,” said Akash Chhabra, Director, Sasta Europe – DMC, Europe & UK.

Best Midscale Hotel in Goa



Summit Calangute Resort & Spa, Goa

The award was presented to Anjila Yonzon, Sales Head, Summit Calangute Resort & Spa, Goa; and Sumit Mitruka, Director, Summit Calangute Resort & Spa, Goa

Anjila Yonzon, Sales Head, Summit Calangute Resort & Spa, Goa, expressed gratitude upon receiving the award. She said, "This achievement marks a significant milestone for the resort. This is not just an award; it is a reason for us to look ahead and grow even more."

Leader in DMC Services



Eagle Crest DMC

The award was presented to Heniel Rupaarelia, MD, Eagle Crest DMC; and Vipul Navgire, Sales Director, Eagle Crest DMC

A B2B partner for UAE, Thailand, Bali and Vietnam, Eagle Crest DMC offers tailored solutions, exceptional service, and industry expertise. The company stated, "This achievements reflects our pursuit of excellence and innovation. A big thank you to our dedicated teams and valued partners!"

Leading Hotel Chain for Business Travellers



Lords Hotels & Resorts

The award was presented to Sudhir Jena, Vice President, Corporate, Lords Hotels & Resorts

The industry's future is characterised by its evolution through technology, personalised services, and offbeat locations. The industry is headed in the right direction, and I foresee a bright future for Indian tourism," said Sudhir Jena, Vice President, Corporate, Lords Hotels & Resorts.

Fastest Growing Tour Operator



APS Destinations

The award was presented to Pratik Shah, Proprietor, APS Destinations

Pratik Shah, Proprietor, APS Destinations, said that being nominated for India Travel Awards can significantly boost a company's visibility. He shared, "It is not just about winning but even being nominated for these awards is a humbling experience. Such awards always motivate individuals."

Best B2B Tour Operator



Cosima Holidays India

The award was presented to Ajith Kumar, Director, Cosima Holidays India

Ajith Kumar, Director, Cosima Holidays India, said "We have been operating in the B2B segment for the past 26 years. Many thanks to all our B2B partners, well-wishers, and colleagues who voted for us." The Kochi-based company is accredited with Department of Tourism, Kerala as Domestic Tour Operator.

Best Health and Wellness Ayurveda Retreat



Fazlani Nature's Nest, The Wellness Retreat

The award was presented to Jagdeep Nambiar, GM, Operations, Fazlani Nature's Nest, The Wellness Retreat; Roshni Hegde, Manager, Marketing & Communication, Fazlani Nature's Nest, The Wellness Retreat; and Krushna, Head of Sales & Marketing, Fazlani Nature's Nest, The Wellness Retreat

Jagdeep Nambiar, GM, Operations, Fazlani Nature's Nest, The Wellness Retreat, accepted the award on behalf of the resort, and said, "This is a reward that gives us direction and motivation we need. This is a testament to our team's hard work and our chairman's vision and passion."

Best Resort - Bengaluru



The Odyssey Retreat Resort, Bengaluru

The award was presented to Manivarma A, Group General Manager, The Odyssey Retreat Resort, Bengaluru

Manivarma A, Group General Manager, The Odyssey Retreat Resort, Bengaluru said, "This recognition significantly enhances our popularity within the hospitality industry, particularly in the post-COVID era. For independent properties like ours, it is a valuable affirmation of our business practices."

Best Luxury Holiday Planner



Staunch International LLC

The award was presented to Binwant Khurana, CEO, Staunch International; Dr (Capt.) Devender Khurana, Director, Staunch International; and Asheema, Co-Founder, Staunch International

Dr (Capt.) Devender Khurana, Director, Staunch International, expressed his gratitude, and said, “Maya is truly invaluable to us, representing both material success and esteemed prestige. We are thankful to DDP and the India Travel Awards for this esteemed honour.”

Travel Agency of the Year



Unimoni Financial Services

The award was presented to CA Krishnan R, Director & CEO, Unimoni; John George, VP & National Business Head, Unimoni; and Manoj V Mathew, Chief Financial Officer, Unimoni

CA Krishnan R, Director & CEO, Unimoni Financial Services, said, “Our staff includes destination specialists certified by global tourism boards. moreover, our user-friendly travel portal facilitates easy bookings for flights, hotels, and holiday packages.”

Most Promising Regional Association



South India Hotels & Restaurants Association (SIHRA)

The award was presented to Sundar Singaram, Director, Operations, SIHRA

Thanking DDP for recognising SIHRA's work over the years, Sundar Singaram, Director, Operations, SIHRA said, “Under the leadership of K Syama Raju, its President, we are moving forward in this direction and continuing to provide the best support for our members and hoteliers in southern India.”

Leading Passenger GSA of the Year



Aeropriime Group

The award was presented to Nash Dias, Sales Manager, Aeropriime

Upon receiving Leading Passenger GSA of the year, Nash Dias, Sales Manager, Aeropriime, said, “Being recognised on this platform is a significant achievement that boosts our exposure and inspires us to maintain the highest standards in our industry. This award pushes us to work harder.”

Best Wedding and MICE Hotel Karnataka



Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa, Bengaluru

The award was presented to Shafee Ahmed, GM, Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa, Bengaluru; and KS Sachin, Director, Sales & Marketing, Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa, Bengaluru

Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa is the perfect choice for conferences, business meetings, launch parties, weddings, and high society events. It has nine meeting rooms and Gokula, the grand ballroom is spread across 6350 sq. ft. The hotel's location is popular for city exploration, surrounded by dining options.

Excellence in Responsible Tourism Practices



Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation

The award was presented to Manasi Kothare, Officer for Responsible Tourism, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation

Accepting the award on behalf of the tourism board, Manasi Kothare, Officer for Responsible Tourism, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, said, “The award is for our efforts towards responsible tourism initiatives, including several groundbreaking projects.”



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Best Holiday Homes - South India



BayWatch Stayzz

The award was presented to Manish Kriplani, Managing Director, Baywatch Travels and Baywatch Stayzz

"I have been hoping to receive this award for years," said Manish Kriplani, Managing Director, Baywatch Travels and Baywatch Stayzz. "It holds a special place in my heart and in my office. Our industry is evolving rapidly, and I am incredibly excited about the future. I envision a rapidly evolving industry."

Best Business Travel Platform



Fly24hrs

The award was presented to Vaseem Parvez, Vice President (Sales & Operation), Fly24hrs

Vaseem Parvez, Vice President (Sales & Operation), Fly24hrs, said, "I dedicate this award to all my travel partners and my team. Their hard work and commitment to excellence have paid off, and this award is a testament to their success. We have been operating this B2B platform since the last four years."

Most Innovative Tourism Board



Singapore Tourism Board

The award was presented to Pooja Raut, Digital Lead, Brand Manager, Singapore Tourism Board; and Maishaa Mukadam, Manager, India & South Asia (Mumbai), Singapore Tourism Board

Accepting the award on behalf of the NTO, Pooja Raut, Digital Lead, Brand Manager, Singapore Tourism Board, said, "We appreciate the recognition of our hard work and innovation in the consumer space. Singapore Tourism Board has always been synonymous with innovation."

Premier Luxury Wedding Venue



Fairmont Jaipur

The award was presented to Sukhpreet Singh Bath, Director, Operations, Fairmont Jaipur; and Prisha Lamba, Cluster Director of Marketing Communications, Fairmont Jaipur

Fairmont Jaipur is an ode to the pink city through inspiring architecture inspired by the Mughal dynasty and Royal Rajputs. Sukhpreet Singh Bath, Director, Operations, Fairmont Jaipur, accepted the award and said, "It is a privilege to be here and have the opportunity to network with our colleagues."

India's Most Promising B2B Visa Service Provider



Airocity Visas (A unit of AIROCITY HOLIDAYS)

The award was presented to Lalit Rajput, Co-Founder and Director, Airocity Holidays

"This was my first time attending India Travel Awards and the experience was incredible. It is a truly unique and innovative event that means a lot to us. We had a fantastic time here, and winning the award was like a dream come true," said Lalit Rajput, Co-Founder and Director, Airocity Holidays, as he accepted the award.

Best Tour Operator – West India



Dewberry Holidays

The award was presented to Ashish Shah, Founder, Dewberry Holidays

Ashish Shah, Founder, Dewberry Holidays, expressed, "Receiving this award motivates us to work even harder and I am truly grateful to the organisers for this." Based in Mumbai, the company was established in 2017 with the idea of offering affordable tourism and explore new avenues in the travel industry.

Best Domestic Tour Operator - Private Trains



South Star Rail

The award was presented to Jose Charles Martin, Chairman & MD, South Star Rail

A unique rail venture, South Star Rail is a registered service provider of the 'Bharat Gaurav Scheme' of the Indian Government. It is India's first private train service under the scheme where users can book their tickets for various pilgrimage based tourism through its mobile app.

Fastest Growing Leisure Destination



Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

The award was presented to Nikhil Jeet, Manager, Country (India), DCT Abu Dhabi; and Nikhil Kurry, Trade Marketing Manager, Western India, DCT Abu Dhabi

Accepting the award on behalf of the NTO, was Nikhil Jeet, Manager, Country (India), DCT Abu Dhabi, who said, "We are delighted to receive this award. With a widespread trade network and a team of dynamic professionals, we have ensured that Abu Dhabi's offerings reaches every travelling Indian."

Best Business Tour Operator



Red Carpet Tours

The award was presented to Narayan Kabra, Director Business Development, Red Carpet Tours; Gurpreet Johar, Director, Red Carpet Tours; and Gaurav Batra, Director, Red Carpet Tours

During the awards ceremony, Narayan Kabra, Director Business Development, Red Carpet Tours, exclaimed, "Receiving the award is incredibly motivating for our team. This award inspires us to continue our excellent work. Red Carpet Tours specialises in MICE and FIT travel.

Customer Service Excellence for Outbound Tourism



Travel2agent Oneworld

The award was presented to Gagan Chadha, Owner, Travel2agent Oneworld; and Shweta Chadha, Co-Owner, Travel2agent Oneworld

Gagan Chadha, Owner, Travel2agent Oneworld, commented, "I would like to thank ITA for recognising our efforts in being customer-centric through this award." Since its inception as a DMC for Far East destinations, the company has transformed into a provider of personalised tours for outbound.

Best Luxury Business Hotel - West India



Sofitel Mumbai BKC

The award was presented to Manish Dayya, General Manager, Sofitel Mumbai BKC

Accepting the award on behalf of the hotel, Manish Dayya, General Manager, Sofitel Mumbai BKC, said, "Our industry is all about innovation and creativity, making sure we create experiences that are memorable. Any recognition makes a huge difference and encourages us to do better.

Gifting Partner



Ketro Gourmet Gifts

The award was presented to Sidharth Saraf, Founder & CEO, Ketro Gourmet Gifts; and Ruchi Saraf, Director, Ketro Gourmet Gifts

Ketro is a brand catering to handcrafted premium chocolates and confectioneries to Indian and international markets. They are a good gifting option for corporate and can be customised to incorporate the company brand or match any event. They also tie up with corporate to offer special gifting.

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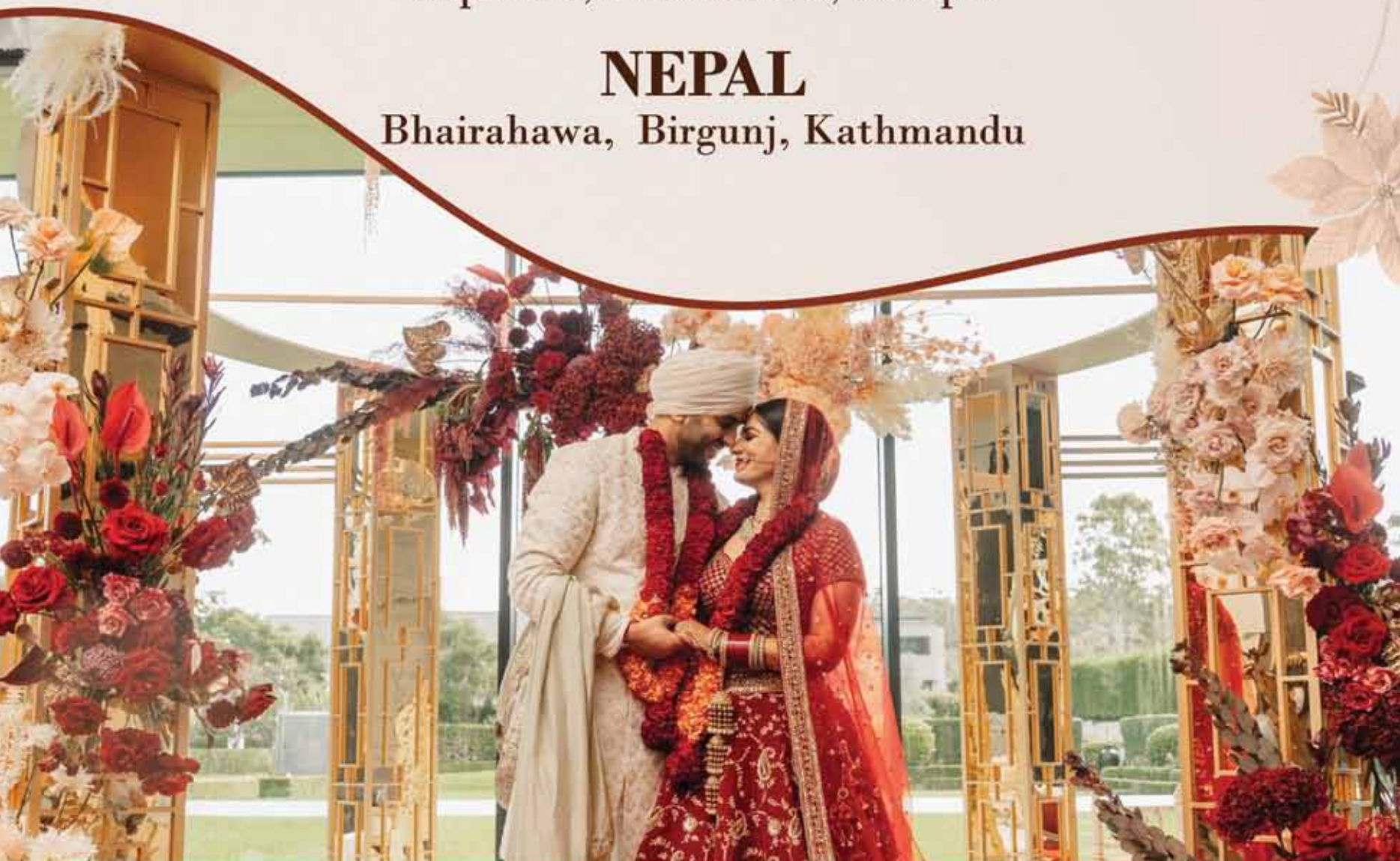
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