

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.
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thomascook.in

News Release

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Thomas Cook India reiterates focus on Young India announces Thomas Cook Travel Quest National Inter School Travel Quiz- Season II

~ Outreach to 7 lakh next gen Indian travellers; over 1800 schools across 25 cities~

Mumbai, November 13, 2015: Thomas Cook (India) Ltd., India's leading integrated travel and travel related financial services company, announced the second season of the **Thomas Cook Travel Quest** - India's first national travel quiz for schools, a pioneering foray into India's high potential student market via an engaging and enriching quiz platform.

Given overwhelming pan India participation for Season - I and the honour of the prestigious **PATA Gold Awards 2015** (Education & Training), **Thomas Cook Travel Quest** - is back with a larger format this year.

The travel quiz, open to school students from classes 6 to 9, includes an extensive seven month outreach (August 2015- February 2016) across 25 cities (Dehradun, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Nagpur, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Chennai, Coimbatore, Indore, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai, Delhi, etc.). A written qualifying test covering 1800 schools is followed by qualifiers to determine City, Zonal and eventually National winners. The four zonal winners contest for the title prize at the grand finale, held during February-March, 2016.

For this unique initiative, Thomas Cook India continues its partnership with **Greycaps India Private Limited** - Asia's largest on stage quizzing and knowledge services company, curated by noted quizmaster Mr. Giri Pickbrain with the focus being History & Geography.

Having benefitted from strong student-educator-parent engagement last year, **Switzerland Tourism and Singapore Tourism Board continue their partnership for Travel Quest Season II**. To deepen the focus on experiential learning, they have sponsored prize winning trips for students and teachers to Switzerland and Singapore (Grand Finale and Zonals, respectively).

Mr. Madhavan Menon, Managing Director, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. said, "*India is poised to emerge as the world's youngest nation by 2020. Young India's growing aspirations for exposure to a global curriculum and opportunities are increasingly being built into the curriculum of progressive Indian schools. The unique quiz format of Thomas Cook's Travel Quest, aims to serve India's schools by introducing a fresh vibrant approach to learning.*"

He added, "*Based on the significant demand post Season- I, we set up a dedicated Travel Quest study tours vertical, comprising experienced professionals across the educational and travel domain. The results have been truly encouraging- we have conducted study tours for over 800+ students across (both international & domestic destinations, including Switzerland, Singapore, France, Malaysia, USA, Canada, Sri Lanka, China, Vietnam- Cambodia, Netherlands, Jaipur, Ranthambore, and Kerala).*"

Thomas Cook Travel Quest – Season II

Thomas Cook India has partnered with **Greycaps India Private Limited** - Asia's largest on stage quizzing and knowledge services company, curated by noted quizmaster Mr. Giri Pickbrain, to bring a holistic and experiential approach to learning, via its vibrant and unique quiz platform- Thomas Cook Travel Quest

- 7 month extensive outreach starting Aug 2015
- Covers over 7 lakh students, 1800 schools across 25 cities pan India
- Includes school students from classes 6 to 9
- Preliminary written qualifying test followed by City and Zonal Finals
- Switzerland Tourism & Singapore Tourism Board continue their partnership for Season II

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Mr. Claudio Zemp, Director India-Switzerland Tourism said, "Switzerland Tourism is extremely proud to be associated with the Thomas Cook Travel Quest for the second year running. This unique national travel quiz for schools is an amazing initiative to connect with youth from all over India and we wish them the very best in their quest to win an amazing trip to Switzerland."

He added, "By teaming up with Village Camps we would like to highlight the benefits of attending a summer camp in Switzerland: gain more self-confidence, discover new interests and hobbies, become proficient in another language, achieve higher levels in competitive sports and develop leadership skills all in the beautiful surroundings of the Swiss Alps."

Ms. Bridget Goh, Area Director, India and Sri Lanka-Singapore Tourism Board said, "Singapore's association with the Thomas Cook Travel Quest Season - I had reinforced Singapore as a premier destination for learning travel and we continue our successful partnership in this season. Additionally, Singapore is pleased to announce the 'Travel & Learn' incentive programme which offers curated quality learning experiences in Singapore for Indian school groups. Qualifying school groups (minimum 20 students & educators) will enjoy a complimentary biodiversity workshop experience at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum and meet with 150 million year-old sauropod dinosaurs, or attend a heritage and battlefield tour to learn about Singapore's early colonial roots and the sacrifices of brave hearts and soldiers from India and other Commonwealth nations during World War II. We are confident these enriching experiences will add value to the school's curriculum and students' appreciation of learning beyond the classroom."

Following an **extensive School Outreach programme**, the city finals for Travel Quest Season II commences with **Dehradun on November 17, 2015**. A detailed schedule has been provided below. To participate, schools may register at travelquestinfo@in.thomascook.com

Travel Quest, Season II ON GROUND QUIZ SCHEDULE

Date	Day	City
17th Nov	Tuesday	Dehradun
24th Nov	Tuesday	Jaipur
2nd Dec	Wednesday	Chandigarh
4th Dec	Friday	Nagpur
8th Dec	Tuesday	Ranchi
17th Dec	Thursday	Bhubaneswar
6th Jan	Wednesday	Hyderabad
8th Jan	Friday	Ahmedabad
12th Jan	Tuesday	Kochi
19th Jan	Tuesday	Chennai
21st Jan	Thursday	Coimbatore
29th Jan	Friday	Indore
3rd Feb	Wednesday	Kolkata
5th Feb	Friday	Bengaluru
10th Feb	Wednesday	Pune
12th Feb	Friday	Mumbai
16th Feb	Tuesday	Delhi

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About Thomas Cook (India) Limited:

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd (TCIL) is the leading integrated travel and travel related financial services company in the country offering a broad spectrum of services that include Foreign Exchange, Corporate Travel, MICE, Leisure Travel, Insurance, Visa & Passport services and E-Business. The company set up its first office in India in 1881.

TCIL's footprint (exclusive of its subsidiaries) currently extends to over 232 locations (including 23 airport counters) in 95 cities across India, Mauritius & Sri Lanka and is supported by a strong partner network of 115 Gold Circle Partners and 112 Preferred Sales Agents in over 130 cities across India.

ICRA has upgraded the long term rating of Thomas Cook (India) Limited's non-convertible debenture programme to 'ICRA AA/Stable'. CRISIL has assigned a long term rating of CRISIL AA-/ stable outlook to the non- convertible debenture programme and long term banking facilities and short term rating of CRISIL A1+ to TCIL's banking facilities. Further, ICRA has assigned a rating of 'ICRA AA-/Stable' to the company's proposed preference share programme.

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd has been voted as **Favourite Outbound Tour Operator at the Outlook Traveller Awards 2015, Best Tour Operator - Outbound** at the **CNBC AWAAZ Travel Awards 2015, 2014 & 2013** and **Best Company providing Foreign Exchange** at the **CNBC AWAAZ Travel Awards 2015 & 2014**; felicitated with **Diamond Award for Exemplary Achievements in Visa Issuance** at the **French Ambassador's Travel Awards Ceremony 2015**; **Thomas Cook India's Travel Quest** was honoured with a **Gold Award at PATA Gold Awards 2015**; honored as **India's Leading Tour Operator 2014, World Travel Awards Asia & Australasia 2014, Favourite Tour Operator at the Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Travel Awards 2014, 2013, 2012 & 2011**, recognized as a **Consumer Superbrand 2013-14 & 2012-2013** and **National Tourism Awards 2013-2014**. Thomas Cook India's Centre of Learning has received **IATA accreditation as "Top 10 South Asia IATA Authorized Training Centers" 2015, 2013 & 2012**. For more information, please visit www.thomascook.in

Thomas Cook (India) Limited is promoted by Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Fairbridge Capital (Mauritius) Limited and its controlled affiliates. Fairbridge is responsible for the execution of acquisition and investment opportunities in the Indian subcontinent on behalf of the Fairfax family of companies.

TCIL has announced the acquisition of Kuoni Travel (India) Private Limited, a travel operator in India, and Kuoni Travel (China) Limited, a premium travel operator in Hong Kong

About Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited:

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is a financial services holding company based in Canada with a global presence in insurance and reinsurance, as well as joint ventures including ICI (Lombard (India)). The Company, founded in 1985 by the present Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Prem Watsa, has over the past 30 years, demonstrated a strong and consistent financial track record. For the year ended December 31, 2014, Fairfax increased book value per share at a compounded annual growth rate of 21.1% since its inception with a corresponding compounded annual increase in share price 19.8% and had over US \$36 billion of assets.

Fairfax is engaged in long term investments from its own resources, with a focus to delivering long term capital appreciation through a flexible and value oriented approach. Fairfax Financial Holdings through Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. owns 73.96% on a fully diluted basis of the Quess Corp Limited (formerly IKYA Human Capital Solutions Limited), a provider of specialised Human Resource related Services and 100% of Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited (formerly Thomas Cook Insurance Services (India) Limited) engaged in time share and resort business.

About Quess Corp Limited (formerly IKYA Human Capital Solutions Limited)

Quess Corp Ltd., India's leading business services provider established in 2007. Headquartered in Bengaluru, the company has over 1,10,000 employees, serves over 1500 customers across 8 countries in more than 8000 locations. It has presence across 5 verticals namely, Global Technology Solutions, Industrial Asset Management, Integrated Facilities Management, People Services & Logistics and Growth Businesses Group. With revenues of about USD 400 million, Quess Corp Ltd. is a step-down subsidiary of USD 37+ billion (as of 30th Sept 2014) multinational, Fairfax Financial Holdings Group; held through its Indian listed subsidiary, Thomas Cook India Limited. For further details on Quess Corp Ltd. please visit: <http://www.quessecorp.com>

About Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited:

Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited, a pioneer in vacation ownership and a leading leisure hospitality company in India, was incorporated in 1986 with the vision of delivering great holiday experiences to Indian families. To achieve this vision, the company pioneered Vacation Ownership in India and set about building a network of leisure resorts at some of the best holiday destinations in India. Currently, Sterling Holidays has a total inventory of 1767 rooms spread across a network of 24 resorts in 21 scenic holiday destinations in India.

In pursuance of the Order of Hon'ble High Court, Bombay, dated 2nd July, 2015 sanctioning the Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation between Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) Limited (SHRIL) and Thomas Cook Insurance Services (India) Limited (TCISIL) and Thomas Cook (India) Limited (TCIL) and their respective shareholders and creditors (Scheme), the time share and resort business division and undertaking of SHRIL was Demerged into TCISIL and the residual business of SHRIL was Amalgamated with TCIL.

Post implementation of composite scheme, Sterling Holiday Resorts Limited (formerly Thomas Cook Insurance Services (India) Limited) continued the time share and resort business.

The company also has 15 additional sites where it plans to add new resorts in the coming years. For more information visit: www.sterlingholidays.com

For Media Enquiries please contact:

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