

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.
Thomas Cook Building, Dr. D. N. Road,
Fort, Mumbai - 400001
Board: +91-22-6160 3333
CIN: L63040MH1978PLC020717
A FAIRFAX Company



News Release

Thomas Cook Press Office: 022 66091380
Pressoffice@in.thomascook.com

Thomas Cook India awarded a double honour for the second time in a row at the CNBC AWAAZ TRAVEL AWARDS 2015

Mumbai, June 9, 2015: **Thomas Cook (India) Ltd:** India's leading integrated travel and travel related financial services company, has been awarded a double honour as the "**Best Tour Operator – Outbound**" and "**Best Company Providing Foreign Exchange**" at the **CNBC Awaaz Travel Awards 2015 for the second time in a row.** The prestigious awards presented by the Chhattisgarh Government, were established to honour the best in class travel services and to set benchmarks for the tourism industry

The methodology involved a comprehensive consumer survey across multi-media platforms featuring the previous category winner and approved CNBC Awaaz commendations; votes being then internally audited to ensure validity of each individual vote; followed by finalisation by an esteemed jury presided over by Mr Amitabh Kant – Secretary- DIPP - Govt. of India..

At a spectacular ceremony in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Indian travellers were unanimous in their choice of their favourite travel company- Thomas Cook India - once again. This is the third time in a row that Thomas Cook India has received the distinction of being chosen the '**Best Tour Operator – Outbound**' and second time for '**Best Company Providing Foreign Exchange**'.

Commenting on the noteworthy double achievement, **Mr. Madhavan Menon, Managing Director, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd** said, "*It is a special honour to be receiving the two prestigious awards of "Best Tour Operator – Outbound" for the third time in a row and "Best Company Providing Foreign Exchange" for the second time at the highly acclaimed CNBC Awaaz Travel Awards 2015.*"

He added, "*At Thomas Cook India, we build on our over 122 years of pioneering legacy as we strive towards excellence in both product innovation and service quality. With our diverse portfolio of travel and travel related financial services (from Corporate Travel, holidays, visa, travel insurance, foreign exchange, MICE to tourism education & training), Thomas Cook India brings innovation and expertise to the ever evolving Indian traveller*"

Mr. Menon acknowledged with delight, "*This double honour is testament to the spirit of innovation and sustained delivery of our truly exceptional people at Thomas Cook India!*"

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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 currently extends to over 235 locations (including 23 airport counters) in 94 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 assigned long term rating of 'ICRA AA-/ Stable' to Thomas Cook (India) Ltd's non convertible debenture programme. CRISIL has assigned long term rating of CRISIL AA-/ stable outlook to the non convertible debenture programme and banking facilities and short term rating of CRISIL A1+ to TCIL's banking facilities.

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**; honored as **'India's Leading Tour Operator'** for the year **2014**, at the **21st Annual World Travel Awards Asia & Australasia 2014**, **Best Tour Operator** at the **Lonely Planet Travel Awards 2013**, **Favourite Tour Operator** at the **Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Travel Awards 2014, 2013, 2012 & 2011** and recognized as a **"Consumer Superbrand" 2013-14 & 2012-2013**. In addition, TCIL has been chosen as the **Best Corporate Travel Management Company** by **World Travel Brands 2012**. At the **National Tourism Awards 2012-2013**, TCIL was the recipient of 3 prestigious awards. 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.

About Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited:

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is a Toronto-based financial services holding company with a global presence in insurance and reinsurance and a portfolio of assets in excess of \$38 billion invested worldwide. The Company, founded in 1985 by the present Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Prem Watsa, has over the past 25 years, demonstrated a strong financial track record to achieve an annual appreciation in Book Value per Share of 24.7% annually. Fairfax has almost 20 general insurance subsidiaries and joint ventures globally, including ICICI Lombard (India).

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 Qess Corp Limited (formerly IKYA Human Capital Solutions Limited), a provider of specialised Human Resource related Services and 55.01% of Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) Ltd, engaged in time charo and resort business and holiday activities.

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

Qess Corp Limited is a market leading business services entity with interests in Asset Management, IT Services and HR services. Headquartered in Bangalore, the Group has more than 80000 employees, operates in 27 cities in India, the North America, Middle East and South East Asia. The group has grown through a series of acquisitions in the last seven years and has INR 2,200 crores as revenue. Qess Corp Limited is a subsidiary of Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. For more information visit: <http://www.qesscorp.com/>

About Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) Limited:

Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) 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. Sterling Holidays' network includes 1767 rooms across 24 resorts in 21 scenic holiday destinations pan India. 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:

Thomas Cook (India) Limited: Suzanne Pereira +91-9820297665; suzanne.pereira@in.thomascook.com
Perfect Relations: Ritika Arora +91-9820910855; rarora@perfectrelations.com

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Registered Office: Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. Thomas Cook Building, Dr. D N Road, Fort Mumbai - 400 001.