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KOTIN

KEEPING OURSELVES TOGETHER - INDIA



AGM 2024

Hosted in Chennai, the Skål India National AGM witnessed plenty of action and surprises



BOARD OF CONTROL

Meet your nine elected leaders who will draw the Skål India roadmap for the next two years



• DELHI • KOLKATA • BOMBAY • CHENNAI • KOCHI
• BANGALORE • PUNE • HYDERABAD • GOA
• THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • COIMBATORE
• MUMBAI SOUTH • MYSURU • BHUBANESWAR
• LUCKNOW • CHANDIGARH • JAIPUR

KNOW YOUR CLUBS

Get ready to say hello to the new leaders of the 17 Skål India Clubs across the country

A Legacy Of Leadership

“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.”

- Jack Welch

Any organisation, whether a corporate or government agency, needs leaders to help guide the way. Leaders provide direction and vision, motivate and inspire others, and help create an environment conducive to success by promoting communication and collaboration among team members. In short, leadership and strong management are essential for any organisation that wants to achieve its objectives.

This adage holds for Skål International India, one of the most vibrant divisions of Skål International, which began operations in New Delhi in 1953 to foster goodwill and friendship in the travel and hospitality sectors across India and worldwide. As of today, Skål India has grown to 17 clubs spread across the length and breadth of this great country and boasts a sizeable membership rapidly approaching the magical 2,000 participant mark.

Hereunder are the dynamic men and women who have spearheaded the myriad activities of Skål India while taking it to the lofty heights it is perched on presently.

A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SKÅL INTERNATIONAL INDIA PRESIDENTS (1953-2024)

No.	Name of President	Skål Club	Organisation/ Company	Tenure
1.	E.F. Gerald	Delhi	Informe Presentado	1953-1954
2.	F. Young	Delhi	Informe Presentado	1956-1957
3.	S.L. Hakim	Hyderabad		1959-1960
4.	J.S. Palta	Delhi	Air France	1960-1961
5.	Allan E. Currimbhoy	Mumbai		1961-1962
6.	R.K. Narpatt Singh	Delhi	B.O.A.C.	1962-1963
7.	Inder Sharma	Delhi	Sita World Travel	1965-1970
8.	Nari J. Katgara	Bombay	Jaena & Co.	1971-1974
9.	Dilip Kumar Mitra	Kolkata	British Airways	1975-1980
10.	C. Nagendra Prasad	Chennai	Tradewings	1983-1985
11.	Ghulam Naqshband	Delhi	Sita World Travel	1986-1987
12.	José Dominic	Cochin	Casino Hotel	1999-2001
13.	Sanjay Sanghi	Hyderabad	Satellite Travels	2001-2002
14.	M.S. Kuki Chawla	Delhi	Siddhartha Travels	2002-2006
15.	Imtiaz Ahmed	Bangalore	Airborne Tours & Travels	2006-2008
16.	Praveen Chugh	Delhi	Travel Services International	2008-2009
17.	Jason Samuel	Bombay	Futura Travels	2010-2012
18.	Sabrina Nayudu	Chennai	Abacus	2012-2014
19.	Amarjit Lidder	Pune	Kaleidoscope Travel Consultants	2014-2016
20.	Mario Sequeira	Goa	Tonia Estates & Resorts	2016-2018
21.	Ranjini Nambiar	Bangalore	Footloose Travels	2018-2020
22.	Carl Vaz	Bombay	Charson Advisory	2020-2024
23.	Sanjeev Mehra	Kolkata	Aaryan Leisure & Holidays	2024-2026

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CLUB PRESIDENTS

Say hello to the dynamic leaders who are tirelessly powering Skål India's 17 Clubs

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Sk. Annette Cardenas
President
Skål International

Congratulations on the election of a new Skål India Board and to all its members.

Change and renovation are always positive to bring about new ideas, enhance what is currently being done and engage new members in the activities that are carried out.

With 17 clubs and 1,219 members, India is an important part of our organisation. The dedication and commitment that your members have demonstrated through the years is invaluable.

As you begin your new mandate, I invite you to join me in 'building bridges for a stronger Skål' by sharing your best practices so that other regions, clubs, and areas may benefit from your success stories. It is important that we continue engaging membership to participate in all initiatives that your board or SI put forth. It is through this participation that they will gain from their membership and enhance not only their network of friends across the world but also the various business opportunities that arise.

Please count on me with anything that is necessary to help you achieve your goals. I am fully committed to being a source of assistance and participation in all initiatives that help our organisation grow stronger and increase our membership.

Once again, my best wishes and much success in your leadership role.



Sk. Keethi Jayaweera

President
Skål International Asia

FOREWORD

On behalf of Skål International Asia, I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected Skål India National Committee. Your election to these esteemed positions is a testament to your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to the values and goals of our vibrant Skål community.

As we navigate through an evolving landscape in the travel and tourism industry, your leadership will undoubtedly play a crucial role in steering Skål India towards new heights. I am confident that your collective expertise, innovative ideas, and collaborative spirit will not only strengthen the bonds within Skål India but also enhance our presence on the global stage.

We at Skål International Asia look forward to working closely with you to foster friendship, promote tourism, and create opportunities for sustainable growth. Together, we can build a future that truly embodies the spirit of 'Doing Business Among Friends'. Let's build 'Bridges of Friendship' among the clubs in the Asian area to give the best to our members. There is already a strong bridge between India and my home country, Sri Lanka, and I look forward to welcoming many of my fellow Skålleagues from India to the 2025 Asian Area Congress that will be held in Sri Lanka from the 26th to the 29th of June 2025.

Congratulations once again, and my personal best wishes for a successful and impactful tenure. Let's continue to inspire and support each other as we embark on this exciting journey ahead. Skål!



Sk. N.S.N. Mohan
Skål International Director
(Finance) Region 10

As Skål International Director of Finance (from our own Region 10), it gives me great pleasure to welcome to our newly appointed Managing Committee 2024-26 of Skål International India. As we usher in this new era for our Hospitality and Tourism Association, I am confident that their combined expertise, innovative vision, and unwavering dedication will guide us towards unprecedented success and growth. This team brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective that will undoubtedly propel our association forward. Here's wishing President Sk. Sanjeev Mehra and his team heaps of success in the time ahead.

Our commitment to fostering collaboration, innovation, and excellence remains steadfast. The new committee is poised to focus on key areas that are vital for our growth and the well-being of our members. My suggestions are as follows...

- **Strengthening Networks:** We aim to enhance our real-time networking capabilities, ensuring that every member can connect and collaborate effectively.
- **Promoting Transparency:** We pledge to maintain complete transparency in all our activities and decision-making processes.
- **Creating Opportunities:** We will work tirelessly to develop new initiatives and programs that provide meaningful opportunities for all our members.
- **Sustainability and Responsibility:** Our focus will be on promoting sustainable and eco-friendly tourism practices, aligning with global standards.
- **Member Welfare:** Utilising our resources to enhance the welfare and professional growth of our members will be a top priority.

The journey ahead is filled with exciting possibilities. Several initiatives, including fund-raising programs, educational workshops, and networking events, have been planned. These efforts are designed to foster a sense of community, drive professional development, and reinforce our commitment to sustainable tourism and our beloved membership of Skål International India.

I encourage each one of you to actively participate in our upcoming events and initiatives. Your involvement is essential in driving our association forward and achieving our shared goals.

Together, let us work towards creating a vibrant, dynamic, and globally recognised community of hospitality and tourism professionals.

My Deputy Director Sk. Sanjay Datta and I are always available 24/7, standing shoulder to shoulder to support, speak, and stand for you now and forever. Building bridges is our theme, and we will always be strongly connected with the backing of Skål International Asian Area. This connection will bring many benefits, including membership development funds, support for newly formed clubs, the opportunity to host another Asian Congress, bidding and filing nominations for various awards, and numerous other benefits. United we stand, hand-in-hand, with amiability and camaraderie at the forefront. Together we can be the change. Let's begin anew.



Sk. Sanjay Datta

Deputy Director
Skål International - Region 10

FOREWORD

At the onset, let me wish the new T.E.A.M. of Skål India a fulfilling new term. T.E.A.M. in my opinion stands for 'Together Everyone Achieves More'. We are all excited to usher in this new term with utmost enthusiasm and move swiftly towards the goal of bringing our fraternity closer together.

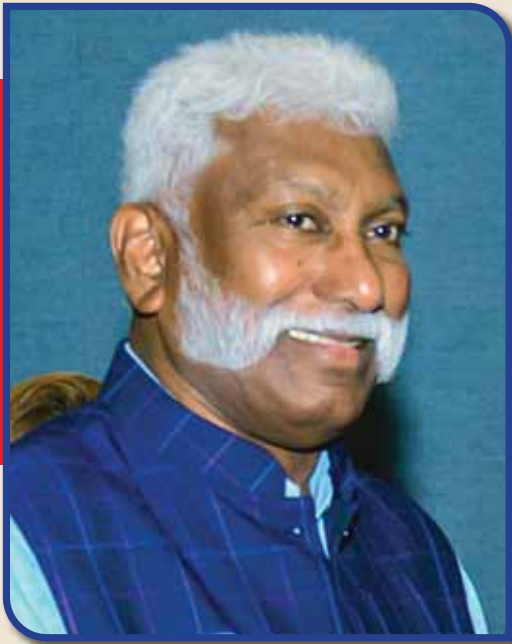
Heavy is the head which holds the crown. Remember – responsibilities and criticism are part and parcel of the leadership role. Work sincerely and diligently towards the betterment of Skål India and Skål International.

This team of ambitious and dedicated individuals has been actively involved with Skål over the years and has proved itself time and again. I am confident you will carry on the legacy of your predecessors in continuing the various initiatives to evolve the identity of Skål India and ensure that this entity's voice is prominently represented on the global stage. Over the years, we have held a profound reverence for the stature and scale of this organisation and are honoured to have been active participants in its growth.

Our mission should be to make Skål India bigger, better and stronger than ever before. This aim can only be achieved by coming together as a group of driven professionals with common passions and interests. Skål International Director Mohan and I stand with you in ensuring the growth of Skål India and making a mark in our region for Skål International.

Wishing you all the very best as we stand committed to working towards a common goal towards the benefit of all Skålleagues in our region. Whatever you attempt, go for it with full spirit!

MESSAGE



Sk. Jason Samuel

Past President
Skål International India



Warm greetings and congratulations to Sk. Sanjeev Mehra and the Skål India team for a successful and productive term.

Skål India has been a force to reckon with over the years. I have been proud and honoured to be a member since 2000. I was the National President from 2012 to 2014 and on the Skål Asia Board for many years. I have also served as Director of Skål International from 2015-2017. I am proud to mention that I have attended 14 World Congresses and 12 Asian Congresses. Skål India has come a long way since then.

We need to be extremely careful in adding members ensuring that they strictly adhere to the aims and vision of Skål International. Quality and not quantity should be the mantra. Each club should hold sessions on teaching members to visit the Skål International website.

I am confident that under your leadership you and your team will take Skål India to greater heights.



sk. Sabrina Naidu

Past President
Skål International India

MESSAGE

My heartiest congratulations to the newly elected Board to lead Skål International India under the charismatic leadership of Sk. Sanjeev Mehra.

It's your dedication and leadership that have earned each one of you these prestigious positions, and I am confident that your vision and expertise will greatly contribute to the continued success and growth of Skål India. Your commitment to fostering global networking and advancing the tourism and hospitality industry is truly commendable.

I look forward to seeing the positive impact of your initiatives and the exciting developments that lie ahead. Wishing you all the very best in your new roles and a most successful term filled with achievements and collaboration.



Sk. Amarjit Lidder

Past President
Skål International India

My heartiest congratulations to the newly elected Board of Skål International India under the dynamic leadership of Sanjeev Mehra from the Kolkata Club!

Skål is a remarkable organisation that fosters friendship among travel and tourism professionals worldwide and serves the purpose of connecting tourism professionals globally. It is a vibrant tourism body that encompasses all verticals related to travel and tourism, hospitality and media and works closely with UNWTO and other global organisations. It was established way back in 1934 and has a rich legacy. We need to not only foster it but derive maximum benefit from it for our Indian membership.

An oft-neglected and little-known fact about Skål International is the Florimond Volckaert Fund which is available to members in distress and crises (with conditions). My expectation from the new Board is to resolve the issue regarding Florimond Volckaert Fund (India) at the earliest and make the fund available to our needy Skålleagues.

Skål India also needs to maintain its focus on 'Friendship' and encourage members to go in for twinning with different clubs. This will increase the outreach of our clubs. Young Skål gives excellent exposure to our youth to international tourism bodies. All clubs should be encouraged to have a Young Skål unit and welcome as many young industry professionals as possible. This will provide a rich base for an increase in our Skål International India membership in subsequent years. The Board should also aim at establishing Skål Clubs in every State of India



Sk. Mario Sequeira

Past President
Skål International India

MESSAGE

At the onset, I would like to wish the newly elected Skål India team a very fulfilling new term. President Sk. Sanjeev Mehra has served in various capacities in Skål and I am confident that under his leadership he will take Skål India to new heights. His very capable team has been actively working with Skål over the years. I wish them all the best for 2024-2026.

I am happy to share a few thoughts on my journey through Skål. I have been a member of many clubs and associations beginning with the Junior Jaycees, Lions Club, Chaîne des Rotisseurs and others, but never have I seen the camaraderie that we share at Skål. Yes, we do have our differences, but so do all families.

Beginning with the time when our Skål Goa Club Treasurer Sk. Anoop Suri was transferred out and I took his place – to the time when I became the Club Secretary and then President, I am eternally grateful for the support and friendship from my senior Skålleagues like Sk. Tyrone D'souza, Sk. Charles Sk. Bonifacio, Sk. Ernest Dias, Sk. Reshma Alves, Sk. Guitry Velho, and many others.

Skål creates friendships beyond business. Of course, becoming the Skål India National President, then Skål India International Councillor, and finally being bestowed the title of 'Membre d'Honneur' exposed me to Skål at the world level, and for that I have to express my gratitude to leaders like Sk. Jason Samuels, Sk. Bill Rheame, Sk. Rafael Milan, and others.

MESSAGE



Sk. Ranjini Nambiar

Past President
Skål International India

Reflecting on my term, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and active participation of our members and partners. Together, we have achieved significant milestones, and I am confident that under the new leadership, Skål International India will continue to thrive and innovate.

I encourage each of you to extend your full support to the new Skål India Board. Your engagement is vital to our collective success, and together, we can further elevate the standards of the travel and tourism industry.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Skål International India. Let us move forward together, embracing new opportunities and strengthening our global community.



Sk. Carl Vaz

Immediate Past President
Skål International India

MESSAGE

It has been an honour and pleasure to have served Skål India for these last eight years in my capacity as the National 2nd and 1st Vice President, and thereafter as President for two terms. The pre-Covid years (2016 to 2020) were truly challenging as we navigated towards making Skål India robust as a global body under President Sk. Mario and then with President Sk. Ranjini. Those four years were a training ground for me on a personal level, towards building the framework for membership development and new club formation in Tier 2 cities. It was an honour to have worked alongside these National Presidents and the leadership team. During my Presidency (2020-2024), harmonising closer cooperation between clubs and members was a huge challenge, especially when India was faced with numerous lockdowns.

As incoming President from December 2020, the Covid pandemic had the National Team working overtime to retain membership by temporarily removing the annual membership fees for two full years in 2021 and 2022, whilst forging ahead on initiatives to make Skål India more nationalistic and determined to grow. The formation of four new clubs was a result of the combined energy of the national team and several members of pan-India who strived towards exemplifying the ethos of Skål and Indian unity. The support received from our sponsors helped bridge the gap in funding – and most importantly assisted Skål India's National Team with its administrative and growth determination. The team and I will forever be grateful to them for their support and belief in the association. This was a critical catalyst for our travel industry stakeholders.

The 2024 team led by President Sk. Sanjeev Mehra will further add value towards not only taking Skål India ahead in these post-pandemic recovery years but furthermore help build a stronger base for unity, membership development, inclusivity, and business development, which is needed in these years when the opportunity to shine on a global level is very much within sight. My personal congratulations to the President and the team that I had worked with during these four years. With the addition of new members to the Skål India National Board, there will no doubt be a renewed push for Skål India to grace new heights and further strengthen India's image on a global stage. I wish you and the team ever greater success.

Every
challenge
is an
opportunity
for me...



Dear Skålleagues,

Today, I stand before you at a pivotal moment in our journey, reflecting on the path we've travelled and leading our steps to the exciting road ahead. As I step into this role, succeeding my predecessor, Sk. Carl Vaz, I am deeply honoured by the trust you, my dear Skålleagues, have placed in me. Inspired by the legacy of leadership and vision that our previous National Presidents have established, I look forward to taking the movement of Skål International India which was established in 1953 to greater heights. It is with both honour and humility that I address you as your President of Skål International India.

“

I am constantly inspired by the dedication and passion of our members. Your commitment fuels my resolve to contribute positively and meaningfully to our association.

”



The trust and support you have extended to me, following my term as 1st Vice President, is a testament to our collective vision and commitment to the Skål community.

In the ever-evolving landscape of the travel and tourism industry, we are met with both challenges and opportunities. My tenure has been shaped by the experiences of a dynamic career spanning 34 years, from founding Aaryan Leisure & Holidays Pvt. Ltd and other ventures to my extensive involvement with Skål International. Our industry is at a juncture where innovation and resilience are paramount. The lessons learned from past successes and setbacks provide us with a strong foundation to build upon.

Our mission is clear: to rejuvenate and propel our association forward with renewed vigour. Together, we will focus on several key areas that are critical to our success:

1. Enhancing Industry Collaboration: We will seek to forge and strengthen partnerships across the travel and tourism sector, building alliances that will benefit our members and drive collective growth.

2. Advancing Member Engagement: As we move forward, I am committed to fostering an environment that supports and values each member's contributions, encouraging active participation and collaboration.

3. Embracing Innovation: The travel landscape is transforming rapidly. Our approach will be both innovative and strategic, ensuring that Skål International India remains at the forefront of industry trends and practices.

4. Strengthening Our Community: Our strength lies in our unity. By nurturing a supportive and dynamic community, we will empower each other to reach new heights and overcome any obstacles that come our way.

Reflecting on my journey with Skål, from my role as President of Skål International India to attending numerous Skål Congresses, I am constantly inspired by the dedication and passion of our members. Your commitment fuels my resolve to contribute positively and meaningfully to our association.

In the coming months, we will launch initiatives aimed at achieving these goals, and I am excited about the prospects that lie ahead. Together, we will navigate this journey with optimism and a shared sense of purpose. As we look forward to what the future holds, let us move forward with confidence and determination. Our path is one of opportunity, and it is up to us to seize it with both hands.

On behalf of the entire Skål International India team, I extend my deepest gratitude for your continued support and enthusiasm. Let us embrace this journey with the spirit of unity and excellence that defines us. Here's to our collective success and a future filled with promise and achievement!

Sanjeev Mehra

Skål International India President 2024-2026



“I believe in
the power of
collaboration &
innovation...”

Dear Skålleagues,

It is an honour to stand before you today as the Vice President of Skål India. Our organisation has always been a beacon of leadership and innovation in the tourism and hospitality industry, and I have been and am proud to be part of such a distinguished group of professionals. Today, I would like to share some insights into how we can continue to lead and innovate in our ever-evolving industry.

Before that, I would like to share a few thoughts. Friendship is all about understanding, compassion, forgiveness and camaraderie. True Friendship isn't about being there when it is convenient; it's about

being there when it is not.

Skål is founded on this single most important philosophy, friendship and business among friends. This founding principle is what has brought Skål to a worldwide association of members who believe in supporting one another irrespective of religion or geographical distance.

Here is how I see the future of Skål India...

Collaborative Innovation

At Skål, we believe in the power of collaboration and innovation. The partnership between various segments of Tourism, Hospitality and allied divisions signifies



our strength in our ability to bring together diverse perspectives and expertise to solve complex challenges. This unique relationship allows us to develop practical and personalised solutions that benefit our members and the industry at large.

Adapting to Change

The pace of change in our industry has never been faster. With the ever-increasing presence of online platforms and the increasing use of technology, many travel and tour operators have lost out on business opportunities. While technology is here to stay, our members can do what technology cannot – superior and personalised service. As an example, it's been less than a year since transformative technologies like ChatGPT entered our lives, revolutionising how we interact with information and each other. Similarly, our industry must adapt rapidly to new trends and technologies to stay relevant and competitive.

Building Trust and Responsibility

As we embrace these innovations, it is crucial to develop them responsibly. At Skål, we must continue to prioritize trust and ethics in all our endeavours.

Learning and Growing Together

We must continue to unlearn and learn as the demands of the next generation keep changing. We must continue to strive in our goal to build experiences that are not only delightful but also transparent and trustworthy. This means continuously iterating on our services and incorporating feedback to better meet the needs of our members and the broader community.

Future Outlook

Looking ahead, the future of Skål lies in our ability to personalize and enhance our services. As mentioned earlier, we must strive to tailor our offerings to meet the unique needs of our members. This will involve harnessing the power of data and technology to provide more relevant and impactful experiences. In closing, I want to thank each of you for your dedication and contributions to Skål. Our success is a testament to the hard work and collaboration of our members. Together, we will continue to lead, innovate, and make a positive impact in the tourism and hospitality industry.

S. Venkat N. Reddy

Skål International India Vice President 1 (2024-2026)



Skål India Board 2024-2026

AGM 2024

A Time For New Beginnings

Hosted in Chennai at the GRT Grand Hotel on July 6, Skål India's AGM 2024 along with the election process was conducted smoothly. With an experienced new team being installed at the helm, expectations among members are understandably high. It's a future of great promise, writes **Sk. Venkat Reddy**, VP1, Skål India...

Chennai has been a preferred destination for the AGM of Skål International India. The erstwhile Board had taken over the reins in October of 2020 at Chennai and in a fitting completion to the two tenures under President Sk. Carl Vaz, from 2020-2024, the 2024 AGM was finalised for Chennai and the new Board took charge under the able leadership of Sk. Sanjeev Mehra.

Skål Chennai, spearheaded by new President Sk. Shabin Sarvotham was ably assisted by the entire Board to conduct the AGM. Sk. Venkat Reddy, VP2, Skål International India, was also invited by the Board during their discussions to ensure a smooth AGM and elections.

A special note of mention must go out to Sk. Kamleshwaran, VP1 of Skål Chennai, who coordinated with all 17 Clubs for their stay and travel requirements during their visit to Chennai. National Secretary Sk. Krishna Gopalan and VP 2 Sk. Venkat Reddy gave all the guidelines for the AGM, which was executed to perfection by Sk. Kamleshwaran who made all the arrangements with the Hotel ensured a smooth AGM.

Skål India is indebted to the returning officer, Sk. Krishnakumar Menon, Past President, of Skål Chennai, who ensured a flawless election process. GRT Grand Hotel, headed by their dynamic General Manager, Mr. Monideep Jaz and ably supported by F&B Manager, Mr. Anand Lourdaraj handled the event with grace and



Skål Chennai Executive Board

finesse.

National Secretary, Sk. Krishna started the AGM proceedings with the National Anthem and the Skål Hymn. The President took over with his address, thanking the Director Sk. N.S.N. Mohan, Deputy Director Sk. Sanjay Datta, Past National Presidents – Sk. Ranjini Nambiar, Sk. Mario Sequeira and Sk. Sabrina Naidu, Club Presidents and Club representatives for their presence.

During the AGM, members posed questions to the Board and debated on several issues that were part of the President, Treasurer and Secretary's reports. Due to a shortage of time, the AGM had to be closed and proceedings were handed over to the Returning Officer, Sk. Krishnakumar Menon for conducting the elections. The Club Presidents and authorised representatives were invited to vote for the new team. The voting went smoothly and transparently. After some nail-biting moments, the Returning Officer announced the results. The incoming Board was welcomed to the stage and honoured by Skål Club of Chennai Board members. The Past President Sk. Carl Vaz handed over the President's Chain to Sk. Sanjeev Mehra the President for the term 2024 -2026.

The new National Board was felicitated by the Skål Club of Chennai, their President Sk. Shabin Sarvotham,

Sk. Kamleshwaran, Sk. Rajesh Radhakrishnan, Sk. Laxmanan, Sk. Susindran, and Sk. Venkatesh. This was followed by a felicitation by the Skål Club of Coimbatore, its President Sk. Arun Kumar, Sk. Ramesh, and IPP Sk. Charles Fabian.

During the evening, Sk. Mario Sequeira was invited to speak about the book he had launched recently and share his insights on what made him pen down his reflections on a healthy lifestyle. The book titled 'A Road Map to Longevity' was showcased at the dinner and members were encouraged to read the book to a healthy and long life.

The Skål Toast was raised to a new beginning and to continue on the Skål journey of friendship and business among friends. Sk. Sanjeev Mehra, the newly-elected National President addressed the gathering and strongly advocated working as one India, with the existing 17 Clubs and new clubs to be added in future. The AGM was followed by fellowship and an evening of gastronomy. The Chefs of GRT Grand put up a display of cuisine to tantalise the taste buds of all Skålleagues. All things considered, heartfelt thanks must be made to all members of the team at GRT Grand Hotel for their impeccable service and for being the perfect hosts to wrap up this wonderful evening.



The new Skål India Board poses for a keepsake with Skål Inter



International Director Sk. N.S.N. Mohan at the AGM in Chennai.

Behind The Scenes

Sk. Shabin Sarvotham, President, Skål International Chennai, brings you the inside story of AGM 2024



SHABIN SARVOTHAM
President, Skål International Chennai

From a Skål Chennai perspective, it was a fantastic opportunity presented to us by the Skål India National Board to host the National AGM at GRT Grand Hotel on the 6th of July, 2024.

Once we got the green signal from the top, we conducted two rounds of internal meetings amongst our Board members, which included IPP Sk. Gopinath, VP1 Sk. Kamleshwaran, VP2 Sk. Rajesh Radhakrishnan, Secretary Sk. Susindran, Treasurer Sk. Laxman, Membership Development in-charge Sk. Venkatesh, and myself.

Also, since GRT Grand Hotel is my place of work, it was fairly easy for me to coordinate with our leadership team, which included General Manager Mr. Monideep Jaz and F&B Manager Mr. Anand Lourdaraj.

After getting all clearances and the code of procedures from the National Secretary, the details were passed on to the members of the Chennai Club and each of us was subsequently assigned day-to-day responsibilities. Bookings had started to come in from all the 17 Skål clubs and also the National Board. We were sure that participation was going to be strong. We also opened the meeting for our members as well but restricted it since other club members' participation was a priority. As you would expect, we wanted high participation, as this was a national AGM.

A board room was also set for the morning session meet and we had everything arranged for the big moment. Of course, the National Board came very well prepared. We arranged a personalised welcome for our outstation Skålleagues with a takeaway gift for them to remember Chennai and its rich culture (in this case, a stone sculpting). The artefacts were from the stone carvers of Mamallapuram. As time was of the essence, no entertainment was planned. Instead, we had a good time interacting with our Skålleagues and ringing in the camaraderie, which Skål is all about.

For the election process, we had ballot papers with photographs and names of the candidates printed to eliminate any confusion. Every step of the process was accounted for in fine detail. Skål International Director (Region 10) Sk. N.S.N. Mohan was asked for briefs, and he was very supportive of whatever we had in mind and discussed.

We appreciate every Skålleague who made it to the national AGM. IPP Sk. Carl Vaz ensured that the event had a smooth flow. The newly sworn-in President Sk. Sanjeev Mehra, in the true spirit of Skål, accepted his elevation to the top post. In his address, he emphasised



Skål India President Sanjeev Mehra with Shabin Sarvotham President, Skål Chennai

that each Skålleague must do whatever it takes to lift Skål India to greater heights. Sadly, we missed the cheerful presence of Sk. Sanjay Datta, Skål International Deputy Director (Region 10). He couldn't make it since he was travelling.

The evening went on with more fellowship and some great food. Cheers to everyone who participated and helped us to make it a good day for us Skålleagues of Skål Chennai. I am proud of my Club and my team. Also, a big shout-out to Skål India!



Mario Sequeira (second from right) at his book release function at the Skål India AGM

A Road Map To Longevity

Former Skål India President **Sk. Mario Sequeira** speaks about his new book 'A Road Map To Longevity', which was released during the AGM in Chennai.

I have been a member of many clubs and associations, beginning with the Junior Jaycees, Lions Club, Chaine de Rotisseurs and others, but never have I seen the camaraderie that we share at Skål. I started my journey with Skål International Goa Club as a member and rose to be the Treasurer, Secretary and then President. I have had the honour of serving as Skål India's National President, International Counsellor, and then being bestowed the title of Membre D'Honneur. Skål creates friendships beyond business.

In many ways, having had a wonderful life led me to ponder over how health which we take so much for granted was a cornerstone to business, happiness and friendship. I saw too many friends live good lives but suddenly perish as if struck by lightning. All this can be avoided with small tweaks to the way we live. My research into stress management way back in the 90s and then my own tryst with a business collapse helped me delve deep into health and longevity which resulted in one of India's biggest publishing houses, Om Publishers, seeing merit in publishing it.

'A Road Map To Longevity' combines my personal

experience, rigorous research, and practical advice to empower readers to take control of their health. My research very shows that true health encompasses more than just weight loss. Skålleagues must have a holistic approach that balances exercise, nutrition, and mental well-being while continuing to live a normal life of entertaining and being entertained. My book offers practical steps to integrate these elements into everyday life, making sustainable health accessible to all. Just like a sophisticated supercomputer, our body's remarkable self-repair mechanisms and intricate systems can be ramped up, so our bodies can achieve prolonged vitality.

In my book, I debunk several widespread myths, such as the belief that all calories are equal and that ageing is an inevitable decline. Unfortunately, we wrongly believe that diabetes is not reversible. It is certainly reversible and it is a very treacherous disease to live with.

We must be aware that health is our biggest wealth and unless we nurture it like any other important asset it will corrode and perish. Here is to Good Health, Friendship and Long Life!









sk. Sanjeev Mehra

President, Skål International India

Sanjeev Mehra's impressive career and accomplishments make him a notable travel and hospitality industry figure. As the newly-elected President of Skål International India, his leadership is set to drive continued growth and innovation in the sector.

With over three decades of experience, Sanjeev's journey from Head of Travel & Administration at CA TCG Software to founding Aaryan Leisure & Holidays Pvt. Ltd. highlights his dedication and expertise. His tenure at Sita World Travel India and various industry roles, including his significant contributions to IATA, TAAI, NIMA, IATO, OTOAI and Incredible India, underscore his deep industry knowledge.

His impact on Skål International Kolkata is particularly noteworthy. Sanjeev has been a member of the Kolkata Club since 2009 and has hitherto served as its Secretary and President. During his Presidency (2019-2023), Sanjeev led transformative initiatives such as creating the world's largest Young Skål Chapter and the successful bid to host the 2024 Skål World Congress. He has also attended several Skål Congresses, including the Skål World Congress in Hyderabad; Skål Asia Congresses in Macau and Bangalore; and

Skål National Congresses in Kochi, Goa, and Kolkata. His role as Vice President of Skål International India further demonstrated his commitment to navigating the industry through challenging times with innovative solutions. Beyond his leadership in Skål, Sanjeev's entrepreneurial ventures – such as Perfexion, the floating banquet 'Ganges Queen', and Aaryan Pathway reflect his diverse interests and contributions to the industry. His passion for travel, evident in his visit to 145 countries (he aims to reach 150), complements his professional achievements, showcasing his genuine dedication to global tourism.

Sanjeev Mehra's blend of visionary leadership, extensive experience, and entrepreneurial spirit continues to significantly impact the travel and hospitality industry, inspiring peers and driving positive change.

Born on March 23, 1970, Sanjeev did schooling and college in West Bengal. He completed his B.Com from Calcutta University and has a post-graduate diploma in Business Management from Calcutta University. He is fluent in English, Hindi, Bengali, and Punjabi, and counts reading, travelling and sports among his favourite hobbies.



Sk. S. Venkat N. Reddy

1st Vice President, Skål International India

An innovative, people-oriented leader with an entrepreneurial stint who likes prioritising a strong corporate culture through a skilled approach to creating revenue drivers with one-of-a-kind approaches, S. Venkat N. Reddy is a one-of-a-kind individual.

A multi-skilled hospitality professional and versatile leader with over 30 years of experience in managing profitability in customer-centric businesses, Venkat has oodles of hands-on experience in start-ups and establishing multi-unit businesses; besides leading hotel and restaurant operations, both overseas and in India. He has developed several strategic alliances and team development programs to enhance business profitability.

Until recently, he was General Manager at Ambassador Pallava in Chennai, where he led a team of 250 people across departments. Before that, he worked at The Residency, another boutique hotel in Chennai from 2014-2017, in the same capacity. Earlier, he worked at The Residency Towers (2009-2010) as F&B Manager. He also has sizeable overseas experience in the hospitality domain as well, having worked with Ras – The Essence of India, an Indian restaurant in Singapore, as General Manager, besides previous

stints as Restaurant Manager in Rang Mahal and Pizza Hut (also in Singapore).

After serving in the hospitality industry successfully, Venkat is now focused on giving back to the industry the vast knowledge gained over the past three decades. He is presently consulting for a couple of hotel and restaurant ventures in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

He lists Budgeting & Revenue Analysis, Cost & Inventory Management, Multicultural Team Management, Menu Engineering, Project Engineering & Management, PR & Communication, and Multiple Outlet Management among his key skills.

From an organisational perspective, Venkat makes his transition from 2nd to 1st Vice President of Skål India. He is also a former President of Skål Chennai (2017–2019). As a Young Skål India Board Member-in-Charge (2015–2017), he won the Asian Area Award for the best YS Club of the Year for enlisting the maximum number of students.

Venkat holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Osmania University, Hyderabad. He also has a Graduate Diploma in Business Management from the Singapore Institute of Management and a Diploma in Hotel Management from IHM Bhubaneswar.



Sk. Krishna Gopalan

2nd Vice President, Skål International India

Not for nothing is Krishna Gopalan known as the smiling assassin of Skål India. Over the last four years as National Secretary, he has executed the least coveted and the most thankless jobs at Skål India, particularly during the series of Covid-enforced lockdowns in India. And he has done it all with a smile!

Now elevated to the position of 2nd Vice President, Krishna is expected to continue to do the hard yards at Skål India. As one of his colleagues aptly puts it, "The outgoing National Secretary has been an invaluable asset to the organisation and will continue to assist the Board and will be of invaluable support to all Skålleagues."

Krishna has clocked 32 years of experience in the travel & tourism industry. He began his career with Bulsara Travels, Pune (1991-1994), before moving on to Prasanna Overseas Travels (1994-1997). He then joined Travel Masters (Mumbai) Pvt. Ltd in June 1997 as a Counter Executive, and after 23 years in the organisation, he currently holds the position of Vice President.

Before becoming VP2, he was the Secretary of Skål

India (2020-2024). He has previously served as President of his Club, Skål Pune (2018-2020).

Moreover, Krishna has been Chairman - Board of Studies Diploma in Travel & Tourism at Maharashtra State Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Pune, from 2018 till date. Other portfolios he has handled include Chairman - Travel Agents Association of India, Pune Chapter (2013-2017), where he was previously Secretary (2005-2008) and Treasurer (2011-2013).

Krishna has been a lecturer at IITC Pune, for a Diploma in Travel & Tourism (1995- 2000), and has also conducted classes for the IATA Basic & Advance Distance Learning course (1996-2003).

Born and raised in Pune, Krishna completed his graduation in Commerce from Pune University and got a Diploma in Travel & Tourism from IITC Pune in 1993. He was a topper in Fundamentals of Fare Construction conducted by Air India Staff College in 1995, and also a topper in Lufthansa Advance Fare Calculation in 1997. He also completed an IATA Advance Diploma (Distance Learning) from Montreal in 1999.



Sk. Rohit Hangal

Secretary, Skål International India

A hospitality professional by academia, and a graduate of Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration, Manipal, Rohit Hangal, the newly-elected Secretary of Skål India, is a 'Tourism Marketing and Media Professional', by his own description. For the last 25 years, he has been involved in managing travel & tourism event brands in India.

After working with Choice Hotels International in their Projects Division and a couple of other entrepreneurial pursuits, Rohit co-founded 'Sphere Travelmedia & Exhibitions' in 1998, wherein he provides a range of consulting services for travel companies, hotels, resorts and destinations from over 40 countries seeking a breakthrough into the Indian travel & tourism market.

Among the major media and event brands that stand out in his portfolio are 'India International Travel Mart' (India's premier travel & tourism exhibition), 'Outbound Travel Roadshow' (India's only multi-destination buyer-seller meet), 'Business Travel & Meetings Expo' (a corporate travel, incentive & conference exhibition), 'Voyager's World' (a monthly travel-trade publication), and MICE-Point (an industry newswire).

Rohit's customised marketing activities include

customised travel exhibitions and conferences for various state governments. Sphere was the official agency that managed domestic events for Karnataka Tourism. The company also assisted different state governments in promoting their tourism destinations in different markets such as London, Madrid, Los Angeles, New York, and Kuala Lumpur.

His domain expertise is marketing, brand consulting and evolving market-entry strategies in the hospitality and travel & tourism space. Widely quoted in the media for his views on tourism and heritage, Rohit has been part of leading associations as a member of their tourism committees such as the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and Karnataka Tourism Society. He was also the former Secretary of Skål Bangalore.

He has been invited to speak on tourism marketing by Carson College of Business-Washington State University and University of Nebraska-Lincoln among others. Rohit has authored several articles on tourism marketing & destination promotion. He is a keen history & heritage buff, an amateur philatelist, and a collector of old Bangalore memorabilia.



Sk. Monik Dharamshi

Treasurer, Skål International India

A flair for numbers and a passion for equities, coupled with prior experience in audit and accounts, makes Monik Dharamshi the ideal candidate for the position of Skål India's National Treasurer. "I am eager to leverage my skills and look forward to receiving advice, support, and guidance as we work together to achieve our goals," he said, following installation.

Monik has been associated with Skål India for well over a decade. He previously served two terms as Secretary (2020-2022 and 2022-2024) on the Skål Hyderabad Board, wherein he developed a deep understanding of the association, its bylaws, statutes, and the intricate workings that keep it moving forward. "This experience has been invaluable in grooming me for the nuances and essential aspects of our organisation," he claims.

On the professional front, Monik started his career with a reputed MNC, the only listed company in the travel industry at the time. In 2008, he founded his own enterprise, Dream Designer Holidays, intending to transform people's holidays into memorable experiences. Explains Monik: "Our goal is to ensure that the customers' plans unfold with absolute precision

and convenience. We offer interest-specific packages that allow them to enjoy select aspects of a country, hobby, or leisure pursuit. Ours is a one-stop travel shop that suggests, plans, executes and delivers."

Dream Designer Holidays has a tie-up with some of the finest hotel groups like The Taj and other International hotels to ensure that its clients' travel experiences are partnered with impeccable hospitality in unmatched settings.

On a personal note, Monik lives in Hyderabad with his wife Meenakshi and two children, Vandit and Arnav. Vandit pursued wealth management at Flame University and is now working with one of India's most trusted and respected names in the financial world. Arnav is following his dream of becoming a successful Chartered Accountant.

"As we look to the future, my focus areas for the upcoming term include building bridges, fostering real-time networking, ensuring complete transparency, creating new opportunities, and driving membership development and sponsorship. Together, we will continue to elevate our organisation to new heights," Monik summates.



Sk. Shalini Charles

Director, PR & Marketing, Skål International India & Skål International Asia

A hospitality professional, educator, mentor, entrepreneur, and environmentalist among other things, Shalini Charles, Director – PR & Marketing, Skål India & Skål Asia, defines the highly motivated breed of new-age industry professionals.

Shalini's association with Skål International runs deep. Before her current stint with the National Board, she served for two terms as Director – Young Skål India (2020-2022 and 2022-2024). She was also Director – Young Skål Asia for two terms (2019-2021 and 2021-2023). She was previously Director – Young Skål Bangalore (2016-2018).

Shalini worked with Young Skål's Training & Education Committee enlisting many budding professionals across the country. India has had the highest Young Skål numbers in Asia during her tenure. She started many initiatives such as the YS Rolling Trophy, World Tourism Day Quiz, and Mentorship Programs.

Shalini is the Founder/Director of Atithi Vriksha Shiksha, an organisation she established in December 2018, which imparts short-term, job-oriented, hospitality education. AVS is designed to benefit the underprivileged at all levels by taking hospitality education to the grassroots,

skilling deserving candidates for careers in hospitality, upgrading the skills of those already employed in the industry, and providing entrepreneurial skills to those who want to start their own ventures.

Earlier, she was Director/Principal at IIHM Bangalore (2011-2018), where she was responsible for setting up the institute, from hiring faculty, marketing responsibility of sourcing students, tie-ups, and following university guidelines. She also liaises with fellow colleges for hospitality competitions, local governments, and major hotel chains, helping build the brand IIHM Bangalore.

Shalini has 12 years in the field of formal management education. Her calling is in mentoring students and making them future-ready. She is a qualified hotelier, adept at handling front office operations, guest relations, and accommodation. She holds a Diploma in Hospitality from IHM Kolkata (1988) and a Bachelor's in Hotel Management from Bharthiar University (2015).

Shalini is married to Suresh, a hotelier. They have one daughter, Inika Serah Charles, a corporate lawyer working in Mumbai. She loves dogs and is like a mom to Chelsea, Zoe and Curious who keep her busy in her free time. Gardening is also her passion.



Sk. Raja Gopaal Iyer

Director, Young Skål, Skål International India

“Being a true leader, I constantly feel that I’m still a student because learning and knowledge have no limit,” says Dr. Raja Gopaal Iyer, or Raja as he is generally referred to.

As the recently appointed Director of Young Skål, the youth wing of Skål India, Raja brings a wealth of experience to the National Board, wherein he will be responsible for the grooming of young industry professionals. Being an experienced marketing professional, media speaker, hospitality consultant, writer, activist, and trainer, he is perfectly suited for the task at hand.

A well-recognised personality in the hospitality circuit, Raja began his career with the Oberoi Group of Hotels. After three years, he moved on to the Taj Group, where he worked for six years. Thereafter, he has had brief stints as General Manager at Green Park (Kottayam), Hotel Sangam (Trichy), and Oriental Towers (Thanjavur). From 1996-1998, he served as Vice President at The Kodai International. During his career, he has designed and developed restaurants, lobbies, and kitchens for many hotels.

Raja Gopaal is currently the CEO of UDS Hotels and Resorts, a multiple-business group with a prominent national presence, which is focused on building world-class resorts in Kerala and elsewhere in India. Having been with UDS almost since its inception in the 1990s, he is acutely tuned to the opportunities and evolving market dynamics in the hospitality industry. With in-depth research and analysis, he formulates effective strategies that make UDS properties a prime choice for discerning guests. Over a three-decade career, he has also consistently tried to make a difference through socially and environmentally responsible projects.

Among his many industry recognitions, one that stands out is the ‘CEO of the Year’ (2022-23) award he received at the 18th Hospitality India Travel Awards, New Delhi. He is also a recipient of the Abdul Kalam Professional Excellence Award (2018) in Hospitality & Tourism. During his recently concluded tenure as President of Skål Trivandrum, Raja received the Gold Award for the club’s CSR activities and the President’s Platinum Award for his meritorious work at the 2023 Skål National Congress in Bangalore.



Sk. Varadaraj Prabhu Mohan

Sr. Internal Auditor, Skål International India

With extensive multi-national experience in leading airline consolidators and managing operations within the travel & tourism sector, Varadaraj Prabhu Mohan excels at resolving complex issues and implementing long-term solutions.

Says Vardaraj: “My expertise includes not only efficiently supporting teams to develop new skills and manage workloads, but also mentoring team members to enhance their capabilities and performance. Mentoring is my passion and I love doing it for the tourism fraternity” This Coimbatore native has a proven track record in streamlining operations, driving strategic initiatives, and fostering a collaborative environment to achieve operational excellence.

Since its inception in 2018, Varadaraj has been the Director of Sree MV Holidays Pvt Ltd, a travel company based out of Sowripalayam in Tamil Nadu. Previously, he worked with Akbar Travels of India as Branch Manager (Sales, Marketing, Business Development, & HR Management), wherein he was part of the establishment team of the company’s UK Branch (2013-2018). He also did an earlier stint as a Travel Consultant with the company (2009-2011). Besides, he

has worked with Ariana & Mark One Travel Ltd (UK), Riya Travel & Tours Pvt Ltd (India), New Rainbow Air Link Pvt Ltd (India), and Pricol Travels Ltd (India).

Vardaraj has been a Skål Coimbatore member since 2019 and has a strong association with the apex body. Besides being its new Sr. Internal Auditor (2024–2026), he is also presently Skål Coimbatore’s CSR Director (2023-2025). In August 2024, he was instrumental in helping organise ‘Wings of Growth: An Aviation Conclave’ along with the Coimbatore Club. During the Covid onslaught, under his stewardship, Skål Coimbatore also adopted a village and provided employment skills to those in need.

Born in 1984, Varadaraj did his MSc in International Tourism Management, a research degree from Leeds Metropolitan University, UK, in 2011. He also holds a Diploma in Travel & Tourism from the International Air Transport Association in Montreal, Canada (2003). Earlier, he completed his graduation in India from Dakshina Bharath Hindi Prachar Sabha, Chennai, in 2002.

A multilingual speaker, Vardaraj can fluently converse in English, as well as Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam.



sk. Sheri Kurian

Jr. Internal Auditor, Skål International India

Skål India's Jr. Internal Auditor Dr. Sheri Kurian's dedication to the field of Hospitality and Culinary Arts, coupled with his vast experience and innovative approach, have made him a prominent figure in the industry, where he continuously strives for excellence while contributing to the betterment of academic and professional excellence in these fields

Dr. Kurien is currently the Principal of St. Joseph's Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Pala, Kottayam. Before this, he was Group Director, Hospitality & Culinary Arts, at AIMS Institute, Bangalore.

Among his notable achievements at AIMS Bangalore are five major projects in hospitality services with leading MNCs in Bangalore, including ISRO, Schneider Electric, and Infosys Technologies. As Program Director, he played a significant part in the institute being recognised as the second best hospitality institute in Karnataka and the 12th best in India. At AIMS, he also helped modernise the Hospitality Labs and introduced 'Global Hospitality' education through MOUs with international educational institutions.

Dr. Kurien is actively involved in training and development activities, elevating the standard of

education and practical experience for students. He has conducted numerous national and international seminars and CSR initiatives in collaboration with various hotel management institutions. He was instrumental in organising the annual 'Hospitality Innovation & Culinary Expo at AIMS Bangalore'.

Notable among his industry recognitions is a Special Award from the Bangalore Ex-Servicemen Association for Community Services. He was felicitated for his 'Outstanding Contribution to the Hospitality Industry' by the Indian Federation of Culinary Associations in 2016. He received IFCA's 'Best Young Chef Mentor Award' at the 8th International Chefs Conference in 2019. He also has a Certificate of Appreciation from the Guinness Book of World Records for mobilising the highest number of participants for a diabetes awareness campaign held at AIMS-Bangalore in 2018.

Dr. Kurien has published numerous research-based articles on Hospitality & Tourism in various national and international publications. Education-wise, he is a postgraduate in Tourism Administration and has a PhD in Business Administration.

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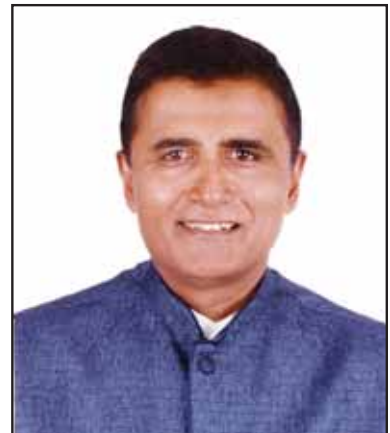
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President, skål International Jaipur (744)



I've said this before and I'll say this again. To define the tourism sector is anything but straightforward, as unlike other industries, there is not one clear product. It incorporates numerous industries, including accommodation, transport, attractions, and more. In its broadest sense, tourism is defined as when people travel and stay in places outside of their usual environment for less than one consecutive year for leisure, business, wellness, or other reasons.

In 2023, the total contribution of travel and tourism to the global gross domestic product (GDP) was a mere 4% lower than in 2019, the year before the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the contribution of travel and tourism to the global GDP amounted to 9.9 trillion USD in 2023.

India being one the most popular travel destinations across the globe has resulted in its travel & tourism industry emerging as one of the key drivers of growth in the services sector. It is an integral part of the central government's 'Make in India' initiative, serving as a vital economic catalyst that fuels job creation and rapid development. India's travel & tourism industry also acts as a stimulant for the growth of multi-use infrastructure, including world-class hotels, resorts, exquisite restaurants, efficient transportation networks (aviation, roads, shipping, and railways), and state-of-the-art healthcare facilities.

India proudly boasts a tapestry of geographical diversity, encompassing awe-inspiring world heritage sites and niche tourism offerings such as captivating cruise tourism, exhilarating adventure tourism, renowned medical tourism, and mesmerising eco-tourism. These unique offerings have resulted in an exponential increase in tourist arrivals, opening up vast employment opportunities.

KEY DRIVER OF INDIA'S GROWTH

It helps immensely that India is geographically diverse and offers a variety of cultures that come with their own experiences, making it one of the leading countries in terms of international tourism expenditure. According to the World Travel & Tourism Council, India is ranked 10th among 185 countries in terms of travel & tourism's total contribution to its GDP. WTTC's latest report states that the contribution of India's travel & tourism sector to India's economy was worth USD 201.37 billion in 2023.

It is widely acknowledged that the travel & tourism sector, which encompasses hospitality services like hotels and restaurants, is a development agent, a catalyst for socioeconomic growth, and a significant source of foreign exchange gains in many countries. India's rich and exquisite history, culture, and diversity are showcased through tourism while providing substantial economic benefits. The consistent efforts of the central and state governments have helped the tourism industry to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic shock and operate at the pre-pandemic level.

The recently announced interim Union Budget has firmly placed tourism as a key sector in the spotlight. The Ministry of Tourism, in its mission mode, is dedicated to promoting the industry through active participation from all states, the convergence of government programs, and the establishment of impactful public-private partnerships. This visionary approach will facilitate comprehensive development in at least 50 selected destinations through a challenge mode process.

It is irrefutable that the travel & tourism industry, especially in India, is becoming a more significant economic force and has the potential to be used as a tool for development. The tourist industry not only drives growth but also raises people's living standards with its ability to provide a significant amount of diverse employment opportunities. It promotes environmental preservation, champions diverse cultural heritage, and bolsters international peace. By 2028, India's travel & tourism sector is expected to earn USD 50.9 billion as visitor exports compared with USD 28.9 billion in 2018.

That, my dear Skålleagues, is saying a lot!

Ivor Vaz

Author, Historian, Journalist

Editor – KOTIN

Skål International India

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KOTIN, a trusted voice in the travel and tourism industry, is circulated amongst the members of Skål India, comprising industry professionals from the hospitality sector who form the most prominent and visible representatives of the various sectors of the industry — hoteliers, tour operators, airlines, tourism promotion boards, and travel consultants.

Skål India membership forms the crème de la crème of the industry, which includes key decision-makers including MDs, Presidents, Chairpersons, CEOs, CTOs, CIOs, COOS, CFOs, Vice Presidents, Project Heads, and General Managers, as well as heads of various departments in the hospitality industry, including Sales & Marketing Directors, Chief Engineers, Procurement Heads, Revenue Heads, Housekeeping Heads, Chefs, F&B Directors, etc.

KOTIN is circulated throughout the country through Skål's 17 Clubs in Delhi, Kolkata, Bombay, Chennai, Kochi, Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, Goa, Trivandrum, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Mumbai South, Mysuru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, and Jaipur.

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Why join skål International?

Skål International is an Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals which encourages and creates a network of contacts around the world.

Our Mission

Through our leadership, professionalism and friendship, work together to achieve our Vision, maximise networking opportunities and support a responsible tourism industry.

Why should I join Skål International?

Skål International offers local and global networking opportunities, access to the Global Skål Database to extend your business contacts and promotes seminars and conferences to strengthen the industry's professionalism.

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Financial Aid

Access to exclusive financial aid programs for members.

Ready To Join skål International?

There are several options for joining Skål International, depending on the candidate's professional situation, or whether there is or not a Club in his/her area.

Membership Application Form

Join Skål International in one of the approximately 302 existing Clubs worldwide.

Skål International Membership Classifications

Our worldwide organization covers 40 sectors of the tourism industry. Please have a look at them!

Active Individual Membership

For those professionals located in an area where there is no Skål Club.

Young Skål International Member

Want to join Skål International and you are a student? Skål is the opportunity to network with travel executives and get mentoring and experience!