

**Welcome
New Members**

Corporate Members



Individual Members



Muhammed Nahar J.
*Ecotourism/Sustainable Tourism
Consultant*

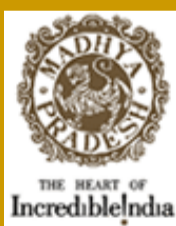


Prof. Sandeep Kulshreshtha
*Professor and Chairman Academics
Indian Institute of Tourism and
Travel Management, Gwalior*

Grand Patron Member



Patron Members



Message from Honorary President - Steve Borgia



CMD, Indeco Hotels

“ECOLOGICAL CO EXISTENCE IS NOT AN OPTION....IT IS A MUST”

Today, truly, nature trembles, where man passes. In the past one hundred years more ecology has been smashed than in all the years our civilisation has been in existence. In the name of development we destroy and damage everywhere and everything. Here is one crowd that works towards getting an UNESCO label on the western ghats purely because they see no other way to protect it. There is yet another crowd that wants the label removed for it cannot use (misuse) the terrain to its benefit. One other group is happily ignorant because it does not affect them today. And finally for the policy maker...for whom this may not really be the priority. Yet the rubric form of India ever inspires me.

It is with that inspiration and the commitment of the founding members, that I cherish the invitation to be the president of the ECOTOURISM SOCIETY OF INDIA. I know for certain that we as a country are way behind even some small countries. We are struggling to implement eco projects that countries like France implemented say 40 years ago. Unfortunately, even eco tourism projects are damaging fragile eco zones. My predecessor, Mandip played a great role in bringing a group of very committed passionate people from across the country to form the society and has set a value line and some priorities. The platform is now set. And now my role is also well defined. The focus areas will be:

1. To propagate and establish the fact that ECOLOGY and ECOLOGICAL CO EXISTENCE have to take the front seat. And make it a national chorus.
2. To work closely with the government ministries and reiterate the fact that Magical upward growth of tourism inbound figures cannot be a result of a quick fix solution. Needless to say, eco tourism and heritage tourism are on a global upward trend. The current numbers that are coming into India are result of the modern traveller looking at India as a religious, Heritage and cultural destination. To capitalize on India being an equally eco zone and heritage rich, India should seriously position itself so.
3. To commonly agree on defining ecotourism as ‘The Practice of Low Impact, Educational, Ecological and Culturally Sensitive Travel that not only Benefits Local Communities and Host Countries but also protects, conserves, preserves and propagates their nature, heritage, art, culture, belief, lifestyle and practices.’
4. Ecotourism Society will aim at establishing Regional Bodies and network nationally.
5. The student community are the future trustees of this ecology. The regional ESOI units will aim at enrolling schools and colleges as members and disseminate a minimum point programme to them and through them.
6. State Governments will have to be enrolled as PATRON MEMBERS in the ESOI. And will have to be impressed to adopt an observation pledge
7. Corporates and other business institutions will have to be brought under an Eco sensitive certification programme.
8. The TRAVEL TRADE fraternity is not only a key influencer but also can emerge trend setters to direct the country to be more eco friendly and responsible tourism product providers. Our goal will be to offer certification for the hoteliers and to the tour operator/travel agent fraternity.
9. Help bridge nations. There is so much happening across the world when it comes to ecology. As a country we have so much to learn or even ape. ESOI will make these linkages happen.

And finally, very importantly, we need to inspire all stakeholders to see ecology in the real frame. A frame that contains not just green but also the socio cultural and heritage elements. We are now at a stage where choice is not an option. Sustainability has become critical. **We must, must, must preserve. Not doing it is not an option.**

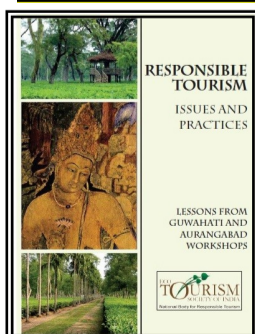
ESOI actively promoted and participated in Community based Tourism Workshop held in Pune on January 21, 2014

This workshop was part of the Environment Film Festival Vasundhara, co-organised by **Pugmarks** with Mr. Anirudh Chaoji playing a crucial role. The workshop was hosted by the MAHARASHTRA STATE INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT & CATERING TECHNOLOGY (MSIHMCT). Ms. Seema Bhatt, ESOI Honorary Vice President made a presentation on community-based home stays in the Himalayan region (in Hindi since most of the proceedings were in Marathi due to the presence of several local community members). The presentation was well received. She opened the presentation with an introduction to ESOI.

Crucial was also a meeting she had before the workshop with the Director of MSIHMCT, the very dynamic Ms. Roday; Mrs Kishori Gadre, General Manager, MTDC and several senior members from the Forest Department. All the three agencies are doing very good work in various aspects of ecotourism. There was a general consensus that everyone work together. Ms. Bhatt urged all three to become members of ESOI and also offered the services of ESOI for various capacity building exercises. There seemed to be a positive feeling towards ESOI.

ESOI participates in SATTE 2014 Delhi— January 29th-31st promoting Sustainable Tourism

For the third year in row, SATTE organizers UBM offered a complimentary prominent corner stall to ESOI to showcase its activities and to promote and create awareness on Sustainable and Responsible Tourism to all tourism stakeholders at SATTE 2014 in Delhi. Over 300 delegates visited ESOI stall to enquire on joining the initiative and to understand sustainable practices, which was a very positive response. SATTE 2014 provided the opportunity to address the key issues of responsible tourism practices to various tourism stakeholders.



ESOI releasing its next publication on Responsible Tourism— Issues & Practices

With the kind support and sponsorship of **Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Development Board (MPEDB)**, ESOI is releasing its next publication for the benefit of all travel and tourism players in the country. The book is a compilation of sharing learnings from Guwahati and Aurangabad workshops held in 2012. ESOI members shall be receiving the copy as complimentary, alongwith the workshop presentation CDs. **Others can obtain the copy with the CDs @Rs.450/- including postage. Offer valid till stock lasts.**

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