

KALI BHARAT YATRA SETS A NEW VISION FOR INDIA *By Vyas Manohar*

Kali Travel and Tours has done it again, this time with greater passion and colour offering more to the tourists in an enhanced program.

Each year this wonderful institution, with arduous research and planning, is enhancing its programme to offer its clients the limitless glories of India in a tapestry of colour, music, courtesy, com-

fort and delight. they visited the Hindu Ghats. At Jodhpur City they visited the Mehrangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada. From Jodhpur they went to Udaipur Ajmeer and visited the famous Jain Temples of Ranakpur, Palace Museum, Folk Art Museum and Jagdish Temple. From there they went to Ahmedabad, visiting Gandhi Ashram and Rani Rupmati's Mosque. On March 19



Tour Director in Bhuj

fort and delight.

With a greater intensity and a more enchanting style, Kali Travel and Tours/ Bharat Yatra this year has accomplished a tour of memorable destinations and fulfillment. The tour took off from JFK on March 5, 2001 with a group that heralded a successful trip, patient and amicable individuals who were intent to see their motherland at all cost, a group that was pulsating with love for reunion with a land from which their ancestors had hailed.

They arrived in Delhi on March 6, then visiting historical and lustrous places such as Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Raj Ghat, Gandhi Museum, India Gate. Then, on March 8, they drove through Rishikesh to Karnal via Kurukshetra, and, after repairing to their hotel and resting, they visited symbolic places such as the battleground of Mahabharat War. On March 9, as they had become more acclimatized to situations, with a deeper understanding, their interest and spirit rose, feelings became more intense as they drove through Karnal to Jaipur, then visiting the Maharaja's Museum and Jai Singh's Observatory. On March 11 they drove through Jaipur to Agra via Fatehpur Sikri, and on March 12 they visited Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. After breakfast, they travelled to Pushkar where they visited the famous Bramha's Temple, and thence to Jodhpur where

they flew to Mumbai, and after settling at their hotel, they visited Mani Bhawan, Prince of Wales Museum, Queen's Necklace and Gateway of India. On March 21st they went to Elephanta Cave and then after a memorable and touching farewell, they departed for New York.

This cursory look at the tour in such a brief and mechanical way does injustice to the depth and colour to what had taken place. Despite that most of the tourists were strangers to each other, Shri Kali had programmed his package so magnificently that quickly all the members had become one loving family. The hotels were impeccably courteous and luxurious. The celebrations and meetings were enthralling. The feelings of

India were translated into a palpable form. The temples were spiritually vibrating. Every destination was a thunder of enlightenment, a rosebed of pleasure, a bond of cosmic

infinity. Then there was fraternization with celebrities, Bollywood stars and musicians mostly.

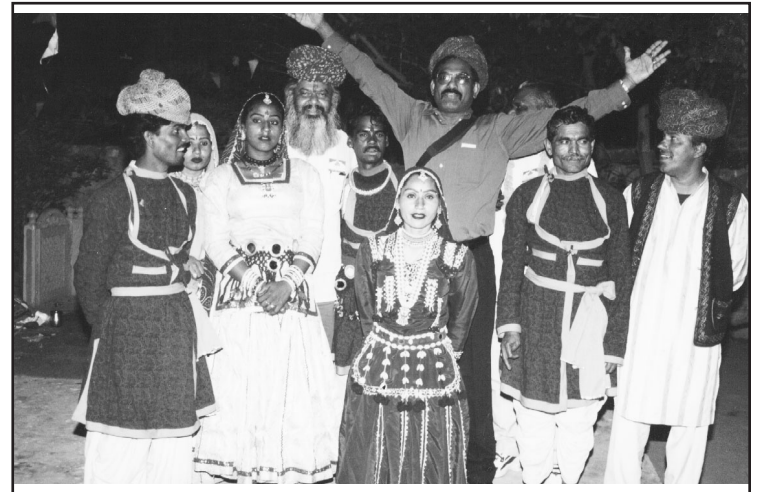
But what overwhelmed all into a passion of beauty was when an aakaash vaani (celestial broadcast) consumed them with a stupefaction of delight. During the long coach drive from Delhi to Rishikesh, the legendary voice of Shri Eshrie Singh began to broadcast with

nostalgic rapture, bringing back sweet memories when Eshrie had been broadcasting on Radio Demerara. This was a unique part of the tour, fusing the talent of an Indian progeny of the mother-

land, Eshrie in his elegant style giving greetings and, in one case, condolences. The tourists loved this, which kept them hilariously alive in their long hours of the coach drive.

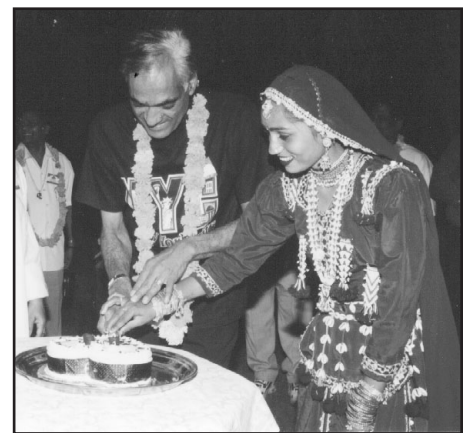
All the tourists had great praise for Kali, narrating their individual experiences, their comfort, learning and impressions of beauty.

One of the tourists Ramnarain Diaram said: "ITV sent me to Bhuj to have a look at the earthquake disaster. I went to many places and enjoyed the tour. It was the best I have had for a very long time. I pleased myself seeing my mother country." (Diaram, ITV cameraman, joined Shri Kalicharran in covering the aftermath of the earthquake tragedy, the

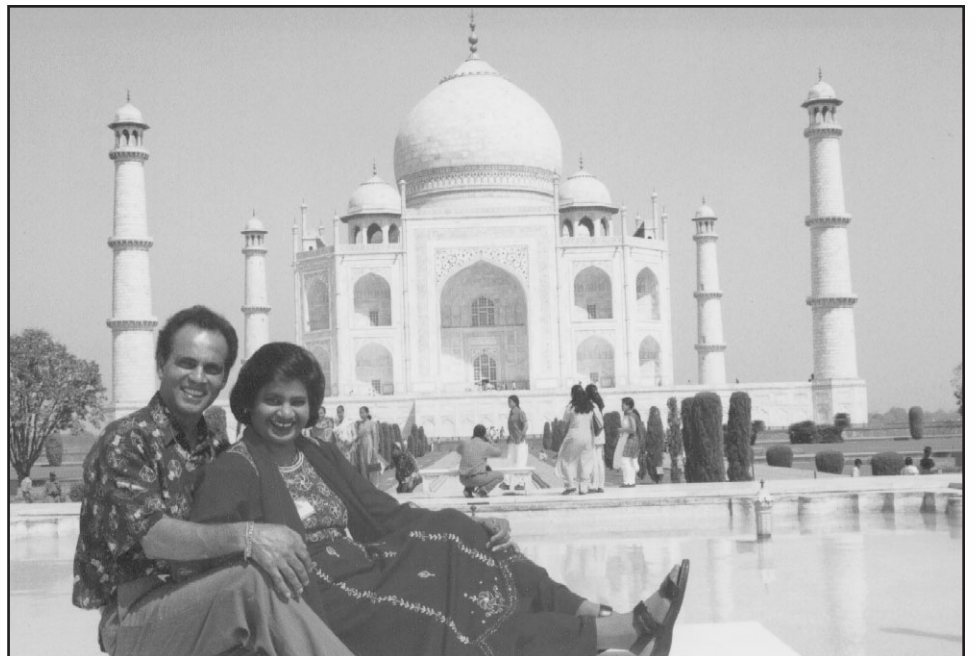


Chandra Narain in praise to wonderful entertainment of the Rajasthani entertainers

Sharma, the priest-in-charge of the



Ramnarain Diaram celebrated his birthday with lots of warmth and excitement in Jaipur.



Harrycharran Baboolall and Romati Baboolall posing in front of the Taj

footage was shown on ITV).

The spiritual flash of India was accentuated when the tourists met the venerable Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji in Rishikesh. The Swami welcomed the group with great affection and praised the Hindu conference held recently in Trinidad where he was tremendously impressed when Prime Minister Basdeo Panday had read the Hanumaan Chaleesa. The Swamiji is one of the illustrious spiritual leaders of India today, the President of Parmarth Niketan and Founder of India Heritage Research Foundation.

Another high point of the tour, which the tourists loved, was when they met with Pt. J a y a p r a k a s h

Chaturmukha Jain Temple of Ranakpur.

This tour was indeed a special one where the tourists met celebrities which include Varsha Usgoankar, Sanjay Kapoor, Shekar Suman, Anup Jalota, Padmashri Ravi, Johnny Walker and enjoyed the warmest reception of India, even warmer in a farewell ceremony in Bombay which brought tears of joy and a painful separation to all.



Romati Baboolall leads the group in bhajan at Raj Ghat — Delhi



Swami Chidanand Saraswati (Muniji), president of Parmarth Niketan, in Rishikesh welcome and gave blessing to the Kali Bharat Yatra Group.