

# Awards augment efforts to innovate

The National Tourism Awards 2014-15 recognised key players from the travel and tourism industry who have shaped this sector to what it is today. TRAVTALK finds out how this recognition helps the awardees in their endeavour to better the industry and their plans for its future growth.



## Best Standalone Convention Centre

“HICC has played a leading role in establishing Hyderabad in the global MICE market alongside Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre. We were the first to recognise the vast potential of this segment and set up facilities that matched leading international convention centres. The combination of state-of-the-art infrastructure and world class services provided by us has made HICC a deserving winner for the national tourism award. This recognition will further augment our efforts to market Hyderabad to the world, and bring the world to this glorious city.”



**Neil Paterson**  
General Manager, Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre and HICC

## Best Inbound Tour Operator/Travel Agent, Cat III: 2<sup>nd</sup> prize

“The reason behind winning the National Award is our continuous effort to provide quality services to our clients. The value added quality services increased our business, resulting in more foreign exchange into the country and we have been trying to get into different countries to increase our base. Niche marketing as per the demand of each country or region in any country will be our focus which will enable us to be more focused and creative. We have to be more creative in showcasing and making India an interesting, safe and 365 days destination and for that we need to have a two year marketing plan which should be further divided into a fortnightly mode.”



**Ravinder Kumar**  
Director  
Indian Legends Holidays

## Best Domestic Tour Operator: promoting and selling tourism products of Rest of India- 1<sup>st</sup> prize

“It is a very humbling feeling to have been recognised for our work in promoting India as a top tourist destination and this can only motivate us to work harder and attract more travellers to explore the nation and its wonderful and diverse tourist experiences with us.”



**Sharat Dhall**  
President  
Yatra.com

## Best Inbound Tour Operator/Travel Agent, Cat I: 2<sup>nd</sup> prize



**Mario Habig**  
Managing Director  
Le Passage to India  
Tours & Travels

“We are delighted and immensely honoured to have won the prestigious Award. We are grateful to the Ministry of Tourism for this recognition of our efforts. Our accomplishment is no mean feat, but certainly well deserved – it stands testament to our team’s hard work and unstinting commitment to making Le Passage the leading DMC in the travel and tourism industry in India. The launch of our new brand identity and a new positioning statement for the company reinforces our enduring philosophy by creating new ways of enhanced customer engagement.”

## Best Inbound Tour Operator/Travel Agent, Cat II: 3<sup>rd</sup> prize



**Homa Mistry**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Trail Blazer Tours

“It is a matter of pride that we are the recipients of a National Award and it is a great achievement for the whole team. This only encourages us to do better and enhance our services and contribution a notch higher. This year we will continue to improvise and come up with newer ways for more unforgettable experiences.”

## Best Heritage City



**Dr. Christina Z Chongthu**  
Managing Director  
Telangana State Tourism  
Development Corporation

“It is a great thing that the Central Government is encouraging the efforts of the state and the private sector in tourism and this is certainly an encouragement for us. We have a perfectly cosmopolitan atmosphere, an illustrious heritage and a confluence of cultures. With the variety of tourism products in the state, we are very confident that we will be able to attract a higher footfall this year.”

## Best Inbound Tour Operator/Travel Agent, Cat III: 3<sup>rd</sup> prize



**Sunirmol Ghosh**  
Director, Indo Asia  
Leisure Services

“We have won this award because of our consistent efforts and regular product innovations. We have invested a lot in training our manpower and enhancing their destination knowledge. Our innovative instinct has always prompted us to open up new destinations and routes for regular travellers. We have already started promoting and operating trips to Northeast India and use the border crossing at Moreh to travel to Myanmar which will also open up the possibility of tourists from SAARC countries to come and visit India.”

## Best Adventure Tour Operator



**Ravi Tickoo**  
Managing Director  
Active India Holidays

“This award is indeed a great honour for team Active India. It is dedicated to their hard work, dedication and commitment to quality and service standards that is the secret of Active India’s success, recognition and accolades. Adventure being a central element of our products however is a departure from the traditional definitions which mostly concern with hard and challenging treks, climbing expeditions etc. We operate in the areas where normal tourists don’t go enabling us to generate employment for the local people who live in the remote of remotest places. We will continue to market its products across these emerging destinations and support and participate in the ongoing and new initiatives by our government and/or fraternity.”