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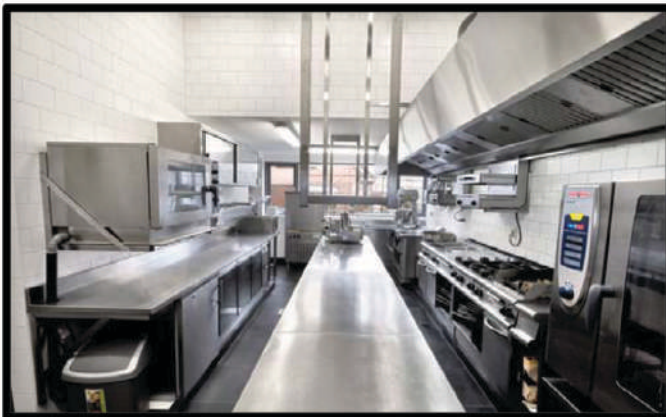
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President's Note

Dear Members,

Greetings in the 67th year of the Hotel & Restaurant Association Western India!

We are happy to inform you that, the MCGM have successfully been able to streamline the Licensing process for the Hospitality Industry.

Your Association and the Committee Members have worked hard for the past few years in respect of issues, hindering the growth of the Hospitality Industry and have been able to successfully resolve majority of the concerns pertaining to “Ease of Doing Business”.

Recently, your Association participated in the Regional Review Meeting called by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to address the issues that were of importance to our Industry. The Regional review meeting was chaired by Smt. Rashmi Verma, Secretary Tourism, Government of India, who came forth as a great supporter of the Hotel Industry and was extremely helpful and positive in her suggestions.

I am please to inform you that HRAWI partnered with GreenOtels as it launched its first Western India Summit on 1st July, 2017 at Sofitel BKC. The mission of GreenOtels is to engage the Hospitality Industry towards a greener consciousness by tracking trends, by providing platforms, etc. and recognizing best practices to foster a new generation of sustainability leaders.

As the much awaited Goods and Service Tax is being embraced by the Industry, I am sure that majority of you are taking measures to implement processes to comply. At the last emergency meeting held at Delhi, we had the privilege to meet the Finance Secretary, Dr. Hasmukh Adhia who has been kind enough through the GST Council, to revise GST slab on hotel room tariffs that effectively widens the tax slab of 18 per cent to tariffs ranging between Rs.2500 and Rs.7500 instead of the previous upper limit of Rs.5000. Though the demand from our side was to bring the threshold up to Rs. 10,000 .However, the Association is thankful to the GST Council for having looked at our request positively and we hope that we have their continued support.

With Best Regards,

Dilip Datwani

President HRAWI

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AUCTION

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Majorda Beach Resort

Unit of Eastern International Hotels Ltd

E-Tender Cum E-Auction for the sale of Assets

E-Tender starting at 10 am on 24 July 2017 &

Closing at 11 am on 25 July 2017

E-Auction between 11am to 3pm on 25 July 2017

venue of Auction www.ashvinauctioneers.com

for the sale of the below mentioned assets on "as is where is basis", "as is where it lies basis" and "lot basis".

Plant and Machinery, 200TR & 250TR AC plant along with pipe lines, cables, panels, AHU, FCU & all related attachments, Laundry Equipment, Pumps, Generator Sets 750 KVA & 500 KVA with panels, Kitchen Equipment / Utensils, Crockery, Cutlery, Electrical fittings, Furniture and Fixtures, 20000 ltr perday capacity Solar panels & Other Miscellaneous Assets

Inspection at Majorda Beach Resort, Majorda, Salcette, Goa - 403713. From **3rd July, 2017 to 22nd July, 2017 between 10.00 am to 05.00 pm**

Terms in brief :- 1) separate CMD (Pre - Bid EMD) for E-Tender and E-Auction in the form of "nationalized bank DD A/c. **"Eastern International Hotels Ltd."** payable at Mumbai. Taxes extra as applicable. Management of the Majorda Beach Resort reserves the right to refuse the offer without assigning any reasons.

For Details catalogues,

Terms & Conditions visit: **www.ashvinauctioneers.com**

GST Seminar on 13th July, 2017 at The Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai.





HRAWI

Extends a Warm Welcome to its New Members

VITS - Aurangabad

Vedant Nagar, Railway Station Road, Aurangabad,
Maharashtra- 431005



VITS Luxury Business Hotel near to Aurangabad Railway Station & 9km from Airport stands proud as the perfect base to explore the city. This Aurangabad hotel is only a few minutes drive away from the popular tourist places like Panchakki, Biwi Ka Muqbara, Aurangabad Caves, Elora Caves, Ajanta Caves, Ghrihneswar Temple and Salim Ali Lake etc. Moreover, the hotel's proximity to popular shopping areas like the Nirala Bazar, City Chowk and Prozone Mall is an added advantage for guests.

VITS Luxury Business Hotel offers contemporary luxury business accommodation for discerning business class travelers from across India. The hotel boasts of the best rooms and suites in Aurangabad for National & International guests. Each room at the hotel is spaciouly appointed and elegantly furnished with all modern amenities that are meant to make your stay comfortable.

VITS Luxury Business Hotel also has the best restaurants and bars in Aurangabad. The inviting aroma of delectable delicacies coming out of the restaurants will certainly tantalize your taste buds and compel you to sample the true taste of all that's best in multi-cuisine. For meetings and events they have the best conference and banquet halls in Aurangabad. The Hotel has Swimming Pool, Gym, Spa, Saloon & Recreation room.

Hotel Central Point-Bilaspur

Near Old Bus Stand, Ravindranath Tagore Chowk,
Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh- 495001



Hotel Central Point is a centrally located mid-segment business hotel and one of the oldest hotels in Bilaspur. It is the most trusted hotel of the town. Started in the year 1995 and located in the heart of Bilaspur city, soon it became first choice for the guests of city.

Come alone or bring your family with you, stay here for a night or for weeks, while on business trip or conference, either way our hotel is the best possible variant. Perk with delight to taste the delicious Indian, Continental, and Chinese cuisines 24x7 room services all in one roof with trained staff always in a cheerful mood to serve you better at Hotel Central Point.

Amanzi- Lonavala

440, Tikona Peth, Lonavala, Pune, Maharashtra- 410406.



Amanzi the Boutique Resort in Pavna is designed by famous architect Shabbir Unwala and is just 2.5 hours drive from Mumbai and 1.30 hours from Pune. All 10 rooms provide balconies or patios, minibar, and room service. Located in Tikona, it's the best place for trekking and paragliding near Mumbai. This property featuring an outdoor pool and magnificent views of the Pavna Lake and the Sahyadri mountains, is a perfect retreat for celebrating anniversaries, birthdays or just reconnecting with friends and loved ones. Guests and food lovers can enjoy their beautiful on-site restaurant.

Hotel Jagannath- Pune

426B, Somwar Peth, Pune- Maharashtra-411011.



Hotel Jagannath is nestled in Pune a reliable property that offers superior accommodation with comfort and opulence at an affordable rate. It is situated at a distance of 9 km from Pune Airport and 1 km from Pune Junction Railway Station. The rooms of the hotel are sumptuous, well lit with cozy interiors and elegant furniture that emanates a feeling of sophisticated living. Essential amenities like television, wardrobe, telephone and many more are also provided by the hotel. They have well maintained attached bathrooms fitted with essential toiletries. Ample conveniences are offered at the hotel to fulfill the varying requirement of the guests which includes Wi-Fi, laundry, room service, front desk, parking and plenty others. For any medical need guests also get specialized doctors on call facility.

Hotel Aditya Residency- Pandhurna

Near Bus Stand, Pandhurna, Madhya Pradesh- 480334.

Celebrated as one of the city's best is, Hotel Aditya Residency in Pandhurna dist-Chhindwara. The hotel is strategically located in Pandhurna.

Having been established in the year 2014, this hospitality destination has grown to become the ideal place for travelers and those on business to feel at home when in the city. With the aim of pampering its guests to a thrilling



experience, the hotel features a plethora of services which include 23 comfortable Rooms, Internet Access, Air Conditioned Rooms, Cable/satellite Television Service, In room Safe(locker), Banquet Facilities ,Wired Internet Facility, Conference Room(s), Concierge/help Desk yes, Valet Parking , Wedding Services, Fitness Centre, Children's Play Area, Railway Station Transfer, Airport Transfer. When looking to satiate one's gastronomical cravings, the in-house restaurant is where one can choose to either dine-in or order food online at the single click of a button.

The Radisson Blu Resort & Spa- Karjat

Village – Khandpe Karjat, District – Raigad, Maharashtra -410201



The resort is located on the foothills of the Sahyadri Mountains. Situated alongside the Ulhas River, it offers a 360 degree view of the mountains and Water Falls. The resort is conveniently located between Mumbai and Pune. It is well connected to the Western Express Highway. In addition to gorgeous views, each of the 94 rooms and 08 suites and 26 Luxurious Villas features convenient amenities like Free high-speed, wireless Internet so you can stay in touch with the office back in Mumbai or Pune. But, when you're ready to break away from work, the individual patios and balconies provide a spot to renew your mind. Every accommodation also includes the refreshing This Works

bath amenities, and guests can upgrade to a spacious suite to enjoy a lavish bathroom with a tub.

A uniquely conceptualised place to unwind chill out and rejuvenate. Where the subtle tones and textures embrace you and the warmth of the fabrics, the colours, the signature aroma and the beautiful sleeping Buddha set the mood for your journey towards physical and mental well being. We pride ourselves in the services we provide and have a curated selection of treatments and luxury spirituals especially for you.

The Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Karjat ensures your appetite is satisfied with the option of 24-hour dining. The All-day Dining Restaurant serves an assortment of dishes from around the world, offering a range of fare. In the mornings, guests can begin their day with a full breakfast buffet before heading to the spa for a treatment or out on an adventure tour. In the evenings, they can return for a delicious meal with a glass of wine. The River side Barbeque Restaurant prepares some of the Finest mouth-watering delicacies.

Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Karjat has been awarded the Best Mice and Destination Wedding Destination of Maharashtra. Our gorgeous grounds can be reserved for outdoor events, and inside, we offer modern facilities for professional meetings and conferences. Our experienced and innovative catering team ensures your reception; cocktail party or lunch break is executed with perfection. The Turf is one of the unique feature to pamper the guest to play outdoor activities 24 X 7.

Park Regis- Arpora

Saqwadi, Arpora, Bardez, Goa- 403516



Enjoying a peaceful location in Arpora in the heart of North Goa, Park Regis features a contemporary low-rise architecture with chic interiors. This 5 star resort style hotel is less than 4 km away from Anjuna Beach, Anjuna Flea Market, The Saturday Night Market (Arpora), Baga Beach, Calangute Beach and the famous Titos Lane, making it a

popular choice among leisure travelers. Holidaymakers can access the property in about 40 mins from Thivim Railway Station (19 km) and an hour from Goa International Airport (40 km).

The Room Amenities Feature a private balcony with views of lush tropical surroundings, all 96 rooms and suites are spacious and lavishly appointed. Modern comforts such as LCD TV, air conditioning, IDD telephones, fully stocked mini bar, tea/coffee maker, safe and complimentary Wi-Fi access are offered in all guestrooms. Marble bathrooms include bathtubs, shower cubicles and signature toiletries.

The hotel also offers interactive indoor and outdoor activities for kids, yoga and meditation sessions, and arranges guided city walking tours. Besides, flexible event spaces with latest AV installations and Wi-Fi access ensure success of both corporate and private celebrations. After a busy day, guests can relax with their favorite drinks at the stylish Piano Bar.

Phoenix Marketcity- Pune

**S No. 207, Viman Nagar Road, Pune,
Maharashtra- 411 014.**

About Phoenix Mills Ltd:



Phoenix Mills Ltd is poised to carve a niche in the booming Indian real estate sector. Led by a young Managing Director, Atul Ruia and a team of professionals, the Phoenix Group is set to take on the challenge of redefining life style in Indian cities. Be it mega retail malls, entertainment complexes, commercial space or hospitality units. The Group has been a pioneer in converting mill land into modern, multi-use integrated property. High Street Phoenix was the first consumption center developed in India. The complex has been developed on 1.5 million square feet of space and houses retail and entertainment, commercial and residential complexes. It has today become the model for development of shopping and entertainment hubs across the country.

About Phoenix Marketcity Pune:

Phoenix Marketcity is Pune's first integrated mix-use development, incorporating retail, entertainment and commercial spaces, offering holistic lifestyle and leisure experience for its consumers. Covering 16.7 acres of land with a total built up area approximately 2.45 mn sq.ft., it is 'the' largest and most preferred lifestyle, shopping and entertainment destination. Strategically located in the northeast part of Pune city on Nagar road, the retail establishment is in close proximity to the airport, high & upper middle-income group residential areas and other educational & commercial hubs.

Since its inception in June 28, 2011, it has been home to 300+ fashion and food retailers spread across 1.15 million sq.ft with five floors of shopping, dining and entertainment along with an independent multiplex of 9 screens and a 12000 sq.ft. open air Liberty Square to host various events and consumer engagement activities. Phoenix Marketcity offers the biggest congregation of national and international brands together with widest range of entertainment avenues.

Riddhi Siddhi Hospitality – Mumbai

208, Dadiseth Agiary Lane, Chira Bazar, Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400 002.



Riddhi Siddhi Hospitality is a unique one-stop solution for all your hospitality needs and guest room supplies.

We offer clients the convenience of having a vast majority of operating supplies and equipment's under one roof. This enables us to meet the requirement of 2 – 5 star hotels, restaurant and other institutional clients with ease.

Our categories include item that are available for every needs including:-

- Bath & Bed Linen solution.
- Readymade furniture solution.

At Riddhi Siddhi Hospitality it is our goal to build long-term partnerships with our clients. We aim to provide you with quality products at the wholesale price; this ensures that we deliver on our commitment to all our clients.

Ghasitaram Halwai-Mumbai

Food Plaza, Churchgate Railway Station, Indian Merchant Chambers Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400020.

**"Punjabi Ghasitaram Halwai, Spreading sweetness since 1916"**

To introduce Ghasitaram, they are one of the leading manufacturers of authentic Traditional Indian sweets, superior namkeen products, high quality dry fruits, Traditional Indian Cuisine and snacks. Their products are being manufactured under most hygienic conditions using selected raw materials, superior quality ingredients & pure ghee.

They have a huge facility for a base kitchen at our factory situated in the heart of Mumbai at Mahim. Besides manufacturing & distribution of sweets, snack items, fast food, salted savories, dryfruits & namkeens, they are also sub contractors to various large food contractor houses. Their New Restaurant has opened at Churchgate in Feb 2017, serving traditional Indian Cuisine and fast food.

Every occasion comes with a different significance. What is common to all of them is the quality and taste. Good food is always a point of discussion, be it a corporate meeting, Wedding hall or a social party. Ghasitaram caters to all your events delivering a generation old tastes that you have been reminiscing for years.

Hospitality Industry's Reaction On GST



The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) has welcomed the revised GST slab on hotel room tariffs that effectively widens the tax slab of 18 per cent to tariffs ranging between Rs.2500 and Rs.7500 instead of the previous upper limit of Rs.5000. With the revision, the highest tax rate of 28 per cent is assigned to tariffs of Rs.7500 and above. Although the hotel industry was hoping for a more competitive and simpler GST, it has welcomed the partial relief. Along with the revision in the slabs for room tariffs, the tax rate for air-conditioned restaurants including restaurants in 5 star hotels will have GST at 18 per cent.

“This is unarguably a welcome revision. But, if India has to remain competitive as a tourist destination, this may just not cut the ice. While neighbouring countries pay 5 to 12% GST or equivalent tax, hotels in India would be levying 18 and 28% GST. This may not augur well with foreign inbound tourists who are lured with significant deals and sops by our neighbours. We should remember that we are living in a very competitive world, and tourists today have a lot of choices,” says Mr Dilip Datwani, President, HRAWI.

It has been HRAWI’s contention that tourism is the one industry that has unlimited potential for job creation and forex earnings. With a more pragmatic taxation policy, the exchequer could stand to earn three times current earnings by increasing the base.

“So while the revision will provide hotels and restaurants some relief, we believe that the GST continues to be unviable even now. India needs to be not just promoted as a tourism destination but also needs to offer value for money to tourists. With countries around us levying taxes

that are effectively half of our GST rates, in the long term the tourist inflow is bound to suffer. We are still hopeful that the Government reconsiders the GST for hospitality after they assess the results on the sector, post the roll out,” added Mr. Datwani

“The hotel and restaurant industry has been witness to a slowdown in the last few weeks. The maximum downward impact was seen in the last week of June with almost 35 per cent drop in sale. During the implementation phase, we are expecting issues to crop up, especially in the first three months, but are not unduly worried about it as the Government is expected to help us resolve them. Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) will be offering support, suggestions and assistance to members as and when required. We also expect a few technical challenges along the way. But overall the industry is geared to adapt to GST regime,” Mr. Datwani concluded. ■

Ease Of Doing Business' For Hotels & Restaurants In Mumbai Takes A Big Stride Forward

Nineteen Licenses Curtailed To Just Three; MCGM Streamlines Licencing Process For Hospitality



The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) has welcomed the Municipal Corporation of



Greater Mumbai’s (MCGM) decision to streamline the licencing process for hospitality industry. A circular issued by the MCGM has, with immediate effect, eliminated the multiplicity and duplicity of many licences and limited them to just three. The move also entails issuance of a composite licence for the hospitality industry within a

stipulated timeframe, saving businesses both time and money. Going forward hospitality establishments will be able to obtain licences for commencing and operating business by submitting a single application form through a One Window System.

“This decision is music to all HRAWI members’ ears and we, at HRAWI welcome it whole heartedly. After years of HRAWI’s persistently deliberating and following up with the various departments and stakeholders on the Single Window Clearance System for Licences for the hospitality industry, the model will now be realized to a major extent. Absence of this system was a big hindrance to both commencing and operating a business but with it

being streamlined, we at HRAWI will now have resolved a majority of the concerns pertaining Ease of Doing Business. We are thankful to the MCGM and the Government of Maharashtra (GoM) for having viewed our request with a positive approach,” says Mr Dilip Datwani, President, HRAWI.

“I wish to stress here on the HRAWI’s efforts in spearheading this initiative and diligently following it up with the authorities for over twenty years, and which has finally borne fruit. Of course, if it weren’t for the like-minded officers in authority who did action on this, the Single Window System may not have seen light of the day. We are as much appreciative of their co-operation and support,” he adds.

Of the several points listed out in the circular, weightage has been placed on ensuring that the licencing process be simple, unambiguous, and devoid of duplicity in submission of applications. With the streamlining, businesses will now be able to register online for Shops and Establishment (S&E) through MCGM web portal and its renewal could be done through its mobile app.

“I had once read Benjamin Franklin’s quote- If you would persuade, you must appeal to interest rather than intellect. Since the last two decades I’ve been persuading various authorities, here and at the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI), on Single Window Clearance. HRAWI has been fortunate lately, to find and thank the like-minded Commissioners and Secretaries at BMC and Mantralaya, who have made this Single Window a reality today. The new system reduces the licencing process to a fraction of what it has been, with a ‘Combined Business Application’ form, through the designated window,” says Mr Kamlesh Barot, past President, HRAWI.

The MCGM while making the process online will continue to run the physical format of application for licences for the purpose of on-the-spot clarification to stakeholders.

“The nineteen licences were clearly understood and recognised as either repetitions or as being outdated.

Repetitive licences have now been neatly merged together under a single classification and the outdated ones have been removed to bring the number of licences down to just three. There are a few more recommendations for merging other licences and finer details need to be ironed out. But on the whole this move is a big relief to every hotelier and restaurateur. We are as much grateful to the Civic Body as we are to our members for their patient and relentless efforts in having paved the way for arriving at this day,” concludes Mr Datwani. ■

Lords Hotels & Resorts Observes World Blood Donors Day

The Hotel Chain Ties Up With Local Municipal Blood Banks & Raises Awareness On Emergency Preparedness

India’s leading mid-market hospitality chain – Lords Hotels & Resorts observed World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) on 14th June across

its hotels. As part of the initiative, the hotel chain campaigned in line with World Health Organization’s (WHO) focus this year on blood donation in emergencies. Each of its hotel units tied up with the nearest blood bank and deposited blood which would be utilized for



blood transfusion for emergency care. Close to three hundred people including hotel employees volunteered to participate in the campaign and collectively donated over 130 L of blood on the day. The objective of the campaign was to generate awareness on the importance of giving blood regularly, so that there is always a sufficient blood stock in case of emergencies.

“The most important take away from the activity was getting to understand the need for a constant supply and inventory of blood at the blood banks. We may be donating blood on a case to case basis which goes to replenish the used amounts of blood. However millions of people are affected by medical emergencies every year and there is a continuous requirement of blood for both anticipated and unanticipated transfusions. By being part of this campaign and having understood the importance of donating blood regularly, we are hopeful that many of us will continue to practice it,” says Mr PR Bansal, Chairman & Managing Director, Lords Hotels & Resorts. 14 June of each year is celebrated as World Blood Donor Day. The event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.

“We are thankful to all those who proactively came forward to be part of this noble campaign and for making it a success. We are also thankful to all the local blood banks for their services and their support. Most of all we feel glad that we were part of a very simple yet so critical a drive. Making blood available to whoever is in need is a life-saving deed and a gift from humankind and to humankind. We are positive that we have made a significant impact in raising awareness by becoming a part of the campaign this year,” concludes Mr Rishi Puri, Vice President, Lords Hotels & Resorts. ■

Amanora The Fern Opens In Pune

THE FERN Hotels & Resorts, has adding one more hotel by launching Amanora The Fern, Pune this would take the tally of hotels managed by the company to 31 hotels. The hotel is located in the eastern suburbs of Pune at Magarpatta, in Hadapsar.



Amanora The Fern is the most premium club & hotel committed to offer top notch facilities perfect for corporate as well as leisure travellers. The hotel is very well connected to the important business and entertainment hubs of an ever growing city. The hotel interprets the proud progress of the Pune region with scintillating tones and art across the hotel & club with Vista café – all day dining restaurant and The Crescent Bar & lounge, this is the perfect place to guzzle up.

The hotel comprises of 26 well furnished rooms overlooking the picturesque view of the club. The rooms are thoughtfully designed ensuring comfort to the needs of every guest, while providing the best modern amenities such as spacious bed, work table and sofa, separate shower with the basic toiletries, etc. for a remarkable experience. Grand and majestic are the words to aptly describe Amanora The Fern, which is one of the luxurious and best hotels in Pune with spacious rooms and lush green lawns.

Expressing his happiness, Kannampilly COO of the group said, “Amanora is the second property we are opening under the Fern brand. We already have a property at MIDC Pune and we have got a very good response from the market. People have realized how committed we are to responsible luxury. This will also give them a chance to participate in their little way to the cause of environment.”

The Fern Amanora, is also the ideal choice for meetings, events, conferences, banquets and gala affairs – from presentation to celebrations. Their premier, hotel service ensures hosting an ideal event. They offer the additional USP of hosting the most environmentally friendly banquets and conferences in Pune courtesy of being an ecotel hotel with award-winning environment sensitive practices that reduces tons of garbage from local landfills and contributes to the city’s water and electricity resources. ■



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Chef Amit Prashant Chakraborti Appointed As Chef De Cuisine & Ashutosh Ranjan Thakur As Director of Food & Beverage At Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan



Whether you're planning a business trip or a relaxing holiday, you'll be delighted with the spacious accommodation and superb amenities at the Courtyard Pune Chakan. The award-winning hotel will make you feel right at home; relax in your room with perks including featherbed mattresses, marble bathrooms, flat-screen TVs and 24-hour room service. High-speed Internet access is available as well, keeping one connected during their Pune visit. Book one of their upgraded suites for scenic views of Chakan. MoMo Cafe, the hotel restaurant, serves delicious 24-hour International fare in a welcoming atmosphere. One can also grab a snack from MoMo 2 Go. The Hotel offers flexible indoor/outdoor venue space, as well as state-of-the-art technology. And enjoy downtime with a workout in their fully-equipped gym or a swim in the pool - or play a little table tennis and volleyball while there. For a truly memorable hotel experience, choose the Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan.

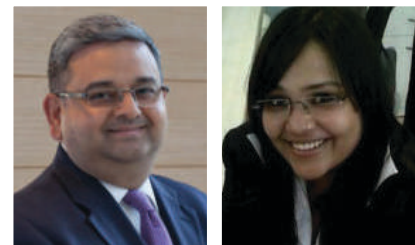
Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan recently appointed Amit Prashant Chakraborti as Chef De Cuisine. Chef Chakraborti studied at Rizvi College of IHM at Mumbai, Maharashtra, An industry veteran having more than 10 year of experience; Chef Chakraborti has been associated with some of the best hotel brands in the country. In his new role, he is responsible to supervise restaurant kitchen shift operations and to ensure compliance with all F&B policies, standards and procedures.

Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan also appointed Mr. Ashutosh Ranjan Thakur, Director of Food & Beverage. Having more than 14 years of experience, Mr. Thakur has worked with the best hotel brands. In his new role, he will be responsible for the overall management & operation of the F&B sections including restaurant, bar and banquet events.

Both Chef Chakraborti and Mr. Ashutosh Thakur are valuable for Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan and with their expertise in the field of food and beverages, will enhance the overall gastronomical experience at the leading hotel of Pune. ■

Kamal Deep Sharma Appointed As Director of Sales & Marketing & Shruti Sengupta Appointed As Assistant Manager Marketing Communication At Hyatt Pune Kalyani Nagar

HYATT
PUNE



Experience a new wave of extraordinary services at the finest luxury hotel in Pune - Hyatt Pune. Located just 3 kms from the international airport, Hyatt Pune offers the quintessential location for both business and leisure travelers. Enjoy the serene beauty of Pune with great outdoor dining venues, lush green surroundings, vitality pool and a host of rejuvenating recreational facilities. 209 elegantly designed rooms with 12 suites Hyatt Pune present the ultimate luxurious experience to guest visiting Pune for leisure as well as business. Indulge at Pune's Best Pan Asian Restaurant – Baan Tao, try the expansive multi cuisine buffet spread at Eighty Eight or grab a refreshing mocktail at FishBowl. Grab some fresh air in the outer

deck at all their dining venues. 10,000 sq ft of meeting and event space opening into a terrace, making the venue ideal for conferences, seminars and social events. Picturesque vitality pool with sun decks, luxurious Spa with western and Ayurvedic treatments, Salon and state-of-the-art gymnasium - Hyatt Pune is a memorable experience.

Hyatt Pune Kalyani Nagar has recently appointed Mr. Kamal Deep Sharma as Director of Sales & Marketing. Mr. Sharma possesses more than 26 years of hospitality industry experience. He has earlier worked with luxury and business hotels including Taj Group of Hotels, Radisson Blu, The Park hotel and has been with Hyatt since 2013. Sharma will be leading the Sales & Marketing team at Hyatt Pune in his new role.

Hyatt Pune Kalyani Nagar has also appointed Ms. Shruti Sengupta, as Assistant Manager Marketing Communication. Ms. Sengupta began her career in the hospitality industry 5 years ago with Westin Pune and since then has accrued substantial experience and expertise in the field of marketing communication. In her new role, she works to create an effective marketing communications and public relations platform. ■

Chef Sunil Menon Appointed As Executive Sous Chef, At Four Points by Sheraton Pune

FOUR
POINTS
BY SHERATON



Four Points By Sheraton Hotel and Service Apartment is a 5-star property. It presents 217 elegantly designed rooms. All the rooms offer Internet, rainforest shower, LCD TV, refrigerator, mini-bar, electronic safe, kitchenette and a microwave oven. 'Panash Restaurant' serves Pan-Asian cuisine. 'Alfresco Beyond the Eatery' is an open-air venue with lawn seating. 'The Eatery' is an all-day dining restaurant that serves international cuisine. 'The Best Brew Pub' serves ice cold international beer and snacks. The hotel offers seven flexible meeting rooms and banquet of 1140 square meters is appropriate for all grand functions.

Four Points by Sheraton, Pune recently appointed Chef Sunil Menon as their Executive Sous Chef. Chef Menon has more than 17 years experience in the hospitality industry. He began his career as part of the opening team, as a Brand Chef of Tablez – The Food Company (Sister Concern of Lulu International). He has also worked as an Executive Chef of Oakwood Residence Prestige Whitefield Bangalore, India, a group of Oakwood Worldwide, as a Head Chef for Las Iguanas, Stratford, an authentic Latin American fine dining restaurant in United Kingdom, and as a Sous Chef of Costa Pacifica, an Italian Cruise Liner based in Italy. His management style is hands on, result oriented, innovative with a constant focus on maintaining cost. His constant goal is to cultivate and maintain only the finest of culinary operations. His responsibilities in his new stint involves in menu development and maintaining updated and accurate costing of all dishes prepared and sold in F&B operation. ■

Pradeep Panwar Recently Appointed As HR Manager At Double Tree by Hilton Pune Chinchwad

DOUBLE TREE
BY HILTON™
PUNE – CHINCHWAD



Set in the heart of Pimpri Chinchwad, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pune - Chinchwad is centrally located in the heart of Pune's automobile and industrial belt (MIDC) that houses manufacturing units including Tata Motors, Bajaj Auto and Eaton. With its strategic location, the hotel also provides easy access to key business districts such as Chakan, Hinjewadi IT Park, and Talegaon, which houses Mercedes Benz, JCB, Infosys, Wipro and more. Exclusively for corporate travelers, amenities include a 24-hour business center with flexible meeting space, and complimentary WiFi. Leisure visitors will enjoy the multiple entertainment and shopping districts nearby. Popular tourist attractions such as Lonavala, Khandala and Lavassa are a 45-minute drive from this Pune hotel. Experience award-winning cuisine when you dine at any of the hotel's multiple restaurants

and bars. Enjoy delicious all-day dining at 3 Spices, and savor mouthwatering Asian, continental and Indian cuisine. Visit Level 12 for specialty Indian cuisine and a rooftop bar for drinks under the stars. Unwind in one of 115 spacious guest rooms, including six suites and one Presidential suite starting at a spacious 300 sq. ft. Swim laps in the outdoor pool or work out at the fitness center featuring the latest cardiovascular and strength training equipment.

DoubleTree by Hilton, Pune Chinchwad has appointed Mr. Pradeep Panwar as Human Resources Manager. A seasoned hospitality professional, with over 11 years experience in hotel operations and human resources. He started his career in hospitality with Taj Ummaid Bhavan palace, Rajasthan. Post completing his MBA from ICFAI, he has managed Human resources in The Lalit Great Eastern Kolkata, Park Plaza by Carlson Rezidor Kolkata, and Royal orchid Bangalore. At DoubleTree by Hilton, Pune he shall be responsible for heading recruitments, training and development and shall be stream lining several networking methods to reach and train the best of talent. An avid traveller and a basket ball player, he has also been awarded for outstanding professional performance at Park Plaza. ■

Chef Vishal Atreya Appointed As The New Executive Chef At JW Marriott Mumbai Juhu



Recently refurbished and boasting an unparalleled location overlooking the sparkling Arabian Sea, the JW Marriott Mumbai Juhu sets a new standard for luxury here in India. This hotel is frequented by Bollywood celebrities, business travelers, and vacationing families alike, and offers gorgeous accommodations and five-star amenities to enhance guest stay. Make yourself comfortable in their elegant room or suite, with its luxury bedding, marble bathrooms, high-speed Internet, and amazing Juhu Beach views. Additional hotel perks include award-winning Quan Spa, as well as fantastic dining at six different on-site restaurants. Enjoy a

workout in the fitness center, relax in outdoor infinity and saltwater pools, or let the children make a splash in the kid's pool. Those hosting or attending events at Juhu Beach will be delighted with the stylish event space and comprehensive planning services the hotel has on offer.

JW Marriott Mumbai Juhu has appointed Chef Vishal Atreya as Executive Chef. Hospitality career of over 16 years, he brings with him vast knowledge and understanding of the hospitality industry. After graduating from the Institute of Hotel Management in Chandigarh, Atreya started his culinary journey as a trainee with The Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi. In 2010, he moved on to The Imperial Hotel, New Delhi as the Executive Sous Chef. He later joined The Ritz Carlton LLC in 2013 as the Executive Sous Chef. During his journey, he has explored various cuisines across the globe enhancing his culinary repertoire, dwelling in search of the right ingredients and learning the rustic nuances of mastering a dish. Chef Atreya has also worked with Ananda in the Himalayas where he explored another aspect of food which is related to health and wellness. While working there for three years, he learnt the concept of amalgamating Ayurveda with food. His last role was at JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar as the Executive Chef where he utilized his expertise in Italian cuisine to the fullest amongst other roles that he undertook at the property.

With his vast experience and deep understanding of an insatiable demand for a delectable fare, he has gained expertise in catering to large banquets and also spearheaded operations across bars, lounges and fine dining restaurants making his culinary journey remarkable.

Chef Vishal's passion, zeal and dedication towards food at every stage has helped him evolve into a versatile personality thus accepting various roles. Chef Atreya firmly believes that ingredients are the key elements of his food philosophy and ascertains the usage of freshest, seasonal and local produce strictly sourced for their quality and provenance. ■

Chef Raviraj Guruju Appointed As Executive Chef At Novotel Imagica Khopoli

Novotel Imagica Khopoli is set amidst the scenic mountains of Khopoli, and offers elegantly designed



stylish rooms, premium meeting room facilities, all day dining options, a swimming pool, gymnasium, and easy access to both the Parks. A perfect family holiday destination near Mumbai and Pune. Spread across over 300 acres Hotel with theme park attractions, thrill rides and something for kids and adults alike, Imagic Theme Park is a fun-filled dream world and Imagic Water Park, the Mykonos themed water park has been buzzing as a day-party destination. A new addition, Novotel Imagic, adds to the charm of a fairytale holiday, offering world-class accommodation and services.

Novotel Imagic Khopoli announce the appointment of Chef Raviraj Guruju as the new Executive Chef, who comes with a distinct culinary experience. He has been a part of renowned hotels like Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre, Hyderabad, and Mercure Lavassa & Lavassa International Convention Centre, Pune, Le Royal Meridien Mumbai, Hotel Intercontinental the Grand Mumbai, Hotel Avasa, Tylney hall hotel, England, and many more.

Hailing from Pune, Chef Guruju brings with him 21 years of proficient hospitality experience in some of the most eminent hotels in India and overseas. With impeccable execution abilities, attention to detail, flexible approach towards work and ability to deliver positive results under pressure makes Guruju the ideal choice for this role. An ardent food & beverage enthusiast he will be responsible for curating dishes with a fusion twist that will contribute to embody the tagline "Where fun never ends". Leading the culinary operations at the resort, it is his vision to continually improve the guests' dining experience through replicating the excitement and thrill one experiences in a theme park to the gastronomic creations.

Mr. Srinivas Srirangam, General Manager, Novotel Imagic Khopoli said on the appointment, "We are delighted to have Chef Raviraj Guruju join our team and share his vast culinary proficiency to offer the best gastronomic experience to our guests. We are positive that he will be an asset to our team with his remarkable sense of global and local cuisine, know-how and cooking skills." ■

The Fern Hotels & Resorts Recently Opened The Fern Silvanus Resort Alibaug



The Fern Hotels & Resorts an award-winning chain of hotels has announced the opening of The Fern Silvanus Resort, Alibaug located in the village Chaul which is steeped in history dating from the Portuguese rule in the 1500's to a now Maratha stronghold. Chaul can be reached by road in about 3 hrs (100 kms) from Mumbai or is a quick 60 min drive from the Mandwa Jetty. The resort also offers transfer services from the Jetty.

The Revadanda beach is just 3 kms from the hotel. The Korlai & Chaul forts are historical points within a few minutes from the resort. The unit is owned by Silvanus Resort and managed by Concept Hospitality, part of CG Hotels and Resorts.

The Fern Silvanus Resort, Alibaug is boutique off-road resort with 34 cottages surrounded by densely forested hills. The spacious cottages offer a minimalist design with the highest level of comfort. This rustic resort comes with a host of facilities and activities that are ideal for a relaxed holiday or a corporate getaway.

There are two type of rooms, Fern Club and the Winter Green including single and double. All the rooms are equipped with LED television with International entertainment and news, full length wardrobe, In room tea and coffee facility, digital In room safe, complimentary bottle water on arrival, High Speed Wi-Fi Internet, 24 hours room service, In room dining, housekeeping, air conditioning, hot and cold water, coffee table, business desk, direct dial phone.

Vista the all day dining restaurant offers a host of refreshments that guests need after an active day out. Tastefully done in wood, the space has a charming feel and makes for an ideal place to sit down for a snack or a cup of coffee. The resort is also the ideal choice for meetings, events, conferences, banquets and gala affairs – from presentations to celebrations. ■



Hospitality Industry A Key To The Growth Of Indian Economy

The sectors in hospitality services includes, travel and tourism and leisure sectors. The other industries included in this sector are Food and service management, Bars, Niteclubs, Amusement parks, hotels, Motels, Hostels, Restaurants, Self-catering accommodation, Holiday centres and Travel agents. It has grown for the last 26 years and, despite the recession is determined to grow further. The sector at present employs about 2.5 million people and provides support to other industries, like hotels and restaurants to educational establishments.

Hospitality industry in India has generated tremendous employment opportunities and is a big source of foreign exchange for India. As per the planning commission the hospitality sector is responsible for more jobs per million rupee of investment than any other sector. This sector provided varieties of jobs which satisfies unskilled people to specialized one. The government of India and the ministry of tourism have contributed significantly to the development and growth of the industry by providing various tax incentives, policy measures and other various supports.

Hospitality Industry in India

The Indian tourism and hospitality industry has materialized as one of the key drivers of growth among the services sectors in India. It contributes to 6.23 percent to the National GDP and 8.78 percent of the total employment in the country. Constant transformation, functional growth and improving standards have gained the

hospitality industry of India approval all over the world. The industry is broadly divided in two segments:

Tourism:

The tourism sector includes medical and healthcare tourism, adventure tourism, heritage tourism, ecotourism, rural tourism, wildlife tourism and pilgrimage tourism.

Hotels:

These include business hotels, resort hotels, airport, extended apartment hotels, resort hotels, timeshare hotels, casino hotels, convention centers and conference centers.

Tourism in India has generated immense employment opportunities and is a vital source of foreign exchange for

the country. The travel and tourism industry contributed Rs 2.21 trillion (US\$ 36.21 billion) or 2.3 per cent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013. The figures are expected to rise to Rs 4.44 trillion (US\$ 72.19 billion) by 2024. The revenue from domestic tourism is likely to grow by 8.24 per cent according to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). The Indian hospitality sector has been growing at a cumulative annual growth rate of 14.12 percent every year adding significant amount of foreign exchange to the economy. The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report of 2013, published by World Economic Forum, India, stated that the ranking of India is 11th in the Asia Pacific region and 65th in the World Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2013.

As per the Planning Commission, the sector creates more jobs per million rupees of investment than any other sector of the economy. It is capable of providing employment to a wide spectrum of job seekers, from the unskilled to the specialized, even in the remote parts of the country. The sector's employment-generation potential has also been highlighted by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), which says India's travel and tourism sector is expected to be the second-largest employer in the world, employing approximately 52 lac people, directly or indirectly by 2019.

With a consistently growing middle class and increasing disposable income, the tourism and hospitality sector is witnessing a healthy growth and accounts for 7.5 per cent

of the country's GDP. According to a report by KPMG, the hospitality sector in India is expected to grow at 16.1 per cent CAGR to reach Rs 2,796.9 thousand crore in 2022. The hospitality sector encompasses a wide variety of activities within the services sector and is a major job provider both direct and indirectly. The sector attracts the most FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) inflow and is the most important net foreign exchange earners for the country. It also contributes significantly to indirect tax revenue at the state and central level.

The growth in the hospitality sector and its contributions to the GDP will continue to be substantially higher than other sectors of the economy on the back of huge tourism potential in the country. However, the hospitality sector is one of the most heavily taxed industries and is saddled with multiple layers of tax. This multiple taxations adds to operational costs and reduces profitability. To enhance ease of doing business and lower cost for the consumers, there is an urgent need for lowering the tax levied, to incentivize and attract more investments to the sector. Infrastructure development is the backbone and key to the growth of the hospitality sector. Taxes on real estate development for the hospitality sector must be lowered to boost investments as there is an acute shortage of good quality accommodation in the country. Secondly, the industry has been clamoring for industry status for over two decades. Providing industry status to the hospitality sector will go a long way in attracting investment and development of the sector. With



India projected to be the fastest-growing nation in the wellness tourism sector in the next five years, at over 20 per cent gains annually, infrastructure development becomes critical in order to support this growth.

The government must also look at incentivizing investment in the development of luxury and ultra-luxury projects which will provide impetus to the hospitality and travel sector in India. The government should also provide tax exemption for new developments and a longer tax holiday for new hotels and resorts that will help in attracting investments into the industry. The hospitality industry relies on a host of enabling the ecosystem to function and has a reciprocal relationship with several other sectors like transportation, entertainment, aviation etc. Strengthening these related sectors will lead to the growth and development of the hospitality sector. Therefore, single window clearance for real estate and hospitality projects and providing infrastructure status to the hospitality industry are much-needed steps for the growth of the industry.

The hospitality sector has the potential to be the main driving force behind the growth of the economy. It, however, will be possible only with the right amount of support and incentives from the government in all categories of hotels and not only limited to the luxury and ultra-luxury segment. The government must provide its full support in incentivizing the sector and the overall taxation on the hospitality sector should be reduced to stimulate its growth and make India competitive against other internationally renowned hospitality chains and destinations.

The Indian tourism and hospitality industry has emerged as one of the key drivers of growth among the services sector in India. Tourism in India has significant potential considering the rich cultural and historical heritage, variety in ecology, terrains and places of natural beauty spread across the country. Tourism is also a potentially large employment generator besides being a significant source of foreign exchange for the country.

The industry is expected to generate 13.45 million jobs! across sub-segments such as Restaurants (10.49 million jobs), Hotels (2.3 million jobs) and Travel Agents/Tour Operators (0.66 million). The Ministry of Tourism plans to help the industry meet the increasing demand of skilled and trained manpower by providing hospitality education to students as well as certifying and upgrading skills of existing service providers.

India has moved up 13 positions to 52nd rank from 65th in Tourism & Travel competitive index. India is a large market for travel and tourism. It offers a diverse portfolio of niche tourism products - cruises, adventure, medical, wellness, sports, MICE, eco-tourism, film, rural and religious tourism. India has been also recognised as a destination for spiritual



tourism for domestic and international tourists.

Total contribution by travel and tourism sector to India's GDP is expected to increase to US\$ 275.2 billion in 2025. Travel and tourism is the third largest foreign exchange earner for India. A sum of US\$ 1.76 billion was earned under foreign exchange through tourism during the month of September 2016.

The launch of several branding and marketing initiatives by the Government of India such as Incredible India! and Athiti Devo Bhava have provided a focused impetus to growth. The Indian government has also released a fresh category of visa - the medical visa or M visa, to encourage medical tourism in the country.

The Government has also been making serious efforts to boost investments in tourism sector. In the hotel and tourism sector, 100 per cent FDI is allowed through the automatic route. A five-year tax holiday has been offered for 2, 3 and 4 star category hotels located around UNESCO World Heritage sites (except Delhi and Mumbai). The investment in tourism sector is expected to be US\$ 12.4 billion in the 12th Five Year Plan; of these, private investments are likely to total US\$ 9.2 billion.

Market Size

India's rising middle class and increasing disposable incomes has continued to support the growth of domestic and outbound tourism.

Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV) to the States/Union Territories (UTs) grew by 15.5 per cent y-o-y to 1.65 billion (provisional) during 2016 with the top 10 States/UTs contributing about 84.2 per cent to the total number of DTVs, as per Ministry of Tourism.

As per Ministry of Tourism, foreign tourists' arrival (FTAs) on e-tourist visa increased 56.6 per cent year-on-year in December 2016. In 2016, foreign tourist arrivals on e-visas more than doubled to 10,79,696 from 4,45,300 in 2015, partly because the e-visa facility was extended to 161

countries from 113 previously.

India is expected to move up five spots to be ranked among the top five business travel market globally by 2030, as business travel spending in the country is expected to triple until 2030 from US\$ 30 billion in 2015. International hotel chains will likely increase their expansion and investment plans in India, and are expected to account for 50 per cent share in the Indian hospitality industry by 2022, from the current 44 per cent.

Investments

The tourism and hospitality sector is among the top 10 sectors in India to attract the highest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). During the period April 2000-December 2016, the hotel and tourism sector attracted around US\$ 9.93 billion of FDI, according to the data released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

With the rise in the number of global tourists and realising India's potential, many companies have invested in the tourism and hospitality sector. Some of the recent investments in this sector are as follows:

- MakeMyTrip has agreed to buy Ibibo Group's India travel business at a deal value of US\$ 720 million, thus creating India's largest online travel firm with a value of US\$ 1.8 billion, as estimated by Morgan Stanley.
- Yellow Tie Hospitality Management Llp, specialising in franchise management of food and beverages firms, plans to invest up to US\$ 15-20 million in five restaurant ventures of celebrity chef Mr Harpal Singh Sokhi, with the aim to have 250 outlets under these brands by 2020.
- Chaudhary Group (CG) Hotels & Resorts aims to have 200 hotels operational by 2020.
- DineEquity Incorporation has signed a franchisee partnership deal with food services firm Kwal's Group, in order to enter the Indian markets with their breakfast chain IHOP.
- As per industry experts, mid-hotel segment in India is

expected to receive investments of Rs 6,600 crore (US\$ 990 million) excluding land over next five years, with major hotel chains like Marriott, Carlson Rezidor and ITC planning to set up upscale, budget hotels in state capitals and tier-II cities.

- Hyatt Hotels Corporation has outlined plans of bringing its Hyatt Centric brand to India soon along with three new hotels in Kochi, Rameswaram and Hyderabad by 2017.
- Vatika Hotels Pvt Ltd has raised Rs 495 crore (US\$ 74.25 million) in debt from Axis Bank Ltd to expand its hotels and quick-service restaurant chain besides its business centres.
- AccorHotels, a multinational hotel group, plans to expand its footprint in Guwahati and Kolkata by adding more 550 rooms to its portfolio of hotels in the next three years.
- The first Incredible India Tourism Investment Summit 2016, which was organised from September 21-23, 2016, witnessed signing of 86 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth around Rs 15,000 crore (US\$ 2.24 billion), for the development of tourism and hospitality projects.
- Steigenberger Hotels, a German luxury hotel company, and MBD Group, a Delhi-based firm which runs 5-star Radisson Hotels in Noida and Ludhiana, have formed a joint venture to build five luxury hotels and manage another 15 luxury hotels in India by 2030.
- Keys Hotels, a premium brand of Berggruen Hotels, plans to launch three new hotels in India at Vishakhapatnam, Calicut and Jaipur, and further add up to 10 Keys Hotels in the country by the end of FY 2017.
- Stayzilla, a budget hotels and homestays aggregator, has raised over US\$ 13 million in Series C round of funding from Matrix Partners and Nexus Ventures, which will be used to improve product, technology and marketing initiatives for its alternate stay business.
- Ctrip.com, China's largest travel portal, has bought a stake in India's largest travel portal MakeMyTrip for US\$ 180 million via convertible bonds, which allows Ctrip to increase its share in MakeMyTrip up to 26.6 per cent.
- Global investment banking major Goldman Sachs has invested Rs 441 crore (US\$ 65.76 million) to acquire an equity stake in Gurgaon-based hotel development and investment start-up SAMHI Hotels which will help fund SAMHI's expansion plans.
- Thai firm Onyx Hospitality and Kingsbridge India hotel asset management firm have set up a joint venture (JV) to open seven hotels in the country by 2018 for which the JV will raise US\$ 100 million.



Government Initiatives

The Indian government has realised the country's potential in the tourism industry and has taken several steps to make India a global tourism hub.

In the Union Budget 2017-18, the Government of India announced some initiatives to give a boost to the tourism and hospitality sector such as setting up of five special tourism zones, special pilgrimage or tourism trains and worldwide launch of Incredible India campaign among others.

Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government of India to give a boost to the tourism and hospitality sector of India are as follows:

- The Central Government has taken a number of steps for smooth transitioning to cashless mode of payment to ensure that no hardship is faced by the tourists and the tourism industry remains unaffected from government's demonetisation move.
- Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has come up with a unique tourism experience of visiting the open cast coal mine of Gondgaon and underground coal mine of Saoner, which are near Nagpur and part of Western Coalfields Limited.
- A Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among the Indian Ministry of Tourism, National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC), National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) and Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the implementation of tourism projects in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Ministry of Tourism has approved projects worth Rs 450 crore (US\$ 67.10 million) under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, for the improvement and creation of tourism infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a MoU between India and South Africa, aimed at expanding bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector through exchange of information and data, establishing exchange programmes and increasing investments in the tourism



and hospitality sector.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Tourism of India and the Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism of Colombia in order to boost cooperation in the field of tourism between the two countries.
- The Central Government has given its approval for signing of a MoU between India and Cambodia for cooperation in the field of tourism with a view to promote bilateral tourism between the two countries.
- The Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) action plans for eight missions cities including Varanasi, Mathura, Ajmer, Dwarka, Badami, Vellankini, Warangal and Amravati have been approved by HRIDAY National Empowered Committee for a total cost of Rs 431 crore (US\$ 64.27 million).

India's Travel, Tourism and Hospitality industry has huge growth potential. The tourism industry is also looking forward to the expansion of E-visa scheme which is expected to double the tourist inflow to India. India is projected to be the fastest growing nation in the wellness tourism sector in the next five years, clocking over 20 per cent gains annually.

Hospitality Industries, rising contribution to India's GDP is expected to further grow as this sector is the strongest supporter of the Indian Economy and the key to its growth, the only question is that how fast the Indian government recognizes its potential, and gives it the much awaited Industrial status and lowers its burden by minimizing taxation for the accelerated growth of the hospitality Industry. ■



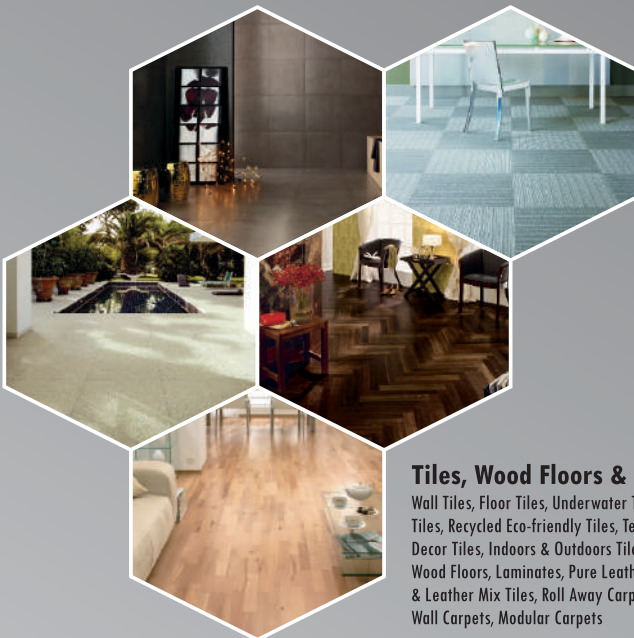
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Jabali Palace:

Best Hotel in Jabalpur

“Jabali Palace makes sure that your stay is a comfortable one so that you return time and time again to enjoy the beautiful sights and sounds of Jabalpur city.”



The Jabali Palace Hotel is owned and operated by the Indo Canadian promoters; The Jasuja Group. The same group that has entrenched its reputation firmly in the fields of Real estates and Hospitality in many places in the country.

They have feathers in the form of landmarks including Hotel Narmada Jacksons, Hotel Jabali Palace and Jasuja City in Jabalpur. The group is redefining the real estate scene in Jabalpur through their recent offering of Sigma Gold and Sigma Silver Apartments, and Sigma City Township.

Hotel Jabali Palace is designed in a contemporary way, offering you all the latest in modern amenities and facilities during your stay. A four star category property has 33 air-conditioned rooms, 3 dormitories with all modern amenities. Apart from Multi-Cuisine open Garden Restaurant, they also offers wide choice of banquet halls and conference rooms for regular meetings, social get-together, product launching, seminar and wedding reception having areas from 800 sq.ft. to 50,000 sq.ft. It is the nearest highway property from the Bhedaghat/marble rocks.



The hotel provides its guests with 24-hour room service ensuring that they feel right at home in the premises. An outdoor swimming pool with a Jacuzzi is also set up and is perfect for relaxation after a tiring day. The Ayurvedic Spa pampers the guests with its host of wellness programs, and the Unisex Salon ensures that the guests are well taken care of. Guests can also rent a car to drive around the city. Laundry/dry cleaning is available and done at the hotel itself. Guests can choose to dine in-house at the vegetarian restaurant which serves up some delightful local dishes. They also offer a children's playground and breathtaking views of the city. Jabali Palace is located in close proximity from Chausath Yogini which is 17 km away. It is 25 km away from Dhuandhar Waterfall and 42 km away from Bargi Dam. This property can be reached from Jabalpur Railway Station which is 15 km away and Jabalpur Airport which is 28 km away.

Among Star Hotels in Jabalpur city, Hotel Jabali Palace has its own individual identity and is considered as a hotel that matches its standard with the high end hotels across Jabalpur. Based on the outskirts of Jabalpur, it is not far of the city limits and is one grand palace to stay in.

You will not find such construction in any of the hotels in Jabalpur. The grand entrance, lush greenery, lawns, fountains, welcomes you with a good hospitable staff. Rooms are all constructed in Rajasthani pattern with king size beds and huge windows overlooking the green laws and the fountains. Food is excellent and the occasional Rajasthani festivals organised here adds charm to the property. Peaceful environment and no pollution add beauty to one's leisure stay as well as a business trip at Jabali Palace the grand Palace resort in Jabalpur. ■

Ancient Historical and Cultural City of Madhya Pradesh



Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh is one of the most interesting cities. There are many theories regarding the origin of name of city as Jabalpur. The most prevalent theory indicates that its name is derived from mythological Hindu sage “Rishi Jabali”. Rishi Jabali spent many years of his life in Jabalpur region. Another theory says the city derives its name from the Arab word 'Jabal' which means mountains. This brandishes the fact that there must have been a trade link between the Arabs and the city.

Jabalpur in ancient times was known as Tripuri Kingdom. Tripuri Kingdom was ruled by Hayahya rulers. In ancient epic of Mahabharata, one can find the reference of Tripuri State. Later it became part of Mauryan and the Gupta Empires. In 875 AD, Kalchuri conquered the Jabalpur region and made it their capital. At the same time Gonds were also ruling adjoining areas of Jabalpur.

At the beginning of 19th century, under British India rule Jabalpur become commission headquarter of Nerbudda territories. It was pronounced & recorded as Jubbulpore. Even today while visiting Jabalpur Cantonment area, we can find the same name written in British ear buildings.

Jabalpur is also known as the Sanskardhani or the cultural capital of Madhya Pradesh. The cultural fraternity of the city has a strong association with most of the significant names in the field of art and culture. Internationally renowned artist Beohar Rammanohar Sinha, who had his hands on the design and decoration of the original preamble to the Constitution of India, is one of the famous names from Jabalpur.

One of the amazing facts about Jabalpur is that the game of snooker was conceived and invented in this city during the British regime. It was billiards, which was an immensely popular game with the Britishers that paved way for this game in the year 1875 at the British Army Officer's Mess in Jabalpur.

The Bazaars in Jabalpur provide quite interesting and exciting experiences for the tourists. It is ideal to buy rare artifacts and antique objects. Besides this if you are in the dilemma as what to buy in Jabalpur then you can also go for the colorful fabrics and textiles. From furniture to the jewelry and handicrafts, Shopping in Jabalpur is an experience worth rendering. There is an old bazaar which

is the perfect place for buying traditional items. Many new shopping centers have come up and they house all the trendy range of goods to choose from. Various jute crafts are on offer which enthralls those who go there to buy various items. Silver and brassware of exquisite blend can also be found. A range of special saris and dress materials with zardosi embroidery can also be found in these markets. If you buy souvenirs then the Government Emporia named Mrignayani is the ideal place for you. It has handicrafts from across the country and come at a price that you can easily afford.

Jabalpur is famous for major tourist attractions along with the festival of Navratri and Dussehra. Gakkad-Bharta and Khoye ki Jalebi are two most famous foods from the heart of Incredible India which are the famous recipes of Jabalpur.

DHUANDHAR FALLS



The word Dhuandhar is derived from two Hindi words - Dhuan (smoke) + Dhar (flow) meaning a waterfall where we get smoke-flow like feeling. Located on the banks of Narmada, Dhuandhar Fall is one of the five holy rivers of India, the water here falls from a height of 30 meters. The Narmada River, making its way through the world-famous Marble Rocks, narrows down and then plunges in a waterfall known as Dhuandhar. The plunge, which creates a bouncing mass of mist, is so powerful that its roar is heard from a far distance. It earns its name from the arresting view it produces when the water falls on the hard rocks, and mist covers the entire place. The best time to visit this place is during Sharad Purnima when Narmada Mahotsava is celebrated. One can access the Dhuandhar waterfall from the east bank as well as from the west bank of Narmada River. To see the other side of Dhuandhar Waterfall you have to take the Cable Car Service available at Bhedaghat. The Cable Car Service is available at the entrance gate of Bhedaghat. The ropeway facility starts from the eastern bank of Narmada River, crosses the river and then drops you at the west bank of the River. It is a mesmerising

experience. The locals believe that a dip in the cold waters can remove one's sins.

BHEDAGHAT-MARBLE ROCKS



Situated 25 km away from the main city of Jabalpur on the banks of Narmada River, the marble rocks at Bhedaghat present a spectacular image to human eyes. Rising to a height of a hundred feet and spread across 25 kms these marble stones reflect sunlight and cast shadows on the pristine water of Narmada, creating a serene and spellbinding environment. These marble like magnesium limestone rocks cast different colors in different lights and especially beautiful in moonlight. This area can be reached by taking a motorboat from the jetty at Panchvati Ghat and it's a 50 minutes ride along the river Narmada. The soft marble is mined and carved into various figures and transported all over India.

MADAN MAHAL FORT

Prettily nestled on the top of a rocky hill, the Madan Mahal Fort was built by Gond ruler, Raja Madan Shah in the year 1116 AD. This fort dominates the skyline and provides a panoramic view of the town and the country side around it. Although Madan Mahal fort is named as fort but basically it was a military post which was used as watch tower and military barrack. Main fort was in plains called Garha fort. It was the Garha fort where Kings and royal family members use to stay. During the of Madan Mahal fort visit, we can see the structure having rooms, stables, secret passages, ancient scripts, corridors etc. All these arrangements indicated that it was basically a military post where army men and their horses are kept. There are many myths floating about the fort of the Gonds. It is said to harbor gold bricks and Gond treasures hidden somewhere in it in accessible underground folds. An underground tunnel covering a long distance is said to be located somewhere around the precinct - a possible escape route and transportation artery of the Gonds. The structure generates an aura of awe being compact and yet fully equipped for martial encounters. The stable, war

rooms, small reservoir and main pleasure chamber of the rulers offer visitors much to see and admire.

BALANCING ROCK



On the way back from Madan Mahal fort, on a top of rocky hill one can see this rock formation. Balancing rock is an independent rock balancing over another rock. The Balancing Rock formations of Jabalpur, which are basically eroded volcanic rock formations, have also survived earthquakes of magnitude up to 6.5 on Richter scale. It is believed by the local people that nothing can disrupt the balance of these rocks. Balancing Rocks is a sheer geological marvel in the true sense. The archeologist and geologist fail to sight exact reason stating how these rocks could stay unmoved for so many years. However, they assume that it might be their weight and positioning along with the gravitational pull that has allowed these rocks to even withstand an earthquake that rocked Jabalpur in 1997.

RANI DURGAVATI MUSEUM



A museum having letters and photographs of Mahatma Gandhi and sculptures from Chausath Yogini Temple, this museum is located near the Russell Chowk. The museum's name is comes from the brave Queen Durgavati and it

houses a beautiful gallery of Adivasi culture and artifacts. Rani Durgavati Museum is a place which holds historic importance in several ways. This museum was built in 1964 to commemorate the contribution of Rani Durgavati during her reign in Jabalpur and the adjoining areas. This museum gives the tourist a glimpse of the royal life and luxury to a great extent. It showcases the life of the queen and various facets of her administration. Coins, sculptures, terracotta, paintings along with beautiful ensembles, household artifacts, war fare equipments, armors, books and documents, make this museum a delightful experience for the tourist and especially for people who too love to dwell on historical facts. A visit to Rani Durgavati Memorial Museum is like revisiting history.

CHAUSATH YOGINI TEMPLE



Located between the Bhedaghat and the Dhuandhar Falls, the Chausath Yogini temple was built during the 10th century and is situated on the top of a hill rock. The temple has a view of the beautiful Narmada River flowing through Bhedaghat. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this temple has intricately detailed carvings on its walls, giving it an artistic splendor besides a huge religious significance. Chausath Yogini temple houses idols of 64 attendants of Goddess Durga. The hallmark of the temple is the idol of Lord Shiva at the centre which is surrounded by the idols of the female goddess. An inscription commemorating the visit of Rani Durgavati can be seen at the sanatorium. There is also an underground tunnel connecting Chausath Yogini Temple and Gond Queen Durgavati's palace. Chausath Yogini Temple, which is a huge complex, spells sheer splendour in every nook and corner of the structure.

BARGI DAM

The Bargi Dam is one of the important dams on the River Narmada. It is one of the early major dams out of the 30 dams on this river. The Bargi Dam holds great significance as it is one of the major sources of water supply in Jabalpur



and the adjoining region. Bargi Diversion Project and Rani Avantibai Lodhi Sagar Project are two important irrigation projects that have been developed by this dam. Over the years, Bargi Dam has become an important tourist attraction of Jabalpur. The Madhya Pradesh government too has taken the initiative and opened a resort facing the dam which gives a breathtaking view of the entire dam and the reservoir. Boat ride, fishing, water scooter etc. are some of the facilities available which makes a trip to Bargi Dam enjoyable. Furthermore, various birds such as mayna, parrots, cranes, pigeons and the local black sparrows visit the big water body at the vicinity of this dam.

PISANHARI KI MADIYA



Pisanhari Ki Madiya is a well-known pilgrimage for the Digambar Jain sect. It is situated close to the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College. This 500 year old temple is one of the most visited places in Jabalpur and is known for its architecture and beauty. There is a legend that says that this temple was built by a poor woman after she heard the voice of a holy Jain monk. The monk's magical words gave her the inspiration to go ahead and built this massive structure. There are stones in the temple that were laid down by this lady and these stones are still unmoved and kept at the same place to showcase her unmatched devotion and determination. In order to pay her a befitting tribute,

this temple was named Pisanhari ki Madiya that can be translated to “the woman preparing wheat flour on hand operated stone-mill”. With beautiful surrounding at its vicinity, this Jain temple in Jabalpur is visited by hundreds of devotees every year.

HANUMAN TAL



According to a legend about Hanuman Tal, Lord Hanuman put his feet on the ground and made an indentation which eventually became a lake. This lake is surrounded by old houses (known as kothis) where the old elite class used to reside. The streets are narrow and there are numerous temples in the area. There are dozens of lakes in the city, but Hanuman Tal is filled with water and is quite beautiful to visit. Hanuman Tal as the name suggests holds religious sentiments apart being a beautiful sightseeing destination. It is well maintained and preserved by the government.

LORD SHIVA STATUE



Kachnar City is the nickname of Vijayanagar, a newly developed locality of Jabalpur city. The Shiva idol here is the latest tourist attraction. With the development of Kachnar city, the builders developed a 76 ft. high statue of lord Shiva under open sky. It also houses a cavern with replicas of Shivalingam from important holy shrines of Lord Shiva all over country. The huge Shiva idol was completed in year 2006 and made available to general public and

devotees. The well developed and clean surroundings of the place make it a perfect weekend outing in the vicinity of Lord Shiva himself.

RAJESHWARI DAKSHINESHWAR KALI PEETHA



Mahakali literally translated as Great Kali, is the Hindu Goddess of time and death, considered to be the consort of Mahakala the God of consciousness, the basis of Reality and existence. Mahakali in Sanskrit is etymologically the feminized variant of Mahakala or Great Time (which is interpreted also as Death), an epithet of the God Shiva in Hinduism. Located around 33 km from Jabalpur, Rajeshwari Dakshineswar Kali Peetha is a temple which has the giant 108 ft. tall Mahakali statue. It is the tallest statue in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Loads of devotees come here to pay their respect to the holy goddess.

TRIPUR SUNDARI TEMPLE



About 12 kms from city on Bhedaghat road in village Tewar "Tripur Sundari Temple" is situated. Tripur Sundari Temple has a statue of goddess that emerged from ground. The Tripur Sundari Devi was very sacred for Kalchuri dynasty and is a place of worship since 11th century. Tripur literally means "three cities" and Sundari means "beautiful

ladies"; hence the popular inference that is accepted as the meaning of the temple is "Beautiful Goddess of the Three Cities".

However, the triple form of the goddess as found in the doctrine of Shaktism is said to be the actual interpretation and symbolizes the might and strength of the female Goddess. This temple is flocked by thousand round the year especially during the ten days of Durga Puja or Dussehra festival. Holy saints and religious gurus find the Tripur Sundari Temple an enchanting temple beyond words.

GURDWARA GWARI GHAT SAHEB



The founder of Sikhism Sri Guru Nanak Devji had visited to various places in order to spread his message and thus undertook his journey in four different directions from Punjab. During 1501, the Guru travelled to East and Southern part of India and while returning, he and his associate Mardana walked through the North east side of Narmada River till reaching the Jabalpur area and thus crossed the river. This famous Gurdwara is placed at Gwari Ghat, a famous place on the river side of Narmada and presents a glittering look around. The Guru also had through his preaching and blessings reformed and changed the minds of various criminals and thieves by the Narmada river side.

DUMNA NATURE RESERVE

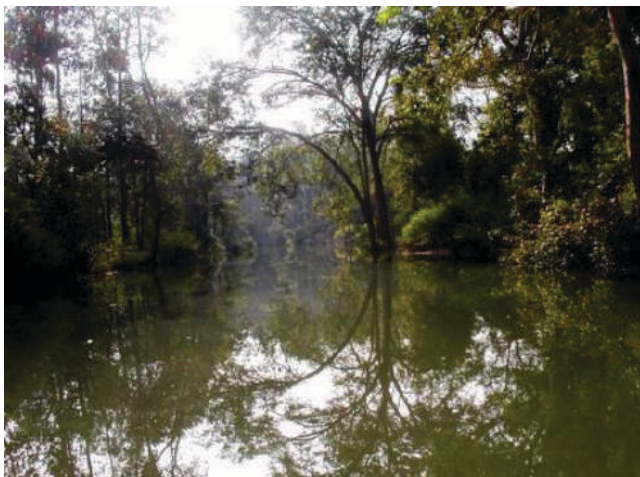


The Dumna Nature Reserve is situated on the way to Jabalpur Dumna Airport, some 10km from the center of

Jabalpur. It is an eco tourism site opened for the general public. The Dumna Nature Reserve is spread over an area of 1058 hectare of land. Variety of wild animals can be spotted if you take a stroll into the jungle. However, this needs prior permission of the forest officials. Birds of numerous species and animals like the deer, wild boars, jackals, chitals, porcupine and monkeys can be easily spotted in the forest. A great place for kids to hangout, Dumna Natural Reserve is also a favourite spot for family outings and picnic.

To make this place even better, the Madhya Pradesh Government has introduced trekking, fishing and camping in the forest. A children's park and a restaurant is also available. However, bathing or swimming in the Dumna Lake is strictly prohibited due to the presence of crocodiles.

SANGRAM SAGAR LAKE



Located approximately 15 km from the city, this lake and its adjoining structures were built by King Sangram Shah, a Gond ruler in the 15th century. This place showcases some great medieval architecture and the lake surrounding them adds to the beauty of the place. Sangram Sagar Lake is also famous for the aquatic animals that inhabit this lake and for the migratory birds. The temperature of the water is such that it attracts exotic species of migratory birds like pin-tailed ducks, coots and red-perched pochards from the central and western parts of Asia. Sangram Sagar Lake is also a great place to unwind and de-stress because of its serene atmosphere and ambiance. For those who love natural beauty coupled with calmness, Sangram Sagar Lake is highly recommended.

TILWARA GHAT

Tilwara Ghat Jabalpur is one of the favored destinations among the tourists because of the historical significance



and the religious importance the place is given. Tilwara Ghat holds immense significance in the history of Jabalpur. Tilwara Ghat is located at the bank of river Narmada and it is this place where the mortal ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were immersed after his death and a Gandhi Smarak was built to commemorate that event. Mahatma Gandhi during his fight for independence stayed in Jabalpur three times and has visited this Ghat religiously.

This place is considered as holy as River Ganga and lakhs of people take dip at this very Ghat every year. Tilwara Ghat is also the place where Lokmanya Tilak addressed a huge public rally in 1939 and from then onwards the ground is known as Tilak Bhoomi. The striking thing about the site of Tilwara Ghat is that both sides of the canyon are of pure marble.

Jabalpur is one of the most important cities of Madhya Pradesh. Since last one decade, Jabalpur has also emerged as popular tourist destination. Jabalpur is a cherished place to live on, the exceptional topography of Jabalpur with hills all around the city gives it a picturesque setting. Under the brightly lit moon, 100 feet tall mountains of marble change forms as the river Narmada passes through it. This view is so scenic that it stays with you for long. But this is just one of the many gifts that Jabalpur offers. Here you will enjoy the privilege to experience surreal spectacles of nature romance man's endeavours to carefully preserve the breathtaking imperial history. No wonder it has been a witness to some of the greatest episodes written by history, folklore and Mother Nature.

This historic city is slowly expanding & moving towards modernization. The city is of historical as well as cultural importance. Surrounded by Rocky Mountains and intercepted by holy river Narmada, the hills of Jabalpur, with varied mineral content are also the preferred destination for Geologists and Archeologists along with tourists from India and Abroad. Jabalpur is sure to amaze you, as it is a purely mesmerising experience. ■

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