

The Leela launches next phase of its Leadership Development Programme

The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts has announced the opening of applications for the Leela Leadership Development Programme (LLDP) – Class of 2027, reaffirming its long-term commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders in Indian luxury hospitality.

Launched in 2022 in partnership with the Indian School of Hospitality (ISH) in alliance with Les Roches, the 15-month programme offers an immersive learning experience that blends global academic excellence with hands-on training across The Leela's award-winning hotels. Designed to identify, groom, and fast-track high-potential talent into leadership roles, LLDP comes at a time when the brand is expanding from 13 to 22 hotels across India.

Grounded in The Leela's belief that exceptional hospitality begins with exceptional people, the programme's curriculum integrates functional expertise, leadership acumen, and behavioural competencies, all anchored in the brand's philosophy of Atithi Devo Bhava – Guest is God. Participants are equipped to lead with empathy, precision, and grace — hallmarks of The Leela's service ethos.

Anuraag Bhatnagar, Chief Executive Officer, The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts, said:

“At The Leela, we see leadership not as a position, but as a responsibility to uphold a legacy of excellence while shaping the future of Indian luxury hospitality. The Leela Leadership Development Programme is our investment in that future and reflects our belief that exceptional hospitality begins with exceptional people. As we step into an exciting phase of growth, LLDP is a strategic initiative to nurture future-ready leaders who will carry forward The Leela's culture of grace, precision, and purpose.”

Open to both internal and external candidates with a hotel management degree and at least one year of operational experience, the LLDP features a rigorous selection process including assessments, psychometric evaluations, and interviews with senior leaders. The curriculum encompasses classroom and

online learning, cross-property on-the-job training, and immersive bootcamps focused on operational, business, and people skills. The journey culminates in a capstone project and a certification from ISH in alliance with Les Roches.

Isha Goyal, Senior Vice President and Head – Human Resources, added:

“LLDP is a critical pillar of our people strategy and a testament to our commitment to nurturing talent from within. It offers aspiring leaders a clear career pathway anchored in mentorship, growth, and The Leela’s unique culture.”

Since its inception, the programme has successfully trained three cohorts, with the Class of 2027 poised to carry forward The Leela’s enduring legacy of excellence and innovation in luxury hospitality.