Hotel Association of India introduces an Industry Mentoring Program structured for the hotel sector

Bold initiative to hone & nurture 100,000 hotel leaders to support India Tourism Vision 2047

New Delhi, 13ᵗʰ Aug 2025: The Hotel Association of India (HAI), the apex body representing the Indian hospitality industry, has unveiled a landmark initiative — an industry-first, structured mentorship platform designed exclusively for the hotel sector. This programme comes at a time when the industry is witnessing significant growth, especially in the tier-2 and tier-3 cities i.e. covering about 50 locations.

This initiative aims to address the widening talent gap in the Indian hotel sector and support its sustainable growth. The focus is on leadership development, career progression, organizational culture, and improving employee attraction towards the sector and their retention and engagement. A team of domain experts from HAI member hotels has designed the operational framework.

Hailing the initiative as a game-changer for the Indian tourism landscape,while launching the program, the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, "The Hotel Association of India's innovative program marks a significant step towards establishing India as a global tourism powerhouse, with an ambitious goal of creating a USD 3 trillion tourism economy by 2047." As the demand for tourism

continues to surge, the need for talented and visionary leaders in hospitality has never been greater. This program will develop professionals prepared to lead the future of tourism and hospitality, setting a high standard that inspires excellence beyond our borders."

KB Kachru, President, Hotel Association of India, Chairman - South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group added, *"This is a one of its kind initiative by industry experts – rooted in the **guru-shishya parampara,** to provide expert mentorship, and inspire a lasting commitment to the future of hospitality leadership in India. The government and industry have set a target of creating around million branded hotel rooms to achieve the India Tourism vision 2047. This will require an addition of around 100,000 middle to senior management hotel managers to the existing pool."*

HAI will work with its member hotels to adopt this programme and embed it into their brand culture, empowering future leaders and strengthening India's position as a world-class hospitality destination.

About HAI

Established in 1996, Hotel Association of India (HAI) has evolved as an integrated hospitality industry platform to keep pace with the growing buoyancy ushered in by the liberalisation of the Indian economy in the mid-90s. With its membership extending from major hotel groups; boutique, heritage and small hotels, HAI represents the entire spectrum of the industry. Its Executive Committee is a potent combination of the commitment of hotel owners on one hand and hard-core professionalism of hotel managers on the other. As the apex Industry Body, HAI works in the areas of Promotion of Regional Cooperation and Hospitality Research & Education in addition to taking Industry centric initiatives. By launching Unprecedented 'Social Inclusion' initiatives, HAI also projects the 'Social Face' of the Indian hospitality industry"