

LeaderSpeak

OCT-NOV 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

The industry continues to navigate a dynamic phase of growth and reinvention, driven by policy shifts and evolving traveler expectations. As per JLL's Hotel Momentum India (HMI) Q2 2025 report, the industry recorded a robust 10% sequential growth in RevPAR at the pan-India level compared to Q1 2025. This strong performance has continued to gain pace, carrying the momentum into the festive quarter. The average daily rates (ADR) held firm with a steady 5% year-on-year growth, reflecting the sector's resilience.

The recent reduction in GST from 12% to 5% is expected to further accelerate demand by making hotel stays more accessible for middle-class and budget travelers—its positive impact likely to be visible from late September onward. This festive season, the extended Diwali weekend saw a significant uptick in hotel bookings across leisure destinations, including Pondicherry, Mahabalipuram, Udaipur, Jaipur, and Uttarakhand, with Goa leading the momentum.

Investor confidence remains robust and momentum is building across segments. The outlook for the coming months is bright. Anchored in collaboration, innovation, and optimism, the Sector stands ready to redefine India's travel landscape—one exceptional stay at a time.

Warm regards,
KB Kachru
President

HAI NEWS

HAI welcomes Mr. Kiran Andicot Senior VP- Hotel Development and Operations- South Asia who will represent the "Fellow" member Marriott Hotels India Pvt.

He replaces Ms. Ranju Alex who is no longer associated with the Marriott. While extending a warm welcome to Mr. Andicot, HAI president Mr. Kachru stated that as a key stakeholder of Indian hospitality sector, HAI is very happy and grateful for the affiliation of Marriott Hotels India Pvt. Ltd. He recounted his fruitful interactions with Ranju Alex and with Gaurav Singh which HAI values immensely. Mr. Kachru stated that HAI looks forward to interacting with Mr. Andicot and to his participation in the activities of the Association and expressed that HAI can benefit hugely from his valuable inputs.

HAI's Stakeholder Meeting with CBIC Chairman on GST Reforms



The 56th GST Council meeting on September 3rd announced key reforms and rate rationalization, followed by sector-wise consultations, including with the hotel industry. HAI raised concerns on the denial of ITC for hotels with tariffs below 7,500 and its impact on costs, investment, and tourism growth.

NEW MEMBER HOTELS

- THE LODHI, NEW DELHI
- RADISSON BLU ATRIA, BENGALURU
- THE OBEROI VINDHYAVILAS WILDLIFE RESORT, UMARIA
- NOVOTEL PUNE NAGAR ROAD, PUNE

Announcing the next edition of HAI's signature event

HAI announced the 7th edition of its signature Event. The HAI Hoteliers' Conclave is scheduled for 4th of May 2026 at Taj Palace in New Delhi. The theme for the Event is Re-engineering Hospitality.



Hospitality, Travel Firms see Strong Demand Ahead of Diwali

With the GST reform acting as a key driver for mid-scale hotels and mid-market domestic customers, making it easier for travellers to explore lesser-known destinations, Hotel Association of India (HAI) President K B Kachru said early trends show higher hotel occupancy, reflecting the excitement of travellers celebrating festivals with family, friends, and leisure getaways..



Infrastructure boost helping unlock Northeast's tourism potential.

The region is expected to nearly double its branded hotel supply by 2030, with more than 3,000 new rooms in the pipeline. M P Bezbaruah said the expansion of hotel accommodation will play a key role in holistic tourism development and inclusive growth, calling it welcome news for Northeast tourism, a region that was described as India's "Paradise Unexplored" with immense potential for sustainable travel experiences.



HAI Welcomes Government's Vision to Develop Delhi as an 'Entertainment Plus' Hub.

The Hotel Association of India has welcomed the government's plan to develop Delhi into an "Entertainment Plus" hub, noting it will help attract major cultural and international events, boost tourism, and enhance the city's global appeal. The initiative is expected to benefit the hospitality sector through increased economic activity, job creation, and higher state revenues, with the association expressing its support for collaborating on this vision.



No ITC for hotel rooms up to Rs 7,500 in 5% slab

The finance ministry, via its FAQs, reiterated that hotels with room rates up to Rs 7,500 will not have ITC under the 5 per cent GST slab

Festive Bonanza: TVs, Hotel Stays, Cars and Daily Essentials Get Cheaper as GST Rate Cuts Kick In

The Hotel Association of India says the 7 per cent cut in effective tax will boost the mid-market segment, where demand from India's growing middle class is strongest.



GOVERNMENT/POLICY NEWS

GST Reforms to Strengthen Hospitality, Transport and Cultural Sectors



The Government has announced significant GST rationalization measures aimed at making India's tourism sector more affordable, enhancing public transport use, and supporting artisans and cultural industries.



Ministry of Tourism Celebrates World Tourism Day with the Theme "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation"

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, celebrated World Tourism Day 2025 on Saturday, September 27, 2025, with a focus on "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation".



Mega Event and Cleanliness Drive Organized under Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign with Nobel theme: "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath"

Reaffirming its commitment to the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, organized a Mega Event and Cleanliness Drive as part of the Swachhta Hi Seva campaign on 25th September, 2025, under the theme "Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath".

From Screen To Suitcase: Netflix Partners With Ministry Of Tourism To Boost Indian Travel

Netflix partners with the Ministry of Tourism to spotlight destinations, blending storytelling with Incredible India's landscapes



Ministry of Tourism to Host “World Food India – Reviving the Culinary Treasures of India” at Bharat Mandapam

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, organised a grand culinary celebration titled “World Food India – Reviving the Culinary Treasures of India” on September 25–28, 2025 in Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Ministry of Tourism Convenes State Tourism Ministers’ Meet in Udaipur to Propel “One State: One Global Destination” Vision



The Ministry of Tourism successfully concluded a two-day State Tourism Ministers’ Meet today in Udaipur. The landmark event, held from October 14–15, brought together Tourism Ministers and senior officials from all States and Union Territories to chart a collective course for transforming India’s tourism landscape.

STATE NEWS

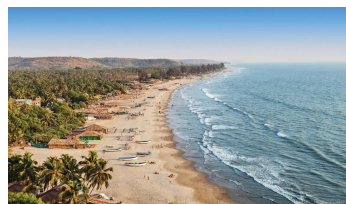
Navi Mumbai International Airport to Open New Horizons for Job Creation

The new airport is being hailed not only as an aviation milestone but also as a major driver of employment in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.



Infrastructure boost helping unlock Northeast’s tourism potential: Report

The region is expected to nearly double its branded hotel supply by 2030, with more than 3,000 new rooms in the pipeline



Goa’s 2025–26 tourism season begins with arrival of flight from Russia

Goa’s tourism season 2025–26 kicked off on Thursday with the arrival of a charter flight from Russia, at Manohar International Airport in North Goa during wee hours. The state tourism department gave passengers of the first international flight of the season a traditional welcome.

Kerala Tourism unveils new experiences and campaigns ahead of festive and winter travel season

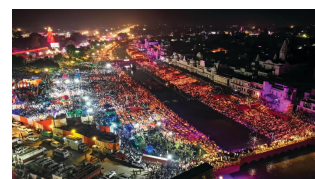
Kerala Tourism has introduced a range of experiential products and outreach campaigns across major Indian cities ahead of the festive and winter holiday seasons.



Another scenic state in South India coming up with coastal tourism policy.

Coastal tourism in India has been attracting tourists from across the country and the world, and the Karnataka government is now looking to capitalise on the trend as it recently announced the formulation of a dedicated coastal tourism policy aimed at unlocking the economic potentials of the state’s 300 km coastline.

Uttar Pradesh Tourism Soars with More than Forty Crore Increase in Visitors, Highlights its Tourism Growth for India.



Uttar Pradesh, one of India’s most historically rich, culturally diverse, and spiritually important states, has become one of India’s leading tourism spots.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Chalet Hotel launches premium lifestyle brand Athiva, eyes rapid expansion.



Amid fast growth in India’s hospitality industry, hotel asset management company Chalet Hotels has launched its own premium lifestyle hospitality brand, ATHIVA Hotels and Resorts, consisting of six hotels and over 900 keys, with plans to double its capacity within three years. ATHIVA, derived from the Sanskrit word for “abundance,” is built on the principles of joy, sustainability, and wellness. The brand aims to cater to the evolving needs of modern travelers, particularly millennials and Gen Z, by offering a blend of expected comforts and unexpected delights. Chalet Hotels plans to expand Athiva with five upcoming properties- a renovated Navi Mumbai business hotel, The Resort at Aksa Beach, two greenfield projects in Goa, and one in Thiruvananthapuram.



Taj GVK, IHCL sign agreement for new 5-star hotel in Bengaluru.

Taj GVK Hotels and Resorts, a JV between GVK Group and IHCL, has signed a 20-year management agreement with IHCL for a new five-star hotel in Yelahanka, Bengaluru, the company announced in a stock exchange filing.

Radisson Hotel Delhi MG Road debuts

Radisson Hotel Delhi MG Road makes its debut on South Delhi's iconic MG Road, bringing guests a destination that blends convenience with lifestyle.



Taj Cidade de Goa first IHCL hotel in state to earn Green Key Certification 2025

Taj Cidade de Goa announced that it had received the Green Key Certification 2025, one of the world's foremost accolades in environmental responsibility and sustainable tourism.



IHCL Expands Footprint with New Hotels Across India



Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) announced new signings in Pahalgam (Jammu & Kashmir) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), along with the openings of Hari Ganga Niwas – IHCL SeleQtions in Haridwar and Gulab Haveli – IHCL SeleQtions

Lemon Tree Hotels Expands Nationwide with New Openings and Signings

Lemon Tree Hotels announced new openings across India, including Navi Mumbai, Haridwar, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Jaipur, Gandhidham, Gaya, Malshej Ghat, Varanasi, and Rewa, further strengthening its footprint in key business and leisure destinations.

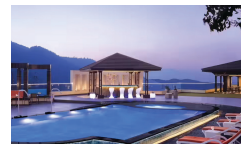


JK Mohanty elected HRAO lifetime chairman

The names of the office-bearers of the Hotel and Restaurant Owners Association (HRAO) for the years from 2025 to 2028 were announced. JK Mohanty, CMD, Swosti Group of Hotels, was elected as lifetime president.



ITC Hotels Strengthens Presence with New Signings and Openings Across India



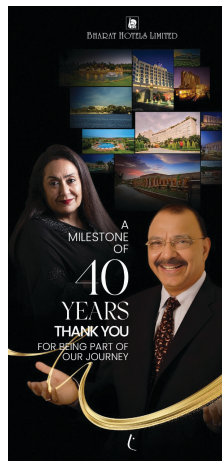
ITC Hotels Expands Portfolio Across Patna (Bihar), Nellore (Andhra Pradesh), Hyderabad (Telangana), and Kufri (Himachal Pradesh)

Hilton plans 195-room hotel in Chennai



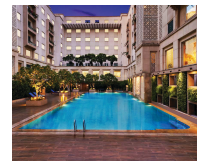
Hospitality major Hilton is set to expand its presence in Chennai with the signing of a new property in the Egmore area. The 195-room Hilton Chennai Egmore will be developed in partnership with MKR Estate Developers, part of the MGM Healthcare Group.

40 Years of Hospitality With a Heart



The LaLiT has completed 40 years as a leading homegrown hospitality brand, celebrating India's culture and community spirit. Over four decades, it has built a legacy of sincere, people-first service, reaffirming its commitment to 'hospitality with a heart' as it looks toward a compassionate future.

Lemon Tree Hotels rebrands its Aerocity property with a fresh look and upgraded experience



Lemon Tree Hotels Limited announces the rebranding of its Hotel at Aerocity, New Delhi, from "Red Fox by Lemon Tree Hotels", Delhi Airport, to "Lemon Tree Hotel", Delhi Airport.

Radisson Hotel Group accelerates UP growth with dual launches in Lucknow and Prayagraj

Radisson Hotel Group has opened two new properties Park Inn by Radisson Lucknow Vikas Nagar and Radisson Hotel Prayagraj further strengthening its presence in North India and expanding its footprint in key growth markets.

GST Without ITC Undermines Affordability and Accessibility in India's Tourism Sector: FHRAI

On the occasion of its 69th Annual General Meeting, the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) convened a specially organised press meet at Le Meridien, New Delhi, to draw urgent attention to the policy challenges confronting India's hospitality sector.



ITC Hotels launches redesigned loyalty programme

ITC Hotels has revamped its loyalty programme, Club ITC, introducing enhanced benefits, a new Platinum Select tier, lifetime privileges for long-term members, and higher earning rates of 2–8% on stays and dining.



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