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Marching on

Despite COVID-19, India’s hospitality sector is finally experiencing an upswing, thanks to influx of domestic tourists. Despite challenges, industry is poised for rebound as international travel reopens.

NAMAMI Health and Wellness Retreat launches in Kerala

Namami Wellness and Health Edu Pvt. Ltd., an emerging healthcare and hospitality company, has launched its futuristic wellness centre, Namami Health Retreat and Wellness Sanctuary, on the banks of the Periyar River in Ernakulam, Kerala. The resort offers 79 rooms and villas, a range of culinary experiences, curated recreation spaces, and a holistic approach towards a healthy lifestyle. The contemporary interiors expand the local living experience based on the traditional principles of architecture, construction, and carpentry. This retreat provides education and services in wellness and health through the ancient sciences of Yoga, Ayurveda, and complementary alternative medicine, while integrating scientific approaches to provide a holistic 360-degree approach to enhance life expectancy. Namami Health has partnered with different national and international organisations like The Yoga Institute, PNNM Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Lexi Health, and Dr. Shetty’s Aesthetics to bring on board certified experts in Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Yoga, Acupuncture, and fitness.



MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL to bring ST. REGIS brand to Goa

Marriott International, Inc., has signed an agreement with Ceres Hotels Private Limited to bring the storied St. Regis brand to Goa. Slated to open in October 2022, this agreement will bring the brand’s vanguard spirit, signature Butler Service, cherished rituals, and rich legacy to one of Goa’s most alluring neighborhoods. Following a strategic conversion of The Leela Goa, The St. Regis Goa Resort is expected to serve as the ninth Marriott International hotel in Goa. The resort will undergo a complete transformation in phases, starting in 2022. Ceres Hotels Private Limited, the owner of the resort, is a subsidiary of Metrod Holdings Berhad, which is listed on the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange. “The St. Regis Goa Resort will usher in a new benchmark of luxury hospitality and underscore the trust and confidence our owners have in us and in the power of our luxury brands,” said **Rajeev Menon**, President, APAC (excluding Greater China), Marriott International.



THE LEELA expands footprint in South India

The Leela Palaces, Hotels, and Resorts has signed a management agreement for The Leela Kovalam and The Leela Ashtamudi, expanding its footprint in South India and fortifying the brand’s resort portfolio. The Leela Kovalam, a Raviz Hotel, returns to The Leela portfolio after three years, while The Leela Ashtamudi, a Raviz Hotel, will be a significant new addition to the brand portfolio to complete the much sought-after and serenely beautiful Kerala itinerary. **Anuraag Bhatnagar**, COO, The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts, said, “This expansion is in lockstep with the growing demand from the discerning global leisure traveller to experience meaningful and transformative journeys.”

HYATT CENTRIC Janakpuri New Delhi opens its doors

Hyatt Hotels Corporation has opened the Hyatt Centric Janakpuri New Delhi, marking the Hyatt Centric brand’s debut in the national capital. The Hyatt Centric Janakpuri New Delhi features 224 newly refurbished rooms with a playful juxtaposition of colors, textures, and handpicked bric-a-brac to reflect the city’s vibrancy. “With its accessible location, multi-dimensional event spaces, and unique F&B experiences, the property offers share-worthy experiences,” said **Shikha Singh**, General Manager, Hyatt Centric Janakpuri New Delhi.



HILTON launches HILTON GARDEN INN Pune Hinjawadi

Hilton and Alexis Hospitality LLP have opened the Hilton Garden Inn Pune Hinjawadi. Located within the Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park, the 144-room hotel marks the entry of the award-winning Hilton Garden Inn brand into Pune. “The property offers upscale and affordable accommodations and modern amenities that appeals to domestic and international travellers alike,” said **Jenny Milos**, VP, Focused Service and All Suites Brands, APAC.

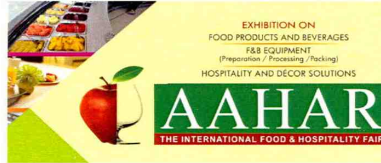
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Sayaji Group of Hotels launches ENRISE BY SAYAJI Aurangabad

Sayaji Group of Hotels has expanded its footprint in Maharashtra with the launch of Enrise by Sayaji Aurangabad. The property offers 32 well-appointed rooms, comprising of 24 Grande rooms and eight Club Grande rooms, designed with all contemporary amenities. The hotel offers three banquets that are specifically designed to host 150 to 250 guests in an informal style. At Momenntt, the multi-cuisine restaurant that caters to the millennial segment, serves a delectable assortment of Indian, Continental, and Thai dishes in buffet and a la carte form. "The land has been synonymous with history, culture, and heritage. Over the years, Aurangabad has also transformed itself into a major industrial hub. The region attracts a large slice of travellers from India and across the globe. With this new property, we move a step forward in expanding our presence in popular destinations across India," says **Jameel Sayed**, Director-Business Development, Sayaji Hotels Ltd.



AAHAR 2022 begins at Pragati Maidan



AAHAR, the International Food & Hospitality Fair is a flagship B2B event organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), the trade promotion body of the government. The 36th edition of the event is being held from 26–30 April 2022, at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi). AAHAR is one of Asia's best known brands in food and hospitality shows. The show has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years and is today a well-known destination for global vendors and sourcing professionals. AAHAR 2019 was held in an area of 25,000 square metre, with around 736 participants, including 150 exhibitors from 18 countries. AAHAR is divided into three major categories: the food sector, the F&B equipment sector (preparation, processing, and packaging), and the hospitality and décor sectors.



IHCL announces TAJ hotel and branded residences in Chennai

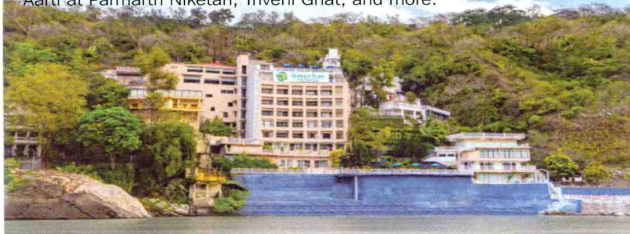
The Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) has signed another Taj hotel in Chennai. The development under management contract will feature branded residences as part of the hotel complex. The complex is spread over 3.5 acres. This greenfield development, once completed, will comprise a luxury hotel with 235 keys and 123 Taj-branded residences. The hotel will have four restaurants, a bar,



and a selection of adaptable meeting spaces with outdoor areas ideal for hosting business and social events. Guests will be able to enjoy recreational facilities such as a pool, fitness centre, and spa. The residences will enjoy Taj's legendary service and access to the hotel's facilities. Commenting on the signing, **Puneet Chhatwal**, MD and CEO, IHCL, said, "This signing is in line with IHCL's vision of strengthening our presence in key markets across India. The multi-use development will cater to our discerning clientele and, in addition to a world-class hotel, will offer some of the most exclusive homes in the city managed by a trusted brand. We are pleased to partner with AMPA Group for this project."

LEMON TREE HOTELS unveils its second property in Rishikesh

Lemon Tree Hotels Limited has opened Keys Lite by Lemon Tree Hotels, Tapovan, Rishikesh. This is the second property of the group in the city, strategically located near the Ganges River on the Badrinath road. The hotel features 38 well-appointed rooms and suites with aesthetically designed interiors and modern amenities and facilities for the utmost comfort of guests. Complementing the stay are a multi-cuisine coffee shop, Keys Café, and a rejuvenating spa. This hotel also features an array of well-appointed spaces for functions, business meetings, conferences, or private events. Keys Lite by Lemon Tree Hotels, Tapovan, Rishikesh caters to both business travellers and tourists. Guests can soak in the tranquilly of the region and admire the rich flora and fauna, enjoy thrilling sports activities, or explore the nearby tourist spots like Neer Gaddu waterfalls, Patna waterfalls, the guided Ganga Aarti at Parmarth Niketan, Triveni Ghat, and more.



Industry is moving towards more efficient staffing models: JLL

As key hotel markets mature and business and leisure interests spread wider, the industry is witnessing a significant shift in the upcoming hotel supply, with approximately 43 per cent of the planned pipeline concentrated in tier 2 and 3 markets. Staffing in these locations will necessitate industry's commitment to train and upskill local talent. As per findings from a survey conducted by JLL and The People Network, the direct manpower requirements for the industry is estimated to be in the range of 100,000–150,000 professionals for hotels only, excluding the demand for ancillary and travel trade industries. The report also reveals the staffing gaps currently faced across departments, with the maximum shortage found in F&B (53 per cent), followed by the front office (26 per cent), and housekeeping (21 per cent).