

Hospitality industry has to showcase the ‘never say die’ attitude: Gurbaxish Singh Kohli

Gurbaxish Singh Kohli, Vice President, Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) has said that Year 2021 will be a “year of survival and recovery” for the hospitality industry in the country because of stress inflicted by the global pandemic.

Mr. Kohli said that it is important that the stakeholders of the industry show a “never say die” attitude as a responsible and resilient industry so that it “bounces back and thrives” in the coming months. “Year 2021 will be all about survival and recovery and everything else will revolve around this. Hospitality and Tourism are a very important component of the economy and we need to ensure it bounces back and thrives. There are several ancillary industries that depend on these sectors. We are a responsible and resilient industry with a ‘never say die’ attitude.

The hospitality industry in the country requires hand holding from the government to make it a key economic engine which can support the economic revival of the country and the economy in the post-Covid world. Mr. Kohli had recently written to the Union Finance Minister to lower the threshold for hospitality projects to become eligible for the facilities under the Infrastructure projects from the current INR 200 cr to INR 25 cr.

Keeping a higher threshold for infrastructure status is not helping the cause of the industry stakeholders, thereby keeping almost 90% of the investors out of the ambit of the threshold, he said. “It is a well-known fact that out of the total projects proposed in the hospitality sector today, only a minuscule of 10-15 % will pass muster under this criteria. At the outset, it was construed as a step in the right direction. But, in the hindsight, it is not. This INR 200 cr mark is not doing any good. The government needs to drastically bring this down to promote investment and development of the hospitality sector in the country.”