

New Year's Eve: Hotel occupancy drops to 25-30% as Omicron threat looms large

The hotel industry's hopes of clocking good revenue on the New Year's/Christmas eve in 2021 seems to have been dashed with a fresh bout of COVID infections throughout the country. With many cities under a strict night curfew to prevent any crowding and hotels/ restaurants only allowed to fill 50 per cent of dine-in capacities, stakeholders say they are looking at yet another year of losses piling up.

Federation of Hotels and Restaurant Association of India (FHRAI) Vice-President Mr. Gurbaxish Singh Kohli told that currently occupancy across hotels and restaurants in metros and Tier 1 towns has dropped to 25 per cent and will mostly dip further to 30 per cent. Mr. Kohli said that is the third consecutive rout the industry is looking at.

“Although the hotel occupancy/restaurants in pre-COVID times was also very less, but the lockdowns during pandemic and the restrictions have created havoc and the reservations/ occupancies have dropped further,” Mr. Kohli said. He added that there are some destinations including Goa, Kashmir, Rajasthan where the occupancy on New Year's/Christmas has gone up to 80-90 per cent.

Mr. Kohli however said that the takeaways and food deliveries still constitute 8-10 per cent of the overall order volumes and the numbers had gone up during lockdown after which people started eating at the restaurants .