



Dear Members,

As we usher in the month of June, I am thrilled to reflect on the dynamic progress and notable achievements of the past months while also looking forward to the exciting initiatives that lie ahead. It is indeed a time of great promise and potential for the hospitality sector in India.

Firstly, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected BJP-led NDA government on their resounding victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. This triumph marks the beginning of a period of continuity and stability, providing an optimistic outlook for the tourism and hospitality sector.

Moreover, the recent appointment of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as the Cabinet Minister of Culture & Tourism brings renewed hope for our sector. We are hopeful that his leadership will help address longstanding issues, such as granting infrastructure status to the hospitality sector, streamlining regulatory processes and implementing uniform GST rates for all restaurants, within hotels and standalone, to promote fair competition.

Our Association remains committed to addressing the critical issues facing our industry. Key among these is the non-implementation of Industry Status and the long-awaited granting of infrastructure status for the hospitality sector. These measures are vital to alleviate the financial burdens on hotels and restaurants, particularly concerning the high utility charges that continue to be levied at commercial rates.

Our focus remains on ensuring that the hospitality industry receives the necessary support to thrive. The sector's contributions to the economy, employment and tourism GDP are substantial, and with the right policies and incentives, we can achieve even greater milestones. We are advocating for more stimulus packages and incentives to help us reach the ambitious target of welcoming 100 million international tourists by 2047.

HRAWI recently conducted an extensive Food Safety Supervisor Training in Advance Catering (FoSTaC) programme, in partnership with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Held at Hotel Amarpreet in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on May 29<sup>th</sup>, the session saw the participation of 40 hospitality professionals. To date, HRAWI has successfully trained and certified 2996 professionals through FSSAI's FoSTaC Training Programme, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing food safety standards within the hospitality industry.



Additionally, we are excited about our upcoming 'Empowering Hospitality' conclave in Ahmedabad on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The event will focus on critical topics such as FSSAI compliance, pest management and fire safety. It aims to propagate best practices within the industry, providing valuable insights and knowledge to our members.

As we look ahead, the Government's support will be pivotal in realizing our vision for the region's tourism and hospitality sectors. By addressing our immediate concerns and promoting a conducive environment for growth, we can collectively work towards positioning India as one of the top global tourism destinations.

I encourage all members to actively participate in our initiatives and contribute to the growth and success of our association. Together, we can harness the vast potential of our industry, creating a thriving, vibrant and inclusive economic landscape that benefits all.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Let us work together towards a brighter and more prosperous future for the hospitality sector.

Warm regards,

Pradeep Shetty, President, HRAWI

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