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Hotel room bookings surpass pre-Covid levels in Maharashtra in festive season

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Pune: The hospitality industry in Maharashtra has bounced back strongly this festive season and hotel room bookings have surpassed the pre-Covid levels (2019) because of a significant surge in tourists coming into the state.

Representatives from Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) and Poona Hoteliers' Association (PHA) told **TOI** that the hotel occupancy in Maharashtra was nearly 75% & above currently. A further surge is expected during the Diwali period.

"Many tourists from Mumbai, Gujarat and north Indian states tend to come to Pune during the Diwali holidays and visit nearby spots like Mahabaleshwar, Lonavla and Mulshi. On an average, the occupancy in good Pune hotels has surpassed the pre-Covid levels. Currently, most

SURGE IN TOURISTS

There has been a significant surge in tourists coming into the state this festive season

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OCCUPANCY HIGH

- Currently, most hotels in Pune have an occupancy rate of **75%** and above
- Hotels' ideal occupancy rate is **70-95%**
- Resort locations in the state, such as **Mahabaleshwar, Matheran and Panchgani**, are doing extremely well for the Diwali period

For the Diwali week (November 12-19), all hotels in Mahabaleshwar are booked



hotels in Pune have an occupancy rate of 75% and above. It might go up further due to leisure travellers booking rooms. For many hotels, an ideal occupancy rate is between 70% and 95%. After Diwali, many hotel banquets are booked almost above 90% for the wedding season," PHA president and GM, Amanora The

Fern, Pune, Amit Sharma told **TOI**.

Deepak Harane, regional manager (Pune), MTDC, said, "MTDC resorts are nearly 60% booked for the Diwali period. Officials are expecting it to increase to 100% within this week. We have been receiving many enquiries from individuals and families. We have

received maximum bookings for our resorts in Matheran, Mahabaleshwar, Lonavla, Ganpatipule in Konkan, Lonar (for the Lonar crater) and Fardapur near Ajanta and Ellora caves in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. Our resorts near these caves are also getting enquiries."

Pradeep Shetty, president, HRAWI, said, "Resort locations in the state, such as Mahabaleshwar, Matheran and Panchgani, are doing extremely well for the Diwali period and room bookings look promising because of increase in domestic travel for leisure. Their occupancy rate is expected to surpass the pre-pandemic levels. But there isn't anything extraordinary for business hotels, as most travel to cities is for leisure during the Diwali period. Hotels in popular tourist destinations in the state are likely to be full from the Diwali period till the month-end."