



Security systems on demand in hospitality industry



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President's Note

Dear Members of the HRA (WI):

This festive season a lot of people indulging themselves in puja dance and ceremonies, we hope all our fellow members are going good business in this season.

The Hotel and Restaurant Association (HRAWI) has welcomed the Maharashtra CM's decision of cutting down of licenses for setting up of new establishment calling it boost to the hospitality sector. We have been assured that the number of renewable licenses will come down from 75 to 25 and the same will be renewed through only 5 forms. The Association's efforts over the past decade have finally borne fruit.

September saw the election of the new Executive Committee (EC) to the HRA as well as the nominees to the FHRAI. We welcome our EC for the year and look forward to your interaction with them for matters relating to our industry.

HRA NOW this month has focused on Security systems which is a 24/7 responsibility and maintaining a vigilant security through modern systems in on demand.

The destination covered in HRA NOW this month is on Rajkot the historical, cultural and ever emerging as a developing city of Gujarat.

We hope you all enjoy the festive season. We look forward to your continued support feedback and participation. ■

With Best Regards,

Bharat Malkani
President HRAWI

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The MP - HRAWI members met with Deputy Commissioner - IMC & Additional Commissioner - IMC to discuss issues related to Property tax and Garbage upliftment. Request was done to stop raids in hotels for these matters and instead educate the hoteliers so that the penalties could be saved . Also request was made to exempt parking areas from being charged property tax.

MP - HRAWI Meeting with Indore Mayor & INDORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DY.CHAIRMAN .The MP - HRAWI members met with mayor of the city and Dy. Chairman of IDA to discuss property tax and garbage upliftment issues . Request was done to stop raids in hotels for property tax matters and instead educate the hoteliers through a camp so that the 5 times penalty is saved.

MP HRAWI MEETINGS WITH REVENUE COMMISSIONER , COLLECTOR AND MLA OF BHOPAL. The MP - HRAWI members met with Revenue Commissioner , collector and MLA of Bhopal to discuss issues related to LPG connections and property tax . Request was done to stop raids in hotels for these matters and instead educate the hoteliers through a camp so that the penalties could be saved. ■





पहले नियमों की जानकारी दी जाए, फिर कराएं पालन

विशेष रूप से यह नियमों की जानकारी देना आवश्यक है।

होटल मालिकों में कलेक्टर से पूजा-क्या है वाइड लाइन, हम अमल करने तैयार

कलेक्टर ने दिया होटल रैंड स्टोरेज एसोसिएशन को अल्टीमेटम दस दिन में सभी होटल संचालक लें एक्सप्लोसिव लायसेंस

होटल और मेरिज गार्डन संचालकों को राहत, एक रुपये नहीं होगी कार्रवाई

सिखतार में कार्रवाई नहीं

अभी नहीं होंगे होटल और मेरिज गार्डनों की जांच

एसीआरएन पदाधिकारियों के अग्रदूत को स्वागत ने मंच










HRAWI-AGM












Held on 22nd September, 2015, At the ITC "Grand Central" Mumbai
















E C meeting held at Hotel Trident-Mumbai on the 16th of October 2015.























Sr. No	Name Address & Contact Details	Designation	Photos
1.	Dr. Ajit B. Kerkar Tulip Star Hotel Ltd; Chandermukhi Basement, Mumbai- 400 021. Tel No- 22855937/ 22855936	President of Honour	
2.	Mr. Vivek Nair Chairman & Managing Director, Hotel Leela Kempinski, Sir. M. V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400 059. Tel No - 66911234	Member of Honour	
3.	Mr. Bharat Malkani Managing Director, Hotel Transit Off. Nehru Road, Near Domestic Airport, Vile Parle - East, Mumbai - 400099. Tel No- 66930761/ 26609723	President	
4.	Mr. Dilip C. Datwani Chairman & Mg. Director, Hotel Jayshree 197, Dayaldas Road, Vile Parle- East, Mumbai - 400057. Tel No - 40714000/ 26053998	Sr. Vice President	
5.	Mr. Sherry Bhatia Managing Partner, Hotel Golden Swan Beach Resort, 22, Puja Bhavan, Sant Janabai Road, Vile Parle East, Mumbai - 400055. Tel No- 26175177-78 / 25854078	Vice President	
6.	Mr. Pradeep S. Shetty Director, Maharaja Restaurant Opp. Cinemax, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri- East, Mumbai - 400059. Tel No - 28347491	Hon. Secretary	
7.	Mr. Nirav V. Gandhi Director, Hotel Express Towers R. C. Dutt Road, Alkapuri, Vadodara - 390007. Tel No - 0265-3055000	Jt. Hon. Secretary	
8.	Mr. Prrem Tiwari Allana Hemkirti, 3rd Floor, Flat No 4b, 6, Bomanji Petit Road, Cumballa Hill, Opp Parsi General Hospital, Breach Candy, Mumbai- 400 036. Tel No - 23639696	Hony. Treasurer	
9.	Mr. Ankit Chona Managing Director, Havmor Restaurant Pvt Ltd C/O. 2 Nd Floor, Kashmira Chambers, B/H. Popular House, Navrangapura, Ahmedabad- 380009. Tel No - 07926577070/ 26403355	Member	
10.	Mr. P. S. Ghai Managing Director, Hotel Singhs International 3rd Road, Next To Khar Railway Station, Khar- West, Mumbai - 400052. Tel No - 26000162	Member	
11.	Mr. Dilip Kothari Jt. Managing Director, Usha Ascot - Matheran C/O.401,Chartered House 293/299, Dr.Cawasji Hormasji Street, Near Marine Lines Church, Mumbai - 400002. Tel No - 22078191	Member	

12.	<p>Mr. Chetan Mehta Director, The Emerald C/O. B-145/146, 14th Floor, Mital Tower, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021. Tel No - 66150505</p>	Member	
13.	<p>Mr. Vijay Shewakramani Partner, Hotel Rosewood C/o. Clark House, 2nd Floor, Opp, Sahakari Bhandar, 8 – Natha- lal Parekh Marg, Mumbai - 400001. Tel No - 22872590</p>	Member	
14.	<p>Mr. Vishamber Shewakramani Managing Director, Ras Resorts - Silvassa C/O. Rosewood Chambers, 99/C, Tulsiwadi, Tardeo, Mumbai – 400034 Tel No - 43216600</p>	Member	
15.	<p>Mr. Nikhil M. Shetty Partner, Leisure Point Restaurant & Bar 502, Ig- Nes, L. J. Cross Road No.2, Mahim (W), Mumbai - 400016. Tel No - 22694629</p>	Member	
16.	<p>Mr. Jimmy Shaw Managing Director, Bona Sera Hotel Ltd; Khorshed Villa, Khareghat Road, Dadar {E}, Mumbai- 400 014. Tel No - 67230303 / 24150832 / 24116220</p>	Member	
17.	<p>Ms. Sonali Thakkar The Dukes Retreat C/O. Mrs. A. N. Daruwala, Sadhana Rayon House, D. N. Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400001 Tel No - 43332000</p>	Member	
18.	<p>Dr. Suhas Awchat Founder, Sole Proprietor, Goa Portuguesa, Opp. Mahim H.P.O., Near Hinduja Hospital, Shivaji Park, Mumbai – 400 016. Tel No - 24440202-24454433</p>	Member	
19.	<p>Mr. Najmul Hasan Rizvi Kobe Sizzlers (Hughes Road, 95, Fernandes Villa, Hill Road Near St. Andrews Church, Bandra- (West), Mumbai – 400050 Tel No - 23632174</p>	Member	
20.	<p>Mr. Gurbir Bedi Director, Hotel Diplomat 24/26, B. K. Boman Behram Marg, Apollo Bunder, Colaba, Mumbai - 400001. Tel No - 22021661</p>	Member	
21.	<p>Mr. Charles Bonifacio C. E. O., Dona Alcina Resorts C/O, Alfran Group Of Hotels, Opp. Candolim Health Centre Candolim, Bardez, Goa - 403 515 Tel No- 0832-2489266</p>	Co- opted Member	
22.	<p>Mr. Vinay Albuquerque COO, Era Hospitality Pvt. Ltd. Alcon Victor Group, 2nd Floor, Alcon Chambers, D. B. Marg, Opp. Navhind Times, Panaji, Goa- 403 001. Tel No - 0832-6715506</p>	Co- opted Member	

23.	<p>Mr. Sumit Suri The Director Hotel Omni Palace 16-C, Ratlam Kothi, Main Road, Indore - 452001 Tel - 0731-4232323, 4005001, Mobile No - 08223067111</p>	Co- opted Member	
24.	<p>Mr. Shail Barot Director - Vie Hospitality Group Pvt Ltd 39-B, Chowpatty Seaface, Mumbai 400 007. Tel. No. : 022-3696992</p>	Co - opted Member	
25.	<p>Mr. Farhat Jamal Sr. Vice President (West) Taj Hotels, Resorts & Palaces, Apollo Bander, Mumbai- 400 001. Tel No – 66651000 / 66653366</p>	Special Invitee	
26.	<p>Mr. Sanju Soni Vice President The Trident Hotel Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400021 Tel No - 66324343</p>	Special Invitee	
27.	<p>Mr. Kuldeep Bhartee General Manager ITC Grand Central – A Luxury Collection Hotel 287, Dr. Babasaheb, Ambedkar Marg, Parel, Mumbai – 400012 Tel No - 24101010</p>	Special Invitee	
28.	<p>Mr. Sanjeev Shekar Hotel Marine Plaza 29, Marine Drive, Mumbai – 400020 Tel No - 22851212</p>	Special Invitee	
29.	<p>Mr. Rabinder Singh Bedi Director, Hotel Diplomat 24/26, B. K. Boman Behram Marg, Apollo Bunder, Colaba, Mumbai - 400001. Tel No - 22021661</p>	Ex-officio Member	
30.	<p>Mr. Dinesh Khanna Executive Director Novotel Mumbai Juhu Beach Balraj Sahani Marg, Juhu Beach, Juhu, Mumbai – 400049 Tel No- 66934444</p>	Ex-officio Member	
31.	<p>Mr. S. P. Jain Vice Chairman BW The Pride Hotel- Pune C/O S. P. Capital Finance Pvt. Ltd; 908, Dalamal Tower, 211, Nariman Point, Mumbai- 400 021. Tel No - 22844051/ 40372424</p>	Ex-officio Member	
32.	<p>Mr. Suresh M. Talera Chairman, Talera Group Of Hotel 13- Willson Garden, Motilal Talera Marg, Opp. Railway Station, Pune- 411 001. Tel No - 020-26212121</p>	Ex-officio Member	
33.	<p>Mr. Kamlesh Barot Director, Revival Indian Thali, 39-B, Chowpatty Sea Face, Mumbai- 400 007. Tel No - 23696990</p>	Ex-officio Member	
34.	<p>Mr. D. S. Advani Joint Managing Director The Shalimar Hotel August Kranti Marg, Kemps Corner, Mumbai - 400036. Tel No - 23617980</p>	Ex-officio Member	
35.	<p>Mr. Malvinder Narang</p>	Secretary General	

HRAWI Sub-committee for the Year 2015-16

Sr. No	Sub Committee	Chairman
1.	Public Relations & Publicity	Mr. Bharat Malkani Mr. Kamlesh Barot  
2.	Classification	Mr. Dilip Datwani 
3.	Membership	Mr. Vishamber Shewakramani 
4.	Office Matters	Mr. Sherry Bhatia 
5.	Info-Tech Services	Mr. Jimmy Shaw 
6.	Seminar & Business sessions/Newsletter	Mr. Shail Barot 
7.	Legal Matters	Mr. Pradeep Shetty 
8.	Gujarat Liaison	Mr. Nirav V. Gandhi 

Sr. No	Sub Committee	Chairman
9.	Madhya Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh Liaison	Mr. Sumit Suri 
10.	Goa Liaison	Mr. Charles Bonifacio Mr. Vinay Albuquerque  
11.	Maharashtra Liaison	Mr. Kamlesh Barot Mr. Vivek Nair  
12.	Hill Station Co-ordination	Mr. Vijay Shewakramani 
13.	Restaurant	Dr. Suhas Awchat 
14.	Finance	Mr. Dilip Kothari 
15.	Convention	Mr. Vivek Nair Mr. D. S. Advani Mr. Chetan Mehta   

“Digitizing Tomorrow Together” Indo –German Summit held at The Leela Palace Bengaluru on 6th October 2015



NASSCOM hosted an Indo-German Summit “Digitizing Tomorrow Together” in association with Fraunhofer at The Leela Palace Bengaluru on 6th October 2015. This summit was organized with Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel, German Federal Chancellor to expand the strategic partnership with India and Germany.

The common objective was to encourage greater energies between German engineering, experience in sustainable development, innovation and skills and the new opportunities available in India towards achieving economic growth. The summit highlighted the India advantage of demographics and demand as well as discussed collaborative opportunities in industry and co-creating solutions for the world.

The Leela Palace Bengaluru played host to this high profile summit which was attended by a high level German delegation and top CEOs of India. Shri Narendra Modi and Dr Angela Merkel were received by Vivek Nair, Chairman & Managing Director, The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts. The summit was held at the Royal Ballroom with silver service during lunch, which was a lavish set menu designed by the Executive Sous Chef Zafar Ali and Chef Dominic, chef de cuisine, banquets. The brief from the Prime Minister’s Office was to bring

out the authentic flavours of the South. A total of 6 well curated South Indian menu options featuring different flavours and cuisines were then presented for final selection. To offer an authentic culinary experience the chefs procured ingredients from Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The meal was relished by the entire delegation with the Prime Minister commenting “Khanaswadishththa” ■

HRAWI Pleased at CM of Maharashtra’s announcement of some major reforms for the hospitality industry

The Maharashtra Tourism’s Maharashtra International Travel Mart (MITM) 2015 became a landmark event for Tourism in the State, as Chief Minister



Shri Devendra Fadnavis announced some major reforms for the hospitality industry. In a bid to boost tourism in the state, the CM showed his commitment for ‘Ease of Business’ by clubbing common permissions and scrapping some of the outdated licenses due to their archaic outlive of operating hotel and restaurant businesses.

Based on the proposals submitted to the government and convincing each one concerned, in spite of their transferable portfolios over this decade, the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) single-handedly got some of the key resolutions

passed by the CM like the reduction of operating licenses from 75 to 25, requiring only 5 forms for obtaining all these licenses, abolishment of event licences for pre-designated locations, permission for live performances, among others.

Mr. Bharat Malkani, President, HRAWI said that this is a big step forward that will lead to increase of investments in hospitality industry for Maharashtra. “We have been engaging with various departments of the State government like Police, BMC, Excise etc as well as the Central government for the last ten years on this. The impact of this move will be visible in the immediate to the long term. We are absolutely thrilled with the CM’s announcement and are grateful to the government for acknowledging and addressing our woes.”

HRAWI has been advocating the implementation of

an online single window clearance system for renewal of licences for the hotel industry, through a consultant appointed by MTDC. The association had also submitted a proposed Tourism Policy 2015, to the

Government of Maharashtra with a Vision statement.

“Licences with a common purpose were clubbed within a single license, while out-dated regulating licenses were annulled with concurrence from the concerned authority on practical time-lines. With the implementation of the proposal, MTDC would become the

Nodal agency to which restaurants and hotels will apply for new reduced licenses and existing renewals. MTDC will act as a single window that will in turn fetch all licenses from the relevant departments and have the applicants pick them up from the same window, preferably online. An online application alike today’s shopping carts will have drop-down forms with timelines and fees to click on a single window that will increase the room and restaurant supply for the State besides reducing waste of time for everybody as well as increase efficiency. “Today a foreigner staying one extra night in the State will increase forex revenue to Maharashtra government of Rs. 609 crores, per night,” says Mr. Kamlesh Barot, past President, HRAWI.

“Going the online route, like passport applications, will also ensure that the permits are granted within a set time frame. Ultimately we should be able to curb the number of licenses, permits, NOCs and registrations from 112 to 20 for opening a new establishment as well as simplify renewing of existing licenses and abolishment of archaic rules of the BMC, Police and Excise departments, reorient the Urban Development, Energy and Labour departments, among others. If sanctioned and implemented at the earliest, the proposal holds capacity to boost tourism and realise the ‘Corruption-free India’ dream at least for the hospitality sector,” concludes Mr. Barot. ■

Maharashtra tourism to get more funds from the Government for improving tourism infrastructure

Extending a complete support from the State Government and the Finance Ministry for boosting tourism in Maharashtra, Hon Shri Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister for Finance, Planning and Forests announced to grant more funds for improving tourism infrastructure

across Maharashtra.

Speaking at the first edition of Maharashtra International Travel Mart (MITM) 2015, Shri Mungantiwar conveyed the Government’s resolve to make



Maharashtra the most-sought after tourism destination in India in near future and assured continuous and uninterrupted funding for tourism projects. Advocating the need to showcase dynamic tourism potential of Maharashtra, Shri Mungantiwar appealed the stakeholders to explore unconventional areas of tourism and develop innovative products.

He further said that the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, which is in the hinterland of India’s most urbanized city of Mumbai, will see a complete revamp. Right from forest conservation to preserving rare species of plants, special efforts will be made to highlight the Park for Butterflies. The Minister maintained that the adequate funds will be granted for the make-over.

Hon Governor, Shri C H Vidyasagar Rao in his guest address, praised the global forum of MITM. Citing tourism as the only ‘ism’ in the world in an era where the world has become a global village. He advocated the need for showcasing the potential of Maharashtra on a global scale and encourage the stakeholders forge mutually sustainable opportunities. He said, “India is emerging as a global power.

The World is keen to explore India and India is keen to explore the world. It is a win-win for both to explore economic opportunities and strengthening social ties. Bharat Parv, an Indian tourism initiative, has given impetus to domestic tourism. About 3.55 million tourists visited India from January to June 2015. Maharashtra has been at the forefront attracting global tourists and with MITM, the State will be able to revamp the tourism landscape.”

Hon Prof Shri Ram Shinde, Minister of State for Tourism, Hon Shri Parag Alwani, Member of Parliament were present on the occasion. Smt Valsa Nair Singh, Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism, Maharashtra and Shri Paraag Jain Nainuttia, Managing Director, MTDC welcomed the dignitaries.

On the occasion, Awards were given to women who made a significant difference in tourism industry. The Awards were hosted by the India Chapter of ‘International Institute Peace through Tourism (IIPT)’. ■

Gujarat Tourism Policy 2015-20 grants tourism sector-Industry status

To position Gujarat as a vibrant tourist destination, with emphasis on improving visitor experience, livelihood linkages, environmental concerns



and enhancing investment opportunities, leading to sustainable development and inclusive growth, the Gujarat government has unveiled 'Tourism Policy 2015-20'.

The policy proposes capital subsidy for setting up new hotels, launch unique incentives for female entrepreneurs, and create employment opportunities for over 20 lakh people by 2025 with reforms in skills and knowledge development. With the new Tourism Policy the government expects fresh investments to the tune of Rs 15,000 crore in the sector. The policy will give greater encouragement for self-employment with professionals in sectors like khadi and handicraft.

Announcing the policy in Ahmedabad, Saurabh Patel, Minister of Tourism, Gujarat, stated, "Since the foundation of Gujarat state, it is for the first time that tourism sector has been granted status of an industry. With this initiative, tourism sector will now get all the benefits that industry gets." The policy shall come into force with effect from the date of issuance of the policy GR and shall remain in force till March 31, 2020 or till the declaration of a new or revised policy, whichever is earlier. Patel added that with the steady increase of tourists and pilgrims, the tourism sector needs a boost. For this, there is a need to develop infrastructure and other facilities at tourist spots across Gujarat, he added.

Goibibo launches GoStays, budget accommodation platform

Goibibo.com recently launched GoStays, an unbranded budget accommodations aggregator across India, on its mobile apps as well as desktop. The platform is live in 72 cities, 862 properties, translating to 10000

rooms a day. GoStays value proposition is to partner with the property owners to



deliver a consistent experience comprising free Wi-Fi, breakfast, AC, television and hygienic washrooms along with a 100% money back guarantee backed by neutral ratings and reviews by the community.

Ashish Kashyap, Founder & CEO, ibiboGroup said, "We carefully looked at all the problems and pain areas being experienced by budget hotel owners with respect to the online brand partners as well as travellers on the other hand. As the market leader we hence constructed GoStays to solve these pain points with the aim to create a healthy marketplace of budget accommodations."

Talking about the significant value differentiators for GoStays, Mr. Kashyap elaborated that comes with it is the 100% money back guarantee. There are significant trust issues in this unorganised space and Goibibo wants to remove this trust deficit. By booking GoStays on Goibibo, travellers get to stay in exactly the property and location that they have booked. "As per Goibibo's research, travellers checking into the current branded budget properties get bounced around which creates massive dissatisfaction levels. GoStays ensures to deliver the property and location that has been booked by the traveler. This is yet another step towards increase in trust. Third is GoReviews, user generated content and reviews by Goibibo. GoStays is the only budget platform with neutral user reviews and ratings comprising real pictures by guests. This disproportionately drives up the trust and also makes GoStays highly scalable," he added. ■

Supreme Court of India lifts ban on Dance bars in Maharashtra

For the hotel and restaurant industry in Maharashtra and the beleaguered girls who lost their jobs in the hotels and restaurants, It is estimated that around a lakh girls lost their jobs in the city of Mumbai since the ban on dance bars came into effect in 2005. The Supreme Court order lifting the ban on Dance Bars in the hotels and restaurants in the State was a big relief. While hearing the petitions on the amended Police Act of 2014 which put the curtains down on dance bars in the State despite a stay by the Maharashtra High Court and the Supreme Court against the ban earlier, the Supreme Court bench



comprised of Justice Dipak Misra and PC Pant called the ban “unconstitutional” and asked the government to grant licences to hold dance performances in hotels and restaurants.

Referring to the new Amendment to the Police Act enacted last year to circumvent the earlier orders by the Courts, the Supreme Court observed that it was not different from the earlier orders by the government. While lifting the ban, the Supreme Court has given all powers to the government to act upon and crack down on any hotel or restaurant where these performances are “remotely expressive of any kind of obscenity in any manner”.

In the meanwhile, the Government of Maharashtra does not seem in a hurry to comply with the Supreme Court order, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis saying the State Government will press its demand in the apex court for continuing the ban on dance performances in bars and other places.

People associated with the tourism and hospitality industry are hopeful that the city will again be able to regain its glory as a city with good nightlife, with hotels and restaurants coming alive with performances. ■

‘VITS Expand Footprints With Seven New Properties by This Year End

Hoping to cash in growing business travelers, VITS Luxury Business Hotels promoted by VITS Hotel Worldwide Pvt. Ltd. (VHWPL) has announced the opening of seven new properties nationally. As part of its expansion plans VHWPL will unveil the VITS hospitality experience in Mumbai, Chakan, Nanded, Surat, Dahej, Ahmedabad and Mangalore by December 2015. The company plans to penetrate its reach nationally

with 15 properties scheduled for launch primarily in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities within the next 3 years. VITS presently operates 9 properties located in Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Nashik, Latur, Ankleshwar, Bellary, Tirupur and Bhubaneswar.

Announcing the development, Chandrakant Shetty, Vice President, VITS Luxury Business Hotels said, “We are pleased to announce the VITS Luxury experience in seven new locations this year and will further expand our footprints to 15 hotels nationally within the next 3 years. All the new properties will be managed under franchisee model. With the present expansion we will be adding 400 new rooms to our inventory with host of banqueting and restaurant facilities. VITS positioned as moderately priced full service luxury business hotels enjoys high occupancy rate of 78% at all their present properties. With launch of new hotels we aim to bridge the growing demand of luxury rooms primarily in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. We believe there will high degree of acceptance primarily among the discerning business travelers.”

VHWPL is also in the process of building a luxury club at its existing ORCHID-VITS property in Pune. Titled ‘Club Orchid’, the new property will be have all modern



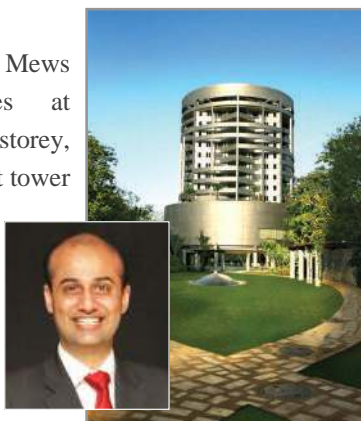
amenities including restaurant & bar, swimming pool, games zone, spa, gym, library, conference rooms, banquets, adventure sports, cricket/ football ground and Go Cart racing track. The ‘members only’ club will be operational in phase wise manner early next year.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities lately represent a promising story in terms of emerging markets for hotels. Rapid urbanization and industrialization in these cities has fueled the demand of upscale branded hotels in this region. The industry has seen overall rise in midscale hotel segment which has become more relevant today in the competitive marketplace. Moreover costs of operation in these cities are low thereby fueling higher return of investment for hotel operators. Hence more hospitality chains find it lucrative to foray in these untapped markets given the long term potential.

Kamat Hotels (India) Limited (KHIL has firmly established five hotel brands viz. The Orchid – An Ecotel Hotel in the 5-Star segment, VITS Luxury Business Hotel in the 4-Star segment, Gadh Hotels, Lotus Resorts and Vithal Kamat’s Original Family Restaurant. KHIL did business worth Rs. 139.31 crore last financial year and expects a turnover of Rs. 152 crore this financial year. ■

Taj Wellington Mews- Mumbai has recently appointed Anmol Ahluwalia as the General Manager

The Taj Wellington Mews Luxury Residences at Colaba Mumbai is a 14-storey, luxury serviced apartment tower sits atop 2.6 acres of beautifully landscaped greenery. It proudly offers 80 exquisitely designed and fully furnished homes offering world-class hotel



luxuries, contemporary amenities, and exemplary service drawn on a rich heritage of the Taj hospitality. The residences are so appealing that reasons to live here are many and to live elsewhere, few. An impeccable location and architectural pedigree (designed by noted architect, John Portman) offers well-designed space with blissful views of the Arabian Sea. Making such a dramatic statement in an already dynamic cityscape is quite a challenge yet Taj Wellington Mews Luxury Residences triumph. These residences manage to be both urbane and yet removed from the clamour of city life.

Mr. Anmol Ahluwalia, has been recently appointed as General Manager - Taj Wellington Mews, Mumbai. Before joining Taj Wellington Mews- Mumbai he worked as Executive Assistant Manager - Accommodations, Taj Bengal, Kolkata. He holds a diploma in Hotel Management from the Institute of Hotel Management, Mumbai, and an Advanced Diploma in Hotel Management from the Oberoi Centre of Learning & Development. He joined the Taj family in September 2005 at the Vivanta by Taj - Fort Aguada, Goa as an Executive Housekeeper. He rose to an Accommodations manager position in 2008 at Vivanta by Taj - Panaji, Goa. Thereafter he moved to Taj Bengal, Kolkata as an Executive Assistant Manager - front office and was subsequently elevated to the post of Executive Assistant Manager - Accommodations. In his new role, he will report to Taljinder Singh, area director - Mumbai and general manager - The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai. Mr Ahluwalia on his new appointment will be responsible for the smooth working of the property and his expertise will be a benefit to this beautiful Taj property in Mumbai. ■

V are Family the real estate management firm launches exclusive properties in Goa

V are family, a real estate management firm also into the hospitality business, recently announced the launch of 2 brand new luxury properties in Goa – Casa Verma and 3 Tropical



Woods, boasting of unmatched luxury and breathtaking environment. An easy to book and affordable lodging option, V are family ensures a home away from home for family vacationers to enjoy time together. They aim to add more properties by the end of this year.

Casa Verma is situated in the heart of South Goa's bustling Cavelosim beach area and sits within a luxurious gated community on the banks of the river Sal. Tropical Woods is 10 minutes off the Panjim bridge in North Goa, and is perched up on top of a hill, overlooking the grand vistas of the of river Mapsa back waters.

Aman Batra is the founder of "V" are family. He is an entrepreneur and management professional, with through experience of incubating multiple new ventures and managing operations at large and medium sized enterprises. A product of Babson College, USA, Mr. Aman started his career as an investment banker in New York in 1997. He continued in the financial sector with the corporate finance division of Ernst & Young in India up till 2004. Aman's exposure to the real estate sector has been widespread including hands on experience in construction, project management, project financing, marketing, sales, and project development. A majority of Aman's development efforts have focused around niche 'concept based' projects including luxury second homes, wellness communities, senior citizen estates, and exclusive corporate towers. Over the past decade he has been actively involved with startup ventures and organizations across a variety of industries in including media, technology, finance, construction, and real estate. on the launch of the Goa properties, Aman Batra, Founder, V are family said, "Goa is a great place for travel and we are excited to announce that we now have homes at the destination. Especially since New-Year is around the corner, we hope that there will be an increase in tourism and bookings. Moreover, we're adding more options in the year going forward." ■



SWATCH BHARAT ABHIYAN



The Ministry of Tourism carried out the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 2nd October, 2014 which focused on creation of Swachh Bharat by 2019 coinciding with the 150th birth year of Mahatma Gandhi. The Ministry of Tourism for implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission had prepared a detailed Action Plan, wherein, all the classified hotels and approved tour operators were requested to adopt roads, roundabouts and historical places/monuments for cleanliness.



All employees at waterfrontshaw-Lavasa planned to take up the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th January 2015. They undertook the cleaning, sweeping of Car parking area in front of the reception, car parking above and entire Promenade from Granma to Oriental 8.



On October 07, 2015 they have once again implemented the Swachh Bharat Mission by cleaning the following areas:

- Started from Top Car parking to the entrance of hotel.
- Moved down to lower parking, in front of the hotel entrance.
- Completed the Promenade areas too, starting from Oriental 8 to Granma Homemade.



The whole team at Waterfront Shaw at Lavasa should be deeply congratulated on sincerely working on cleanliness and taking ahead the Swachh Bharat Mission launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. ■



Security systems on demand in hospitality industry

“The importance of a security strategy can never be underestimated. For the most part, there usually are two approaches taken: proactive or reactive. Each of them has definite strengths and limitations and should be carefully analyzed.”

The continuous flow of people in and out of a hotel makes it a “soft target” for harm and poses a challenge to the property’s security and to the safety of the people in the hotel. The tragic attacks in Mumbai a tragic reminder of hotels’ vulnerability to safety and security threats.

It’s no secret the past few years have been challenging for most hotels and many have been required to make difficult cuts to operations. One of the least talked about cutbacks has been in the area of security where there has been staff reductions coupled with little or no capital improvements. These cutbacks have left many hotels exposed. Given the importance of guest safety many hotels are looking to make improvements now that the economic rebound is expected to start taking place.

In most cases hotels tend to associate security with closed circuit TV (CCTV) monitoring systems. While access and duress systems also play an important role at many properties, CCTV systems are the prime focus of security personnel as these tend to be the eyes and ears monitoring activity on the property. So it comes at no surprise that the prime focus of most security upgrades is the CCTV system.

As most people have realized, CCTV systems have evolved and the newer IP technology coupled with larger digital storage options have changed the way that the technology can be used. Many people are misinformed how to deploy a camera system within a hotel environment, especially an existing building structure where deploying new cable can prove to be both difficult and costly. Additionally, there tends to be a focus on simply adding or replacing existing cameras and little emphasis on the development of a security initiative strategy.

Proactive strategy

It plays an active role monitoring activity around a property. Hotel security personnel are dedicated to monitoring the camera systems on a 24/7 basis. The objective is to address concerns in real-time and catch perpetrators in the act. These systems warrant active technologies such as Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) cameras that can zoom in on areas and track movement. They also have dedicated security control rooms with sophisticated monitoring stations with multiple screens that allow personnel to move images from a screen with multiple camera images to a dedicated monitor that allows for the viewing of greater detail. Additionally, they are also integrated into other security systems and applications and can be monitored remotely.



Reactive strategy

It has limited or no security staff and is merely capturing and storing images in the event of a potential incident. In these instances, the focus on technology typically changes to one of having a reliable camera system with sound storage capability with limited functionality. Outside of capturing images, the focus is on the ease with which stored images can be retrieved and recorded for follow-up investigation.

These strategies come with liability considerations. From the hotel's standpoint, these center around two main concerns: negligence and unauthorized distribution of footage.

- **Negligence:** If an incident occurs whereby a camera is installed in an area and the hotel fails to act. The most common example is usually if someone were to unfortunately drown in a pool late at night when there was a camera presumably being monitored by security staff.

- **Unauthorized distribution of images and footage:** If a guest or employee's image was recorded on the security camera system and then distributed without consent the hotel could potentially be held liable for damages. The typical example is the distribution of highly sensitive footage of a celebrity to a media organization. Very often these are difficult to prevent given the money involved in obtaining this footage.

These contributing factors lend themselves to a security strategy and a clear determination on the type and placement of cameras within at the property. In most cases it is important that hotels obtain a balance between the security of the property and the overall guest's experience.

The Issue of IP vs. Analog Cameras

IP-based security systems have evolved with enhanced features and functionality. It might be assumed that they would be installed in a large percentage of the hotels. The fact is that the vast majorities of hotels are still provisioned with analog CCTV systems and are limited in their ability to deploy IP-based solutions because of cost or infrastructure restrictions. While most security and hotel personnel would agree that IP solutions are the solution of choice, most would also agree that analog solutions will still provide the features and functionality to effectively manage security requirements. While IP cameras tend to have more features and functionality it also comes at a price. In this regard analog cameras should not be discounted-especially to the budget conscious hotels who are focused on a reactive security strategy. Most analog systems still provide clear images and by implementing a robust digital DVR(s) as part of the head-end equipment, can gain many of the advantages of IP-based systems.

One key factor to consider during a security system upgrade is the infrastructure that is currently deployed or that will be deployed. Typically most analog cameras require coaxial cable to facilitate

signal (RG59 for shorter distance and RG6 for longer distances) and a power cable. IP cameras on the other hand require twisted pair CAT5 or CAT6 and are usually powered via PoE switches (unless they are PTZ cameras which usually require 110V power as well.) If a hotel is already cabled with RG59 or RG6 cable it may prove cost prohibitive to replace the existing analog cameras with IP cameras. There are some wireless IP options, but they are typically less stable and still require a power source to operate.

Another alternative to resolving this infrastructure dilemma is the introduction of the hybrid digital video recorders (DVRs) that can accommodate both analog and IP-based cameras. The advantage here is that hotels can deploy IP cameras in newer locations (infrastructure permitting) while continuing to use existing analog cameras. This can not only prove to be cost effective but also allows hotels to improve security coverage and functionality in areas where they were potentially deficient.

Security is a 24/7 responsibility and maintaining a vigilant security focus can prove to be a very expensive expenditure for a hotel. The size and scale of the hotel obviously has an impact on the level and

amount of security that is required for the operation and by identifying the right strategy and balance for a hotel and implementing the right systems, hotels can reduce their overall exposure while still providing a safe environment for their guests and staff. Hotels have options when it is time to upgrade or deploy CCTV security systems. Gaining a clear understanding of the various technologies and solutions that are available or using the assistance of a security expert, hotels can find the right solution for their environments.

The requirement for 24 hour surveillance and security means that the Hospitality industry requires robust security systems alongside a comprehensive ongoing service agreement.

Understanding the specific demands of the sector is key and the products and the solutions offered include, but are not limited to;

- Fire detection systems
- Access control systems
- Hotel locking solutions
- CCTV
- Audio and video door entry systems
- Automatic door operators
- Electronic locking solutions

Types of Safety Equipment's Used in hotel industry

The basic safety equipment a lodging establishment should have and be aware of includes such things as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, and accident prevention signs.

- **Smoke Detectors:** Smoke or heat detection units are required by an increasing number of local





jurisdictions. Regulations vary from those only requiring smoke and/or heat detectors in corridors, storerooms, and under stairways to those requiring full systems that provide protection in every guest room, guest bathroom, public area, and back-of-the-house location.

Smoke and heat detection units also vary in their characteristics; some have the ability to report a heat buildup prior to evidence of smoke or flame, while others respond only to smoke and other products of combustion.

Automated systems, which integrate all smoke detectors in each location with a master panel, permit staff to immediately determine where a smoke detector has activated and to respond accordingly.

Many local jurisdictions enacted regulations requiring fully automated smoke detector systems in all new construction and the retrofitting of smoke detectors for all lodging establishments.

● **Fire Extinguishers:** There are four classes of fires that a lodging property should be prepared for

- 1) Class A fires involve ordinary combustibles,
- 2) Class B fires involve flammable liquids,
- 3) Class C fires involve electrical equipment, and
- 4) Class K fires involve cooking oils and fats.

Although some jurisdictions will permit the elimination of fire extinguishers in a facility with a full sprinkler system, consideration should still be given to the use of extinguishers as they would permit the fighting of incipient fires rather than waiting for a fire to generate enough heat to activate an automatic sprinkler system.

● **Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Carbon monoxide is a dangerous by-product of a malfunctioning water heater, kerosene heater, coal boiler, or any other wood, coal, or petroleum product unit. (It is also the most critical toxic gas generated in any structural fire).

There have been tragic incidents in which carbon monoxide from such units has resulted in the death of a guest or staff. Since carbon monoxide is invisible and has no smell, it cannot be detected by natural means.

● **Sprinkler Systems:** Sprinkler systems are now mandated in an establishment four stories or higher, adhering to the Hotel and Fire Safety law. This requires a system covering back-of-the-house, public, and all guestroom locations.

Most jurisdictions now require full sprinkler systems in the new construction of any commercial occupancy regardless of the height of the structure.

Types of Security Alarm Systems used in Hotels

There is a growing use of alarm systems in hotels and motels. Alarm systems may sometimes be invaluable for the many entrances and emergency exits

found through a hotel or motel and for perimeter control. There should be a control centre for all property alarms and the same should be properly located. Access to this room should be only permitted to authorized persons.

Alarm systems are mainly divided into three types:

- **Local Alarms:** Local alarms are those not hard-wired to a central monitoring location and may serve as deterrents. An example is the local alarm that is integrated with the panic hardware on a fire exit. When the exit door is opened, the circuit is broken and the alarm sounds.
- **Contact Alarms:** Contact alarms systems are hard-wired to a central point so the same can be monitored and appropriate action may be taken when the alarm goes off. Silent alarms are always hard-wired to a central point and may be considered for cashier areas, storerooms, and other areas. From such a point, the alarm can be silently transmitted to the telephone room, police department, or private security company; both the police and the on-premises security personnel can be alerted.

Example of a contact alarm sometimes used in cashier areas that is helpful during robberies involves using a money clip that cannot be

removed from a cash register without tripping a silent alarm.

- **Remote Alarms:** Remote alarm systems typically relying some sort of transmission for example, the more elaborate microwaves, radio waves and photoelectric light.

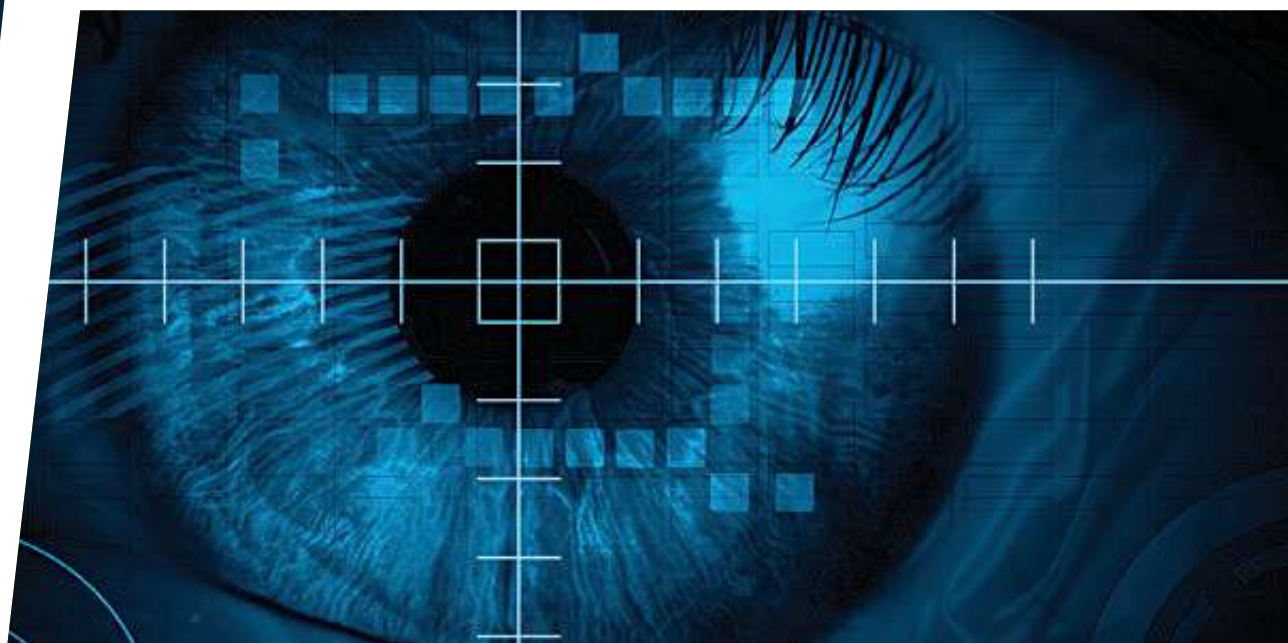
Microwave detectors are active units which transmit and receive electromagnetic energy are designed to detect motion. Perimeter protection with microwaves is used in some properties due to its long range capabilities; its potential for stability, once adjusted; and its virtually tamper-proof characteristics. This is best used in locations where unwanted movement should be detected.

Radio frequency (R F) fields trip an alarm when any intruder breaks the radio wave by moving into an R F field. As with the use of the microwave detector noted above, these systems are of greatest value in locations where there should be no motion. This system is best used as an intruder alarm.

Photoelectric light beam is a filtered light beam passes between a sending and receiving unit; as is the case in R F field systems, any break in the beam sets off an alarm. This system is generally used for outside perimeter control, especially in resort properties.

'Passive', 'Active' and 'Hard' security

Security experts make a distinction between different types of "passive" security systems, which have to do with fire and life security (detection, evacuation, fire extinguishing and danger management processes). The public authorities





of each country dictate the requirements for implementing, using and maintaining these types of systems, which is why investors and hotel operators must comply with them. The second level, known as "active security components", include video surveillance(CCTV), access control, intrusion detection systems and X-ray machines at the hotel's main entrances. Hotel operators interested in these systems already do so on a voluntary basis. A third level covers "hard" security systems, which can help avert or manage serious threats such as terrorist attacks. In the hospitality business, most people use to invest only in the first level, the passive security systems required by law. Almost no one invests voluntarily in extra security precautions and processes. But today in the modern days as terrorist attacks are on the high every hotel around the globe are trying their best to advance their security through many latest technologies and devices which before were never manufactured or easily available.

Hotels may be concerned about the costs of higher-level security systems but criminal activity could cost a hotel its reputation.

Hotel management should be aware of the responsibility of the guests' safety inside the property. Emergency systems should be installed to ensure the safety and protection from fires and other hazards by continuously checking the emergency plan, fire alarm system, fire extinguishers, fire sprinklers, emergency lights, smoke and heat detectors, employee training, and cooperation with the government agencies. The latest tools and devices should not only be used for convenience of

guests but also for the security of the guests.

The safety and security indexes offer a preliminary glimpse into the physical elements of a hotel that signal comfort and security to the guest. While the inventory of various physical safety and security features is by no means exhaustive, it does reflect key safety issues. However, the mere presence of equipment, such as electronic locks and security cameras, does not guarantee guests' safety or security in the absence of personnel who are well-trained to implement a fully developed emergency plan. On the other hand, the hotel would be hard pressed to implement an effective security system in the absence of appropriate equipment.

The modern hospitality leaders and the hoteliers have understood the importance of tight security for their properties due to which they are investing in the best software and hardware devices which in today's world are easily available in the market and the hoteliers can choose from different brands. The demand for high security is also increasing the demands in latest security systems which is opening an new age technology in security system tools and devices which are in tremendous demand in the hospitality industry. ■



Bizz in Rajkot is a 4 Star luxurious Business hotel with impeccable service

BIZZ the Hotel, Rajkot, reflects the capital city and Saurashtra's spirit in a harmonious blend of contemporary sophistication and western outfit. The hotel is recognized as a pioneer and an icon amongst luxury and business hotels in Rajkot. It has 27 well appointed rooms and is the first hotel to offer a 24 hour Butler service. Its exquisite interiors, impeccable service and fine cuisine combine to make it amongst the most graceful and elegant downtown hotels in Gujarat. BIZZ the Hotel, Rajkot is ideally located in the city center on Dr. Yagnik Road near government / corporate offices, shopping, financial and business districts. The hotel is a 7 minute drive from the airport and 11 minutes away from the Rajkot railway station.

BIZZ the Hotel offers an exciting range of dining options that include multi-cuisine dishes, a rooftop barbeque restaurant, a 24 hours Coffee Shop, the cake shoppe and the private dining room, especially for Elite Guests wishing to dine in a very private environment. The hotel's business centre offers private meeting spaces with a focus on

comfort and convenience. Unrivalled in meticulous appointments, refined design details and service, it offers the best of modern technology. Extensive conference and banquet spaces provide an ideal venue for larger events and meetings.

Accommodation

BUSINESS Room

Their Business rooms are perfect for on-the-fly travellers looking for convenience, access and ease; these rooms are fully equipped with everything one needs for a comfortable stay.

EXECUTIVE Room

Executive rooms are well-appointed which delight's every guest, with every conceivable amenity that one may need at their fingertips. Ideal for brief trips where leisure and service are paramount.

PREMIUM Room

Pushing the luxury factor up a notch, the Premium Rooms will satisfy even the most exacting of

clients. Experience the serene decor and high-end amenities and that feeling of having lived ultra-luxury won't leave one in a hurry.

SUITE Room

The ultimate in opulence, the Suite Rooms wouldn't fall short even for royalty. A stay in one of the Suites will redefine the way one look at luxury, class and comfort. The amenities in their Suites are world class which goes without saying.

Food & Dining

PDR

Experience the ultimate form of privacy during a private meal at specially designed PDR for High Esteemed Guests and Privileged Services for all to treat their delegates / Guests in the best possible manner. Enjoy innovative menus in an elegant setting. The view provided by PDR is a sweeping vista for the other big players in the area; the city of Rajkot takes pride to have its only private dining space at Bizz The Hotel.

Inner Circle

The best ideas usually brew over a cup of coffee, so they decided to make that a whole experience in itself.



VENUE	DIMENSION	THEATER	CLASSROOM	BOARDROOM	U SHAPE
B Square	18x 24	40-45	30-35	20-25	20-25
VENUE	DIMENSION	THEATER	CLASSROOM	BOARDROOM	U SHAPE
Essence	40 x 70	150 – 200	100 – 120	60 – 70	50 – 60

With a tranquil ambience and decor designed to make conversations even better, a menu that will make it hard for anyone to leave ones seat, and the convenience of being able to satisfy everyone’s caffeine urges at any time of the day or night, Inner Circle – 24 x 7 coffee shop, tops ones stay like icing on a cupcake.

Reflexions

They believe that a fine-dining experience goes a long way in making ones stay memorable. Reflexions, is the hotels multi-cuisine restaurant, which offers a delectable array of dishes from across the globe; there is something for everyone. Revel in aromas that will make every ones taste buds tingle, gorge on culinary delights that will satiate one like nothing else, and walk away from the Reflexions experience with a smile always.

Crumbz

There’s nothing quite like the savory smell of freshly baked, melt-in-ones mouth. So be it their

mouthwatering muffins, scrumptious pastries or divine breads & cakes, one can satisfy every craving at Crumbz, their popular patisserie and bake shop.

Meetings & Events

b Square & Banquets

Business is serious business. For any kind of meeting or conference that any corporate may so desire to conduct, they have a host options to serve them. Depending on the size and nature of the gathering, one can choose from a number of venues best suited to everyone’s requirements. Needless to say, each of the venues is armed with an array of utilities. Conducting a meeting is very much convenient at Bizz hotel Rajkot.

BIZZ the Hotel, Rajkot is like celebrating a journey of diversity, quality and passion. One of the best hotel in Rajkot, it exudes an ideal blend of comfort and the right ambience for the guests to unwind, also offers the maximum comfort to its guests. ■



parampara



परंपरा

PARAMPARA RESTAURANT Serves The Best Pure Vegetarian Multi-Cuisine Delicacies in Rajkot



Parampara is the best Pure Vegetarian Family Restaurant of Rajkot for the people who loves quality food, nice environment and polite services.

Parampara is a Multi-cuisine Pure Vegetarian Restaurant situated at Kanta Stree Vikas Gruh Road, Mill Para, Rajkot. It has a diverse menu and has created a niche for lifestyle, full service and casual dining. Its diverse menu consisting of Indian, Chinese and is famous for Gujarati and Kathiawadi food which presents tempting choice for food lovers across all segments. Besides the array of multi-cuisine food that is being served, Parampara restaurant is also known for its casual and cool ambience, which captures the spirit of its customers. Parampara boasts of biggest outdoor seating which can accommodate 100 guest and serves in budget array of pure vegetarian delicacies. ■



Rajkot the historical, cultural and ever emerging as a developing city of Gujarat

Rajkot is The Center of the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It is the 4th largest city in the state of Gujarat, India. It is located on the banks of the Aji River and Niari River. Rajkot is also the 22nd-fastest-growing city in the world. The city contains the administrative headquarters of the Rajkot District, 245 km from the state capital Gandhinagar. Rajkot was reincorporated into Gujarat State from 1 May 1960. It was founded by Thakur Saheb Vibhaji Ajoji Jadeja of Jadeja clan in 1612 AD. Since then, it has been the seat of Jadeja rulers of India. Rajkot has been under different rulers since it was founded. Rajkot has a long history and had a significant part in the Indian independence movement. Rajkot was home for many personalities like Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Rajkot is multicultural. One can find many languages, like Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, English, Sindhi, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam and Marathi. However, only Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, and English are well understood. Rajkot is the part of Kathiawad. Because of this people of Rajkot are also known as Kathiawadi. Rajkot has its own native music genre, called Dayro, which is used to convey folk stories and sayings. Rajkot also inherited Kathiawadi folk music.

Rajkot is famous for its jewellery market, silk embroidery and watch parts. The city hosts several small scale manufacturing industries. Some of the industrial products for which Rajkot is known include bearings, diesel engines, kitchen knives and other cutting appliances, watch parts (cases & bracelets), automotive parts, forging industry, casting industry, machine tools, share market and software development. The city is also home to some of the largest CNC machine and auto parts manufacturers in the country.

Rajkot is well known throughout the world for its casting and forging industries. Over the last few years, it has started to play an increasingly important role in the complex supply chains of many global engineering companies that make products such as electric motors, automobiles, machine tools, bearings, shafts etc

There are about 500 foundry units in Rajkot. The cluster

came up mainly to cater to the casting requirements of the local diesel engine industry. Rajkot is also famous for its gold purity and has one of the largest gold markets in India.

Rajkot is also growing up in Software Industries and ITeS. There are many SOHO companies working in Web Development along with many new multinational call centres and software companies setting up their operations and development centres in Rajkot.

Rajkot's sister city Morbi is also a manufacturing hub for ceramics industry, wall clocks industry and electrical accessories. The city is a home to large industries such as Ajanta Clock, Samay Group, ORPAT Group, Sonera Industries, Rickon Quartz etc.

Rajkot is also famous for its textile printing units which produce cotton salwar suits and cotton print and silk sarees.

Rajkot was formerly the leading centre in India in the field of diesel engine and submersible pumps. Submersible pumps are still manufactured in the city and marketed throughout India, with some of the larger manufacturers also exporting them.

Rajkot is also home to some of India's leading snacks manufacturers such as Balaji Wafers Pvt Ltd, Gopal Snacks Pvt Ltd and is home to one of India's leading share broker Marwadi Shares & Finance Ltd.

Aji Dam



Aji River is one of the main rivers of saurashtra (region), Gujarat State. It is called the lifeline of Rajkot City and separates Rajkot in east-west parts. There are four dams on Aji River, the water from which is used for agriculture and for drinking purposes. The Aji Dam Garden, measures 39000sq.mts. The Aji Dam Garden is situated, on the outskirts at around 8 km from the centre of city on the South East side just on the bank of Aji dam reservoir, which gives the visitors an opportunity to move around in serene calm. The downstream area of the dam is maintained by the Rajkot Municipal Corporation. There are beautiful step gardens, amusement park for children, zoo, bird aviary, Crocodile Park where the tourist can spend their leisure time.

Bangdi Bazaar



The market in the old part of the city is a maze of narrow alleyways, lanes and cul-de-sacs. Shop fronts and fort paths displaying a vast array of embroidered fabrics, beadwork, bandhanis and readymade flow in profusion to the colorful riot of Bangles in every shape, form and color giving the market the apt title of Bangdi Bazaar. Up close and personal is the bazaar of the Sonis, the traditional community of gold and silver smiths tantalizingly displaying their wares viewing, gossiping and cups of chai are the norms of the day with bargains sometimes struck along the way.

Community Science Centre and Planetarium

The Community Science Centre and Planetarium is based in an attractive building in the Race Course area in the heart of Rajkot, Gujarat. The seeds of the Community Science Centre and Planetarium were sown in the year 1979 when a group was ready to work at Rajkot on development of scientific temper and a beginning was made in the name of “Prayog” to remove belief in miracle and superstition etc. The planetarium itself was established in the year 1992.

The objective of the Community Science Centre and Planetarium is to impart knowledge related to science and maths to children with the help of educational programmes, workshops, and seminars. People here believe that science is not something that can be taught on blackboards, and worked on a concept of science learning and teaching through “hands on activities” and experiments. The infrastructure facilities at the Community Science Centre and Planetarium include Aryabhata Science Museum, which has under its roof over 100 working science models explaining in detail varied concepts of science. It also possesses five well equipped laboratories dedicated to Electronics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Biology. There is also the Late Shri Narottam Shah library having about 5000 + books and about 50 + periodicals. Not to be taken just as a science lab, the campus also contains a well equipped 200-seat auditorium (with all multimedia facilities), a 500 seat open air auditorium, an exhibition gallery and a sky watching tower. The Community Science Centre and Planetarium also boasts of a fully furnished mechanical workshop that is chiefly used to produce the mathematics models, museum models, etc.

Gondal



Gondal, a city state mere 35 km away from Rajkot ruled by a family of car enthusiasts whose royal passion resulted in a fine collection of automobiles which are now part of a museum in the palace premises. Such was the royal passion that Gondal had the best planned and well designed road system in preindependent Gujarat. Gondal like its neighbors has some visually exciting palaces and living spaces; some like the Riverside Palace commissioned in 1875 by Bhagwatsinghji is now a Heritage Hotel. The palace grounds form a private forest reserve with frolicking deers and a variety of birds adding to the tranquil beauty of the place. A building worth visiting is the old Darbargadh a seventeenth century structure which reputedly cost

Rupees Nine Lakhs thus earning the sobriquet 'Navlakha Palace'. The palace is built on series of arches delicately carved and inscribed in stone with a magnificent spiral staircase leading all the way to the top. The interior of the Darbargadh is open to visitors and for a fee one can experience the opulent living style of the Maharajas of old. Mandvi Chowk.

Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary



The Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary is situated at a distance of 47 km from the city of Rajkot. It was established in 1988 in a total area of 15 square km. It is a compact woodland home to 280 species of flora, 130 species of birds, and 20 species each of reptiles and mammals. Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary comprises species of amphibians and other animals. Rare species of animals found in this sanctuary includes Nilgai, Chinkara, fox and Wolf. Marked with fringes of hillocks around the bordering periphery of the arid shrubby plain land distinct with wild grass is the Rampara Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary got the status of 'Reserve Forest' in the year 1983 before which it served as a shooting reserve that belonged to the former princely state of Wankaner also known as Central Saurashtra. The natural spread of the sanctuary is known and renowned for housing an entire troop of mammoth antelopes. These vivacious antelopes roaming around in flocks or solitarily hiding in the wooded landscape are gorgeous creatures known for their slender body and thick coat of short fur. Galloping around the terrain with their delightful jumps and leaps, the antelopes add in zest and verve in the ambience. Other animals like wolf, jackal, hyena, common fox, and blue bull are fellow residents of this sanctuary. Partridge, Common peafowl, ring dove, large gray babbler, purple sunbird, yellow throated sparrow are indigenous varieties of birds inhabiting this area.

Rotary Dolls Museum



It is a Dolls Museum with more than 1500 dolls from more than 95 countries. The museum gives a sneak peek into the various cultures and traditions of the world through the medium of dolls. The Rotary clubs across the world have generously donated dolls to this museum. The vision of such a museum was conceived by Rotarian Mr Deepak Agrawal in 2001.

The dolls are displayed in Theme Showcases which depict settings of the countries from which these dolls hail and each showcase also bears the flag of the country from which the doll has been sent. Besides dolls, the museum also maintains permanent archives of documents related to the dolls for the study and enjoyment of members and for public viewing. Each showcase has on its side a write up about the unique cultural and traditional information about the dolls. The museum also has a Foreign Language Learning Centre where the language Library has more than 40 foreign and 10 Indian Languages that can be learnt by students using a self-paced computer based learning mechanism. It came into being on October 2004. It helps people who are traveling abroad for business or as tourists, students aspiring to study abroad, or people who are simply interested in studying a new language.

The museum also conducts workshops on dramatics and music, doll making, sculpting competitions, dress designing, doll exchange programmes, finishing school etc. There is a small cinema hall where children can watch documentaries on inventions, culture, environment, folk stories, fables etc from around the world. One of the prominent attractions at the museum is the 'Rocking Zebra' which is the pride of the Dolls Museum. It is unique in that there are only five such pieces all over the world. There is also a souvenir shop at the museum where children can buy small curios and toys including stickers of dolls, Doll T-shirts, key chains with miniature

dolls, dolls for fill-in-colour books, stationery items, picture postcards, coffee mugs, country flags, doll magnets, calendars etc.

The Lang Library

Based in Rajkot, Gujarat, Lang Library has a rich collection of Gujarati literature because of which it has gained eminence across the state as well as nationally. This library has an enviable and desirable assortment of Gujarati and Kathiawadi literature. Some of these are bound in leather covers and some older books available here are made of handmade paper and written with gold. The library holds more than 3 lakhs books along with a good collection of some recently launched e-Journals and e-Books. This makes Lang Library the best option for those with a keen

interest in Gujarat literature. The library adds thousands of recent published books each year and subscribes to hundreds of printed journals and periodicals on a variety of subjects. A storehouse of books, periodicals and journals, this library is situated in the great Jubilee Gardens.

Lang Library strives to meet the needs and interests of all its visitors. Therefore, it has a wide assortment of different types of books and journals so that people of all ages and interest can gather authentic information from here. Additionally, there are many other sub sections in the library where visitors can look for reference books on their subjects of interest. The library has a spacious reading room and another large room for reference and fictional material. The material available at the library connects to the colonial and expatriate era. The Lang Library plays a very crucial role in promoting reading and knowledge in Rajkot. The prosperous heritage of the library is preserved in its collection of books, which add value to the readers' interests.

Watson Museum and Library

Watson Museum and Library in Rajkot is located in the Jubilee Gardens in Rajkot. The Watson Museum and Library, Rajkot was opened to the public in the year 1888 and commemorates Colonel James Watson,



who was Saurashtra's political agent from year 1886-89. The entrance of the Watson Museum and Library in Rajkot is well decorated and attractive. The two majestic lion's statues stand on both the sides of the entrance of the museum. Watson museum in Rajkot is also used as a library.

The exhibits put up in the Watson Museum and Library of Rajkot includes copies of artifacts from Mohenjodaro, natural history exhibits, 13th-century carvings, temple statues and costumes and design of the houses of the local tribal people. The Watson Museum and Library at Rajkot in Gujarat also houses an excellent collection of traditional, archaeological items and coins. A major attraction of the Watson Museum is the huge marble statue of Queen Victoria seated on the throne and this attracts a huge number of tourists. The Watson museum and library stands as silent tutors who speak of the heritage of the state and the country.

Ranjit Vilas Palace

Maharaja of Wankaner HH Amarsinhji built this palace personally in 1907 AD. Thereafter, he named the palace after his dear friend Jam Ranjitsinhji of Jamnagar, who is also known to inaugurate the palace. Along the ground area, this imposing structure spreads out on 225 acres of land. Much of this structure still stands tall and had been previously the summer house of the rulers, who ruled the region of Jhalawar in Saurashtra. Since many years, a large public fair is arranged near the palace on Shraavan. Inside the campus of Ranjit Vilas Palace are two other buildings, Chandra Bhavan, which is the state guesthouse and the Royal Oasis Wankaner, which is a heritage hotel now along the banks of River Machchhu. Finesse of architectural designs in Ranjit Vilas Palace is worth a look. Front and back side of the building have been designed to merge with the surrounding landscape. Terrace like appearance has been created due to receding heights of the structures towards the front. These structures culminate in terraces with designed pavilions and gothic arches. Town of Wankaner is towards the back side of this palace. The clock tower rise up to seven floors, having Mughal styled dome on top and towards each corner. There is a five storied high bastions, with hexagonal chhatris. Throughout the structures, there are Italian designed pillars, gothic arches, classical parapets and Victorian windows. Central part of the palace is having a Dutch styled roof over a large expanse. Inside the building, there is a double staircase, which adds uniqueness to the interior decor. This was supposed to be used by the ladies of the palace, to go up and down, without being seen. Inspiration for this staircase was from a similar structure at Chateau de Chambord in France. Apart from architectural planning and beauty, the collections inside the Ranjit Vilas Palace are worth a view. These are inclusive of ancient and medieval era chairs, glass galleries, chandeliers, period furniture, huge portraits and extensive collections of spears, swords, regal lamps, dresses, chests, thrones and military items. There is also a large garage having some vintage cars like Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, American cars, vintage horse drawn carriages and a stable containing numerous Kathiawadi horses. Italian fountains adorn the well laid and green gardens.

Rajkot is in a transition period of growing cultural, industrial and economical activities. The tourism in the Rajkot is picking up owing to the fact that there are a number of places here that are worth visiting. Rajkot is frequently referred to as "Rangilo Rajkot" as the city has different facades from old historical structures to modern industries. ■



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Today, there is a growing trend of Designer uniforms for the hospitality & corporate sector. A stylish yet practical uniform adds value & unifies the complete experience of hospitality. Most hotels, corporates and institutions do have fine uniforms but there is yet so much richness in our culture that a Designer with a holistic approach can offer. Zubin Mehta – MD & CEO – Uniforms Unlimited, heads his designer brand “Dezenzia” and is one such designer with the holistic approach towards uniform design. Besides being well known for his manufacturing skills, Zubin has also made a mark in the hospitality world by delivering stunning concepts of uniforms for niche hotels, resorts and corporates. His uniforms are now being flaunted by the clients as their brand differentiator.

Zubin in his designs imbibes the value of a region / culture into design by repackaging the couture into finely styled garments that enhance the image of the client to the highest standards. His endeavor has always been focused on amalgamating top style with highly practical attire. This is a huge challenge for fashion designers persay, but Zubin having the thorough knowledge of uniforms and a state-of-art facility to back his experience can bring about this fusion with ease. Modern travellers are extremely selective of hotels & especially seek advice on the experience shared by others in internet and word of mouth.

Today a guest looks closely for classy interiors, bathrooms, amenities provided & even at the uniforms, whether they are clean, finely tailored & intricately designed. The uniform speaks volumes about the organization. Zubin emphasizes on the textures of fabrics used, the princess lines on the uniform, the subtle detail of embroidery and pleats that turn a uniform into

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