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## HRAWI's Conclave & Awards recognises Nagpur hoteliers

Industry leaders discuss new Maharashtra Tourism Policy 2024, cybersecurity essentials, technology for enhancing guest experiences, and skill training.

The recent Empowering Hospitality Conclave & Awards, hosted by HRAWI, brought crucial issues to the forefront. One pressing concern was the growing trend of holding the hotel and restaurant industries accountable for drunk driving accidents caused by patrons outside their premises. Delving into the growing trend of restaurateurs being held responsible for accidents caused by intoxicated patrons, the industry sought guidelines from industry stalwarts, policymakers, and law enforcers participating in the conclave.



**Pradeep Shetty**, President, HRAWI, voiced the industry's frustrations, emphasising that restaurateurs are being unfairly held responsible for accidents occurring outside their premises. He argued the industry needs clearer regulations to avoid undue prosecution, drawing a comparison to how shopkeepers selling knives are not held accountable for crimes committed with their products. "The hotel and

restaurant industry remains committed to responsible alcohol service and adherence to guidelines. Whenever we are wrong, we are happy to be corrected. However, lately, the restaurant industry has been feeling the full might of enforcement despite operating within the framework of the law. A guest consumes alcohol in a restaurant, causes an accident outside, and the restaur-

ant gets blamed. The industry seeks guidance on what regulations it should follow to avoid prosecution for incidents that occur outside its premises," Shetty said.

**Dr. Sagnik Chowdhury**, DDG and Regional Director (Western & Central), MeT, Government of India, was the Chief Guest of the conclave. He acknowledged