

HRAWI Hosts Third Edition of Knowledge Series in Goa, Focusing on Key Regulatory Changes Affecting Hospitality

The Hotel and Restaurant Association (Western India) – HRAWI hosted the third edition of its Knowledge Series on Wednesday, 15 July 2026, at Fortune Miramar, Goa – Member ITC Hotels' Group. The full-day learning session brought together hospitality professionals and industry stakeholders to discuss the latest regulatory and policy developments impacting the sector.

The programme featured comprehensive sessions on three critical areas — Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, GST updates and the New Labour Codes. Ernst & Young (EY) continued as the Official Knowledge Partner for the series, with subject matter experts providing practical and actionable insights to help hospitality businesses strengthen their compliance readiness.

The event also hosted Mr Jack Ajit Sukhija, President, Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) and Dr Gavin Dias, General Manager, Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC).

Key Regulatory Updates

The first session, led by Ms Madhusmita Panda, Senior Manager – Technology Consulting, EY, focused on the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and Rules 2025. The session highlighted the growing importance of data governance, cybersecurity, consent management and privacy practices for hotels and restaurants handling large volumes of guest, employee and vendor information.

The second session by Mr Akshit Saraogi, Director – Global Trade and Customs, Indirect Tax, EY, covered the latest GST reforms and their implications for the hospitality industry. The discussion highlighted the need for businesses to review their tax processes, ERP and POS systems, ITC management and invoice-level reconciliation to remain prepared for increased compliance requirements.

The third session, conducted jointly by Mr Anshul Shukla, Business Consulting, EY, and Ms Rituparna Mukhuty, Senior Manager – Risk Consulting, EY, focused on the four new Labour Codes covering wages, social security, industrial relations, and occupational safety, health and working conditions. The experts discussed the potential impact on compensation structures, payroll, employee contracts, statutory benefits and overall people costs in the hospitality sector.

Empowering Hospitality Professionals

The Knowledge Series is designed to bridge information gaps and provide hospitality professionals with practical knowledge to navigate an evolving regulatory environment. The Goa edition was the third programme in the series, following earlier editions held in Pune and Mumbai, with further sessions planned across the Western region.

Speaking on the initiative, Mr Carl Costa, EC Member & Area Nominee (Goa), HRAWI, highlighted HRAWI's continued commitment to equipping hospitality leaders with actionable

insights and strengthening the industry's ability to respond to emerging regulatory and compliance requirements.

Through the Knowledge Series, HRAWI continues to create a platform for learning, industry interaction and knowledge-sharing, supporting the hospitality sector in building more compliant, resilient and future-ready businesses.