

## **HRAWI recommends GoM to grant industrial status for hospitality and tourism sector**

The Hotel And Restaurant Association (Western India) – HRAWI actively participated in a business conclave focused on the challenges and future prospects of the hospitality and tourism sector. This event took place at Advantage Vidarbha in Nagpur on January 29, 2024, and was graced by the presence of prominent figures such as Nitin Gadkari, the Minister for Road Transport and Highway, Government of India, Girish Mahajan, the Minister for Tourism, Government of Maharashtra, and Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra.

The conclave centered around addressing critical concerns within the sector, including the demand for Industrial Status and suggestions for the proposed Tourism Policy to facilitate growth in the state. Key figures from HRAWI, including Mr. Pradeep Shetty, President, and representatives from the hospitality sector engaged in discussions. Following the conclave, HRAWI submitted recommendations to the government, urging the implementation of the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) initiative for the industry.

Expressing gratitude to the esteemed guests, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, and Shri Girish Mahajan, Mr. Pradeep Shetty highlighted the acknowledgment of sector challenges. Shetty welcomed the announcement from Shri Girish Mahajan regarding the upcoming Tourism Policy and emphasized the need for industry recognition, anticipating positive impacts on the growth of tourism in Vidarbha and Maharashtra.

As infrastructure development progresses and domestic travel trends soar, there is unanimous agreement on the immediate need for a robust Tourism Policy and the grant of Industry Status to hotels.

Acknowledging Shri Nitin Gadkari's support in promoting tourism in Vidarbha, HRAWI appreciated the initiatives announced to showcase the region's natural beauty and foster the growth of the hospitality sector. The association

commended the Tourism Ministry's decision to develop a forward-looking policy focusing on tourism projects and incentivizing hotel establishment.

HRAWI stressed the pivotal role of the hospitality industry in realizing the Prime Minister's ambitious vision of a three-trillion-dollar economy and welcoming 100 million tourists by 2047.

Recognizing Shri Devendra Fadnavis's acknowledgment of tourism's importance in Vidarbha's development, HRAWI urged the government to implement the existing policy through a streamlined one-window system while awaiting the new Tourism Policy. Additionally, the association advocated for a specific timeframe for incentive disbursement, facilitating informed investments by entrepreneurs and hoteliers in new and existing projects.