



# H R A NOW

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF HOTEL & RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION (WESTERN INDIA)

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**AUGUST 2016**



# Western India A Monsoon Destination

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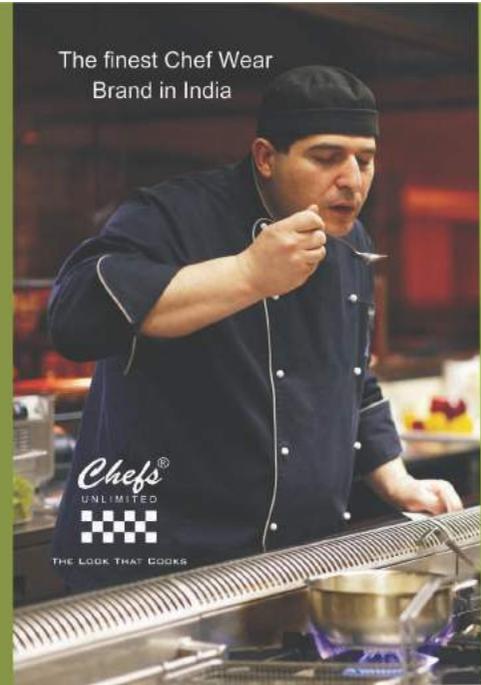
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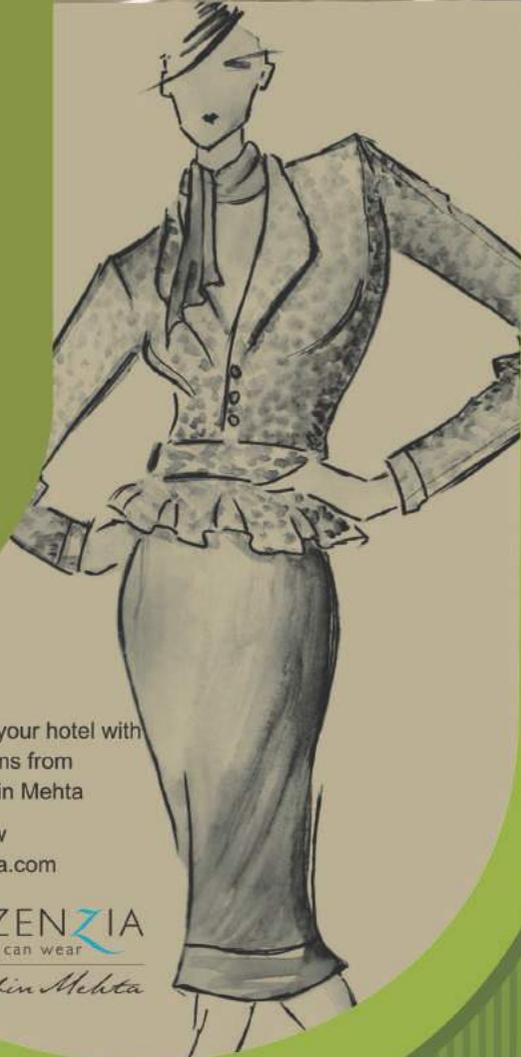
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# President's Note

**Dear Members of the HRA (WI):**

The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India has always worked hand-in-hand with the Government whether it's about outlining a plan for tourism-friendly policies or supporting its social welfare campaigns such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. This time again, the association offered its strong support to Swachh Bharat Pakhwada. The association not only serves the interests of the hotel and restaurant industry by advocating tourism-friendly policies in conjunction with the State and Central Governments but also contributes towards community development and society at large time to time by initiating various campaigns actively. The Swachh Bharat Pakhwada included activities such as displaying placards in hotel premises suggesting patrons to keep their surroundings clean, hotel managers having dialogues with customers on the subject, placing stickers outside hotel premises for keeping the area litter-free, discouraging the usage of plastic bags, providing cotton napkins instead of tissue papers wherever possible among others, apart from several other cleanliness practices were followed by hotels and restaurants across India.

HRA NOW this month has focused on Western India a Monsoon Destination. Monsoon holidays in Western India are surely a lifetime experience as the exotic locations leave one spellbound with its beauty. The hills and mountains get carpeted with lush greenery, the lakes overflow with sparkling water, the waterfall sceneries become heavenly to make everyone fall in love with Incredible India.

The destination covered in HRA NOW this month is Ahmednagar a historical city with a promising future. The city is strewn with a number of historical places such as temples, many of them ancient, which are much visited by large number of pilgrims. Among them, Shirdi and Shani Shingnapur are quite famous across India.

The Association has been organising number of seminars for the benefit of members, we request all our members to participate and gain knowledge through the same.

This year's annual FHRAI Convention is being organized in the beautiful city of Indore in September. Members are encouraged to book their space early and also their flight/train tickets to avail of better prices.

We look forward to your continued support, feedback and participation. ■

With Best Regards,

**Bharat Malkani**  
President HRAWI



# AT THE HEART OF INCREDIBLE INDIA

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**SEPT 22-24, 2016**

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Glorious Past Are Narrated By Splendid Historical Monuments  
Which Cast A Magical Spell On The Visitors.

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Book your stay at  
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your use attached  
convention form in  
this issue.

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**JOIN THE  
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INDORE, SEPT. 22 – 24, 2016**

REGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration charges (Including Service Tax @15%)**

(Service Tax No.: AAACF0904BSD002 • Service Category: Club or Association/ Convention • Pan No.: AAACF0904B)

| Type   | Upto 16 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016 (in INR)   | After 16 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016 (in INR)  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>FHRAI Member / Spouse</b>                     | Rs.9775 (per person) / Rs.17250 (per couple)  | Rs.11213 (per person) / Rs.20125 (per couple) |
| <b>Non Member / Spouse</b>                       | Rs.11500 (per person) / Rs.18975 (per couple) | Rs.12938 (per person) / Rs.21850 (per couple) |
| <b>Children (4 to 14 years) in the same room</b> | Rs.6900 (per child)                           | Rs.8625 (per child)                           |

**Registration Form**

(PLEASE FILL THIS FORM IN CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY)

• Are You FHRAI member? Yes / No      • If yes, please enter membership number

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Pin: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Tick: •Veg. Meal  •Non-Veg. Meal

**Hotel Booking**

(PLEASE FILL THIS FORM IN CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY)

Please book my hotel accommodation at:

First Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Third Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Check in: \_\_\_\_\_ Check out: \_\_\_\_\_

No of Rooms- Single: \_\_\_\_\_ Double: \_\_\_\_\_ Extrabed: \_\_\_\_\_ TotalNights: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we do not require Hotel accommodation. I/we will manage my own Hotel accommodation.

*Note: In the event your preferred choice of hotel accommodation is not available; the next available hotel will be allotted.*

**Travel Details**

**ARRIVAL**

Air (Flight No.): \_\_\_\_\_

Rail (Train Name / No.): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTURE**

Air (Flight No.): \_\_\_\_\_

Rail (Train Name / No.): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_



### PaymentDetails

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE / DD FAVORING 'FHRAI CONVENTION ACCOUNT' PAYABLE AT MUMBAI.

Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ DD / Cheque/NEFT/ RTGSNo.: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ drawn on: \_\_\_\_\_ Bank &Branch.

| NEFT / RTGS Details                             |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Account No./ Type : 50100109577661 (Saving A/c) | RTGS/ NEFT Code : HDFC0000003  |  |
| Account Name : FHRAI Convention Account         | Branch : K. G. Marg, New Delhi   |  |
| Bank Name : HDFC Bank Ltd.                      | Branch Address : 209-214, Kailash Building,<br>26, K. G. Marg, New Delhi – 110001. |  |

\* Please note: Registration will not be confirmed until payment is received and realized

### Convention Hotels & Rates

| Hotels              | Rooms available | Single Room / Double Room Charges Excluding Taxes |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|
| Radisson Blu        | 70              | Rs. 5,100/-                                       |
| Fortune Landmark    | 40              | Rs. 5,100/-                                       |
| Sayaji              | 70              | Rs. 4,800/-                                       |
| Effotel             | 100             | Rs. 3,800/-                                       |
| Mangal City         | 50              | Rs. 3,500/-                                       |
| Shreemaya Celebrity | 20              | Rs. 3,000/-                                       |
| Waterlilly          | 35              | Rs. 2,500/-                                       |
| Infinity            | 30              | Rs. 2,500/-                                       |
| Amarvilas           | 30              | Rs. 2,500/-                                       |
| Golden Gate         | 15              | Rs. 2,200/-                                       |
| Somdeep             | 20              | Rs. 2,000/-                                       |
| Atithi Satkar       | 27              | Rs. 2,000/-                                       |

\*Include Breakfast

### Cancellation Fee

50% of the Delegates Fee will be refunded upon cancellation received till 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016 up to 1600 hrs. By means of Letter, Fax or E-mail, to the Convention Secretariat. No refund will be given after the above mentioned date and time.

### Transport

Courtesy transfers will be provided for the delegates from the Airport / Railway Station to their respective hotels on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016 as per our schedule. Delegates will also be provided transport by coach, from their hotels to the Convention Venue and vice-a-versa, as per designated time schedule only.

### Identification Badge

Please collect the same from Registration Desk. Delegate badge must be worn at all times during the Convention. It is mandatory to present the badge when availing Lunch/ Dinner.

### Spouse Activity

Local sightseeing is planned for your spouse. Details will be available at the Delegate Registration Desk at Indore.

### Declaration

I/We will be settling all Hotel bills including all extra room-night charges, extra services consumed, if any, directly with the hotel.  
I /We also agree to pay for Hotel retention charges in the event of a "No Show" or any cancellation done as per the Hotel's policy.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Delegate name: \_\_\_\_\_

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Registration fees Includes Service Tax.
- Entry on first come first serve basis (Limited Seats available).
- Children above 14 years will be treated as adults.
- Delegate Fee includes dinner on 22nd September 2016 and Lunch and Dinner on 23rd & 24th September 2016.
- Cheque/ DD of the requisite amount favoring 'FHRAI CONVENTION ACCOUNT' must be sent along with the duly completed Delegate Registration Form to the Convention Secretariat Office at Mumbai.
- Online payments can also be made at [www.fhrai.com/convention](http://www.fhrai.com/convention)
- Registration Fee doesn't include hotel room charges, breakfast, any personal expenses such as Spa, laundry, room service, personal transportation etc.
- Every delegate must fill the Delegate Registration form and send it to The Secretariat at Mumbai, so as to enable us to issue identification tags. This is requested even from our guest and media persons.
- Acknowledgement Letter will be given to all confirmed registrations. This letter will be required for obtaining Hotel accommodation at a special rate as well as for collecting Identification Badge from the Delegate Registration Desk.
- This Registration Form may be photocopied for additional requests.
- Registration will not be confirmed until full Delegate Registration fee is received.
- Last date of Registration is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

\* All Correspondence to be address to Convention Secretariat

### CONVENTION SECRETARIAT

Hotel And Restaurant Association (Western India), 4, Candy House, 1st Floor, Mandlik Road, Colaba, Mumbai 400 001.  
Tel.: (022) 22024076 / 22831624/ 22819773 • Fax: (022) 22023515• E-mail: info@hrawi.com, convention@hrawi.com • Website: www.fhrai.com/convention

### The Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India

Regd. Office: B-82, 8th Floor, Himalaya House, 23, K. G. Marg, New Delhi - 110 001. Tel.: (011) 40780780, • Fax: (011) 40780777 • E-mail: fhrai@vsnl.com  
• Website: www.fhrai.com • CIN – U55100DL1955NPL002587



## Hoteliers observe Swachh Bharat Pakhwada

Swachh Bharat Pakhwada, a fortnight cleanliness drive announced by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India has elicited a strong response from hotels across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa and the Union Territories of Daman, Diu &



Silvassa. Under this drive, the measures adopted ranged from setting up of long term cleanliness and waste management programmes to short term cleanliness activities within the premises, and initiating cleanliness awareness campaigns.

“The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) has always worked hand-in-hand with the Government whether it’s about outlining a plan for tourism-friendly policies or supporting its social welfare campaigns such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. This time again, the association offered its strong support to Swachh Bharat Pakhwada,” said Mr. Bharat Malkani, President, HRAWI. “The association not only serves the interests of the hotel and restaurant industry by advocating tourism-friendly policies in conjunction with the State and Central Governments but also contributes towards community development and society at large time to time by initiating various campaigns actively,” he added.

The Swachh Bharat Pakhwada fortnight included activities such as displaying placards in hotel premises suggesting patrons to keep their surroundings clean, hotel managers having dialogues with customers on the subject, placing stickers outside hotel premises for keeping the area litter-free, discouraging the usage of plastic bags, providing cotton napkins instead of tissue papers wherever possible among others, apart from several other cleanliness practices followed by hotels and restaurants.

The Hon. Prime Minister has given a call for ‘Swachh Bharat’ as a mass movement to realize Gandhiji’s dream of a Clean India by the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019. Ministries and Departments have undertaken various activities in connection with the campaign. However, it has been felt that the range, intensity and visibility of these activities need to increase significantly. Accordingly, Government has decided to observe theme-wise fortnights, Ministry to Ministry and Department to Department, states the letter received by the association from Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

“In our industry cleanliness is not just a practice but a core value. For our guests, irrespective of the type of

accommodation, cleanliness and hygiene are the basic criteria and they won’t return to a property that does not comply with this. As hoteliers, we have decided to take up the cleanliness initiatives very seriously. Although many of the practices are followed on a regular basis, the initiative will certainly revive the intensity of the drive,” Mr. Malkani further elaborated.

‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ is a national campaign by the Government of India and was officially launched on 02nd October 2014. ■

## Vadodara Municipal Corporation Abolishes Health License For Hotels & Restaurants

### HRAWI Hails Move; To Press For Curtailing Of Licenses Across Cities

In a landmark move the Vadodara Municipal Corporation has abolished health licenses for hotels and restaurants operating in the city. According to a notification issued by the Corporation, Sanitary Health License under G.P.M.C Act was duplication as health and sanitation are already covered under Food & Safety Act 2006. “Central Govt and State Govt has in recent times been emphasising on ‘ease of doing business’ and simplification of regulations to reduce difficulties faced by general public. Considering this matter, with immediate effect, Vadodara Municipal Corporation, Ward Offices, Health Department, has cancelled issuance of Health License under Sec. 376 of G. P. M. C. Act, wherever license under Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006 is required and issued,” states the notification.



Hailing the move as a milestone in the history of corporate India, The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI), the apex body representing hotels and restaurant across the western region of India has commended Vadodara’s new Municipal Commissioner and expressed hope that other cities will follow the precedent.

“For the last nine years we have been petitioning Municipalities across the Western Region for the exclusion of this particular license as it was a repetition and merely added to paper work and red tapism. The association welcomes the decision and appreciates the affirmative and expedited action of Mr. H.S.Patel, Municipal Commissioner, Vadodara,” says Mr. Bharat Malkani, President, HRAWI.

As per law, when any Central law is applicable, then the provisions of that law prevail over local laws and any



provisions in local laws up to that extent become inapplicable. The Central Govt. has issued notification to this effect under the Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006 and also remarked the same in a circular.

“The hotel industry is one of the most licensed industries in India and is required to obtain and maintain anywhere around 75 to 135 licenses, depending upon the outlet's layout. Over the past decade and more, it has been solely our Association that has been in liaison with the Government to remove redundant and overlapping condition licenses, where such duplications could have been easily done away with long ago,” says Mr. Kamlesh Barot, past President, HRAWI.

The HRAWI has been at the forefront for working with the Government as part of inclusive governance. It has made several presentations at state levels including the idealistic, single window clearance system, which has in-principle received a nod from the authorities.

“As an Association working in conjunction with the Government, our objectives are an extension of our aim of serving the HRAWI members. In Mumbai too, it was HRAWI's pioneering efforts for 24/7 operations and a vibrant nightlife, that the Government has almost adopted the centre's model Shops & Establishment Act. We have also proposed alternatively, five Tourism Zones to the authorities to pilot the implementation of this new amendment in certain designated areas of the city, where tourism can be promoted without disturbing any residents, thus providing international level places of recreation in this metropolis. Likewise with the single window clearance system, HRAWI has presented to the Government the advantages of introducing online systems that will lead to the curtailing of bureaucracy and make processes swift, transparent and efficient for consumers and the authorities as well as for establishments to invest. We have big hopes from this Government and are positive that it will make the 'Ease of Business' a reality for industries like us,” concludes Mr. Barot. ■

## Western State Tourism Boards Ready To Attract Tourists During Monsoon Season

Monsoon is considered a slack period for the tourism boards and hotels. Most of the states used to witness a dip in the tourism footfall. But with the new concept of 'Monsoon tourism', some of the Western states have regained tourism numbers even during the lean period. States like Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh are organising unique monsoon festivals and discount packages to attract more domestic traffic.



Goa is one of the first states to introduce the monsoon tourism concept.

Nikhil Desai, Managing Director, Goa Tourism Development Corporation, said, "Goa is probably one of the best states during the monsoon time. The private and state run hotels have offered special packages for the monsoon season. We will also be promoting MICE tourism during this season. We are exploring every possible means to attract domestic as well as international tourists."

Madhya Pradesh Tourism has also started promoting destinations like the Hanuwantia, Pachmari, Tamiya, Khajuraho and Mandu amongst others as a monsoon destination.

Gujarat is promoting monsoon through a month long Saputara Monsoon Festival every year. Gujarat Tourism is investing heavily to set up infrastructure at Saputara and to develop this hill station as a major tourist destination.

Speaking about the monsoon tourism in Maharashtra, Satish Soni, Director of Tourism - Government of Maharashtra and Joint Managing Director MTDC said, "For monsoon tourism, popular destinations in Maharashtra are mostly located in the Konkan region. Major monsoon destinations which we promote are Malshej and Matheran. We have got good enquiries and some good bookings from July to September. In monsoon, people also travel to Mahabaleshwar, Amboli, Tarkarli, and Ganpatiphule. But the issue at such beach destinations is that water sports and boats are not allowed during rains. This year, we are introducing a new attraction. We have the institute of scuba diving where we have a 25 feet tank, with a few innovative ideas; we will create a marine life experience in this tank. So, that people can experience the marine life without entering the sea." Also, this year MTDC is planning to organize a monsoon festival in the state. Mr. Soni added, "We are targeting all the segments including MICE for monsoon tourism. We are also facilitating for the senior citizen by giving them various discount. This year we will come up with a monsoon festival to attract more numbers.

This year the monsoon is set to deliver good tourism possibilities in the western state by the initiative of the state tourism development Corporation. ■

## V.M Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education opened its campus in Goa

Aiming to be the country's best hotel management institute, V.M Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education (VMSIHE) opens in the sunny state of Goa.

The illustrious V.M.Salgaocar Group which has established a business legacy in the state has set up the V.M Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education (VMSIHE). The Vishwa Saraswati Society set up by the V.M Salgaocar Group will manage and promote the hospitality education institute. Mr. Dattaraj V. Salgaocar is the Chairman of the Society while Mr. Shivanand V. Salgaocar is the Vice-Chairman.

Affiliated to the Goa University and with an academic collaboration with the Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland, the institute offers a B.Sc in International Hospitality Management. The institute has forged a strategic tie-up with the international hospitality chain, the Marriott Group for knowledge sharing and training purposes.

The V.M Salgaocar Group now enters a new phase in its legacy with the completion of its new state-of-the-art campus at Raia in south Goa spread across 6 acres of lush greenery surrounded by green fields that roll into the horizon.

Situated approximately 30 kms from the capital city Panaji, 5 kms from Margao and 25 kms from the airport, the campus is the perfect place for a student to learn and be nurtured into hotel management professionals and hospitality leaders of the future.

The well designed campus has a fully functional 5 starred training hotel on campus, complete with a grand lobby area and reception, well appointed guestrooms, restaurant, kitchen area and banqueting facilities. Additionally, the institute has spacious classrooms equipped with technologically advanced facilities including central air conditioning, LCD screens, projectors, laptops and wi-fi connectivity. The classrooms are designed keeping in mind factors such as natural sunlight, weather conditions and comfort of students.

The World Travel and Tourism Council calculated that tourism generated INR 6.4 trillion or 6.6% of the nation's GDP in 2012 and supported 39.5 million jobs. The sector is predicted to grow at an average annual rate of 7.9% from 2013 to 2023. This gives India the third rank among countries with the fastest growing tourism industries over the next decade. The hospitality industry is one of the fastest growing sectors and requires trained and skilled employees, hence the need for a world – class institute in the country.

The B.Sc in International Hospitality Management, affiliated to the Goa University and with an academic



V. M. SALGAOCAR INSTITUTE  
of  
INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY EDUCATION

collaboration with the Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland has been designed along the lines of the best hotel management programs in the world, under the guidance of senior industry and academic experts.

The program provides participants an in-depth exposure to various facets of the industry, departmental processes related to Food & Beverage planning, Showmanship, Front Office and Housekeeping practices, human resource management, food production operations and more. Course curriculum will include academic learning, practical sessions and professional internships in top hotels in India and abroad.

Mr. Dattaraj V. Salgaocar, Chairman, Vishwa Saraswati Society stated, “ At the V.M. Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education in Goa, we shall educate the next generation of leaders for the world's hospitality industry. Under the able guidance of our dynamic faculty, the next batch of corporate leaders and entrepreneurs will gain knowledge, hone their skills and take hospitality to new heights around the globe. Our curriculum provides academic rigor and a practical exposure to the demanding needs of the hospitality industry and personalize our students' experiences, both inside and outside the campus. Our faculty and students will work with business leaders to develop new ideas, theories and models that improve strategic, managerial and operating practices in the hospitality industry.”

Professor Irfan Mirza, Director, V.M Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education said, “We offer an unique curriculum and world class infrastructure to prepare the students to the ever changing needs of hospitality. Our goal is to make this institute as the center of excellence for Hospitality industry in India. There has been a tremendous amount of thought and planning which has gone into creating this program. Inputs and guidance was sought from senior management and industry leaders from the industry coupled with research and analysis on the sector. What has resulted is a comprehensive, effective and specialized hospitality management program which is the only one of its kind in the country.”

The three year full time program offers a total of 240 credits, 90 in the first year and 75 credits each in the second and third year. The course boasts of a dedicated experienced faculty, world class infrastructure, interactions with industry experts and professional internships in top hotels in India and abroad.

On completion of the course, graduates from this program will be unusually well qualified to understand and respond to the issues and challenges faced by the hotel management industry. ■

## Hotel Marine Plaza Mumbai recently appointed Kshitiz Shekhar as Executive Chef



This elegant bayside hotel in Mumbai's Churchgate area is a 4-minute walk away from Brabourne Cricket Stadium and 3.5 km from the Gothic Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station.

The plush, contemporary rooms and suites come with high-speed Internet and satellite TV, plus minibars, and tea and coffee making facilities, room service is offered 24/7. Upgraded units add sea views, marble bathrooms, dining areas. Freebies include parking, and breakfast served in a 24-hour, buffet-style restaurant. There's also a Chinese restaurant, a bar serving light bites, and an outdoor pool and hot tub. A fitness room is also available.

Chef Kshitiz Shekhar has been appointed as the Executive Chef at Hotel Marine Plaza, a premium brand of Sarovar Hotels & Resorts Mumbai. With an enriching experience of 14 years in the industry, he started his career as an Industrial Trainee at The Resort, Mumbai. Before joining Hotel Marine Plaza chef served as Executive Sous Chef for Intercontinental, Marine Drive, Mumbai and had taken care of kitchen operations.

He has worked with reputed international & Indian hotel chains like Intercontinental Marine Drive, Hotel Sahara Star, Sheraton Saint Louis City Center, USA & ITC Grand Maratha Sheraton & Towers.

He was also awarded Nestle young star chef in 2005. Chef Kshitiz is multi talented and is a task master. Being able to multi task efficiently, he juggles various responsibilities with ease. With a firm management skill, Chef Kshitiz is brilliant enough to undertake new tasks and complete them with utmost perfection. Training being an integral part of his profile, Chef Kshitiz is constantly guiding and training junior chefs to reach the efficacy in every menu and presentation. Passionate for food, Chef Kshitiz keeps exploring various new ingredients to create an innovative recipe, something that his patrons can vouch for. No wonder, Chef Kshitiz rules the kitchen and the stomach too. ■

## The Rio Group of Hotels Recently Launches Rio Royale, An All Suite Luxury Resort in the heart of Goa

Rio Group of Hotels is owned by Anup Shah, a London based lawyer, and his wife Alpa Shah and it focuses

on conceptualizing, designing, building and managing their own hotels. The ethos of the group is to create employment and offer opportunities and learning skills; to create and sustain a thriving local economy and directly and indirectly provide opportunities to the locals. A distinctive feature of the group is the unique style of functioning. The senior management does not have a hotel management background so they write their own rules and the decisions taken are not only customer centric but in the best interest of the organization as a whole. The group believes that employees come first and this is the main reason for its success. Indeed, it is the employees who have nurtured the legendary Rio culture which guests come to enjoy over and over again. Rio Group of Hotels currently owns two resorts in Goa and aims to continue providing new product innovations and services to meet guests' evolving needs.

The Rio Group of Hotels, which owns and manages the highly successful Resort Rio, the five star Luxury Deluxe Spa Resort in Arpora, recently announced the launch of its brand new Luxury resort, Rio Royale, in North Goa. Rio Royale is an inspiring blend of contemporary style, unparalleled facilities and the legendary Rio culture. This All Suite property will offer bespoke experiences, distinctive spa sojourns, signature culinary delights and a world of sophisticated luxury.



Inspired by the famous temples of Khajuraho, Rio Royale embodies grandeur and opulence, exemplifying a regal lifestyle. Intricate handmade carvings from sandstone and innovative and engaging spaces can be found throughout the resort making every moment spent here reminiscent of royalty.

Rio Royale features 60 palatial suites styled with sophistication and enhanced with the comforts of a home. Each suite offers an incredible view and comes with a private balcony, master bedroom, elegant furnishings and a deluxe bathroom well equipped with a giant bath tub. An excellent blend of contemporary design, classic elegance and modern amenities lends an alluring charm to these suites.

Mr. Anup Shah, Managing Director, Rio Group of Hotels said, "We are overwhelmed with the response we have received for Resort Rio and are pleased to present Rio Royale which offers the highest standards of luxury and hospitality. The idea behind launching this new resort was to introduce our esteemed customers to an entirely different level of extravagance and that is why we decided to redefine the experience of hotel stays and make it more experiential with an enhanced level of service which is warm, caring and personalized."

Mrs. Alpa Shah, Director, Rio Group of Hotels added "Our

goal is to make a lasting impact on the local economy by creating jobs and opportunities, 80 % of our staff are locals. The concept, designing and interiors is all done in-house. We are confident that Rio Royale will set a benchmark by providing guests a chance to indulge themselves in a royal experience like never before at our resort.”

The resort’s culinary collection brings a multitude of superior tastes and gastronomic adventures to the table. Each restaurant here excels in its speciality giving guests a unique experience. You will find something to suit every mood and taste. From local Goan delicacies to traditional Indian fare, Pan – Asian flavors and delectable desserts and savories, it has it all. The innovative cocktails and the choicest of wines on offer set the tone for an exceptional gastronomical sojourn. Sweet Caju, the all-day dining multi-cuisine restaurant overlooking the pool offers culinary delights from around the world in classic manner with lavish buffet spreads and live counters. Café Royale, the 24X7 Lounge Bar is a perfect place to unwind and indulge in delectable desserts, savories and specialty coffees. It also features a well-stocked bar which offers exotic cocktails and refreshing beverages. Bebdo Bar reflects the Goan joie de vivre. This swim- up pool bar is an ideal place to lounge around, sip on your favorite drink and enjoy local delicacies. Rio Royale also offers guests romantic dining experiences like a private candle light dinner by a riverside gazebo.

For relaxation, rejuvenation and pampering, guests can head to Zaara – The Luxury Spa which offers holistic treatments and massages through a blend of unique therapies. Complete with a beauty salon, spa pool and a foot massage lounge, it is a place of personal peace, enchantment and wellbeing. This Luxury Resort also offers other upscale facilities like a wellness center with state-of-the-art fitness facilities, kids club and an open air pool with a swim- up bar.

In addition, Rio Royale also features an 1800 sq. ft. banquet hall and boasts of one of the biggest open air venue in North Goa for weddings and events, making it an ideal getaway for both leisure and business travellers.

Rio Royale offers an exotic balance between diversity, activity and exclusivity. With beautiful interiors, warm hospitality, thoughtful modern-day amenities and personalized services, it is an idyllic destination for a perfect holiday. ■

## Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Announced Its Opening In Karjat

Iconic, stylish and sophisticated, Radisson Blu creates excitingly individual hotels for individual minds. They delight travel savvy, modern guests with a genuine, inviting ambiance. They create excitement with their stunning, leading edge design and strive to engage each and every guest through their innovative and very relevant range of holistic facilities and services, including fast Free Internet.



Radisson Blu features 380 unique hotels, open or coming soon, in the world’s most desirable destinations in dynamic major cities, nearby airport gateways and in the most sought after leisure hotspots. It’s a perfect equation that adds up to a highly individual - and unforgettable – 360° hospitality experience, unrivalled anywhere in the world today.

Radisson Blu Resort & Spa announced its opening recently in Karjat. Positioned in the foothills of the stunning Sahyadri Mountains and along the Ulhas River, the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Karjat features a unique eastern design that draws from Thai and Balinese architectural styles to create a compelling and serene retreat. Only a two-hour drive from Mumbai and Pune, the resort is perfectly located for destination weddings, weekend getaways and overnight stays. After a full, peaceful night of sleep in one of the 102 rooms and suites, guests awake to beautiful mountain and river views and a full breakfast buffet in the all-day dining restaurant. Later, travelers can revive their minds and bodies with treatments in the spa and lounge by the sparkling swimming pool. While guests may prefer to stay on site and sip cocktails at the Pool Bar & Grill, plenty of excursions and attractions are a short drive away from the resort. Meeting and wedding planners are sure to fall in love with the stylish conference rooms and gorgeous outdoor venues that are paired with a dynamic staff that thrive on executing successful events.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Raj Rana, CEO, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, said, “We are excited to partner with Hill Crest Resorts to launch this upper upscale resort. This resort’s opening reinforces our commitment to enhance the brand’s portfolio and further expand our presence in resort destinations throughout India. With its unparalleled resort experience and commitment to excellence, we are confident Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Karjat will be a shining success.”

Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group is one of the world’s largest and most dynamic hotel groups and includes 1,400 hotels in operation and under development with more than 220,000 rooms and a footprint spanning 115 countries and territories. The Carlson Rezidor portfolio includes a powerful set of global brands: Quorvus Collection, Radisson Blu®, Radisson®, Radisson RED, Park Plaza®, Park Inn® by Radisson and Country Inns & Suites by CarlsonSM. In most hotels, guests can benefit from Club CarlsonSM, one of the 2015 - 2016 ‘Top Three Hotel Rewards Programs’ as ranked by U.S. News and World Report. Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group and its brands employ 90,000 people worldwide and is headquartered in Minneapolis, Singapore, and Brussels. ■

# HRAWI

## Hotel Hira

**215 / 217, Rajaram Mohan Roy Road, Prarthana Samaj, Girgaum, Mumbai- 400004**

Hotel Hira is a 2 star property, located at Girgaum in the heart of South Mumbai near Opera House. With Railway Stations, Commercial Markets and Hospitals in close proximity; Hotel Hira is a convenient choice for accommodation. Hotel Hira Provides Luxurious Homely Comfortable Accommodation with facilities like 24 Hour Room Service, Same Day Laundry Service, Doctor on Call, Internet, BIG TV Channel and more. ■



## The Mint

**Dhole Patil Road, Next to Tehmi Nursing Institute, Behind Desai House, Pune- 411001**



The Mint is a 4 star, avant-garde boutique hotel, with a combination of fully serviced apartments and rooms. Mint is strategically located in the heart of the Pune city with a close proximity to the station, airport, renowned hospitals and commercial activities. Standing tall in a quaint lane, off the main road, the hotel welcomes you to a vibrant & dramatic atrium space which is designed to uplift your spirits & calm ones senses. They take pride in offering guests the largest room space, which is designed on different themes such as Thai, Indian and Contemporary. Their banquets and multi cuisine restaurant provide a great ambience for events and a relaxed meal. A Home away from home - For a short/long stay, Mint also offers fully serviced - well equipped apartments for those who seek the comforts & luxury of a home. For Business or Leisure, Mint assures a comfortable & memorable stay. ■

# Extends a Warm Welcome to its New Members

## Regenta Central Harimangla, Bharuch

**Near ABC Circle, Old Nh. 8, Bholav, Bharuch, Gujarat -392015**

Regenta Central Harimangla, Bharuch is a Three star business hotel with 104rooms including Presidential Suite, Suite, Hollywood Twin, Executive and Deluxe



Rooms. All rooms are WIFI enabled. The hotel houses a modern well-equipped conference hall named Autumn that accommodates 140 to 150 people and one other small board room accommodating 25-30 people each for business as well conference meetings. It also houses a banquet hall named Seasons accommodating 400 to 450 guests and a lawn too for gatherings of 700 to 800 people, that can go from traditional to stylish set ups and serving their guest with mouth watering dishes. Guests can also experience all day dining experience at PinXX (Coffee Shop) serving various cuisines like Indian, Chinese and Continental in Buffet & Alacarte; wherein guest can simply order some world class food that will simply tickle ones taste buds away. It also has a multi-cuisine restaurant named Sky Light serving wide array of delicacies. The Hotel is suited to both corporate and leisure transit travellers. Unwind yourself and have a wonderful stay at Regenta Central Harimangla. ■

## Grand O7 Suites & Convention

**Near Bopal 444, Off S.P. Ring Road, Club O7 Road, Shela, Ahmedabad, Gujarat- 380058**



Grand O7 Suites & Convention is a luxury property. Certified 5\* Suites & Convention hotel is located just a few minutes drive from the various

business hubs and around 30 minutes drive from the Ahmedabad Airport & Railway Station (27 Kms from the Airport and 22 Kms from the Railway Station). It has been built for comfortable & luxurious experience especially during large scale conferences and social engagements.

With larger than life surroundings, convention facilities and state-of-the-art features, one will surely experience world class services with the touch of Indian hospitality. It is a much-preferred venue for business conferences, long stay, weddings, parties and social get-togethers. Nearest to all industrial hub around Ahmedabad. ■

## Chocolateria San Churro

Shop No. 6, Royal Classic Building, Next to City Mall,  
Andheri Link Road, Andheri West- Mumbai



Well this place is easy to spot and is been situated on the busy street of Andheri Lokhandwala between PVR Cit Mall and Infiniti mall. The place looks decent and has good sitting arrangements inside and outside too. The lighting is calm and welcoming. The ambience is good for a churro-themed outlet. Don't think twice about coming in a huge group in this spacious cafe. Big tables with pleasant desserts greet you on the left when you enter. Their service is quick and always with a smile. They will even throw in a couple of worthy suggestions.

The joy of marshmallows bathed in chocolate with churros and whipped cream is heavenly. Their signature dessert Berry Bizcocho is a must try. They also have a wide range of savories such as pizzas, burgers, pastas and breakfast items as well.

Want the best churros- Head here without doubt!!! ■

## Wok Express

84 Veer Nariman Road, Churchgate, Mumbai /  
Bomanjee Petit Road, Kemps Corner, Mumbai /  
Pali Naka, Bandra (W), Mumbai



Lenexis FoodWorks was initiated with a strong and focused vision to become one of the leading players in the Indian food industry. Our venture "Wok Express" is a quick service restaurant serving signature flavours from across Asia. The idea behind Wok Express was to be able to customize your food the way you like it.

In just four simple steps, you are able to choose your base (noodles or rice), your favourite vegetables or meat, and

finally the sauce of your choice with condiments. This is wok tossed right in front of you, and served piping hot! Cheung Fun, Dumplings, Sushi, Baos and Bubble Teas are also accompaniments.

In a short span of 7 months, we have set up our first four outlets in Mumbai (Bandra Pali Naka, Kemps Corner, Andheri Lokhandwala & Churchgate) and are rapidly expanding in other parts of Mumbai and rest of India. Food enthusiasts can watch their woks be stir-fried in front of their eyes with animation and flair, or opt for a speedy home delivery with the help of our trained ninjas.

We are also opened at BKC, Infiniti Mall Andheri (W), Infiniti Mall Malad West & Phoenix Market City Kurla (W). ■

## The Oberoi Gulshan

Vill and P.O Mundra, Bhatagaon, Raipur-492001



Drive in restaurant, The Oberoi Gulshan in a one of the most spectacular & blissful riverside location in Raipur & is one of the best restaurants, serving delicious veg & nonveg food and famous with locals as well as families staying in an around the locality. Be it dal makhani or chinese starters they have a wide range of delicacies, meanings to stylish, luxurious and yet relaxed parties & weekend funs. The most beautiful sprawling green lawns with a poolside party place too. They have sheer range of party packages & amazing leisure facilities. ■

## Gopi Dining Hall

1 to 5, G. F. Sahjanand Palace, Opp. Rahul Tower, 100'  
Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad



Gopi Dining Hall is known for the homely Gujarati food that they serve. Thali's with unlimited meals and constant refills are served here. At

night, you can get Kathiawadi food too.

The staff warmly welcomes patrons and is attentive to any special requests made by them. This is yet another reason for Gopi being so popular with foreigners and other upstate visitors. Corporate executives, artists, writers and visiting celebrities - have dropped in. The decor is rather simple as the main focus is on the food. ■

# Western India Monsoon Destination



**M**onsoon holidays in western India are surely a lifetime experience as the exotic locations leave one spellbound with its beauty. The hills and mountains get carpeted with lush greenery, the lakes overflow with sparkling water, the waterfall sceneries become heavenly to make one fall in love with Incredible India.

There is no doubt that India is a land of diversity; diversity in landscapes, diversity in culture, diversity in language, and more. It is the grandeur of its heritage and the beauty of its places that transforms it into a dreamland.

The monsoon not just washes clean all the dust and dirt that had been gathering over the hot summer months, but monsoon heralds new life.

And what a perfect time to enjoy yourselves. You could be out reliving the days of your childhood as you hop about in puddles or you could enjoy the rains from indoors as you nurse a cup of hot tea.

And just as the rains slow down to a drizzle and the clouds drift away to water other places, you can step out into a fresh world.

The Indian Monsoons have already begun and if you have been among the ones longing to enjoy the beautiful lush greens, getting soaked in the rain, the cool breezy weather then are some heavenly getaways that you cannot afford to miss in Western India. Monsoons are best enjoyed away from the city and in the cradle of nature.

## Maharashtra

The state of Maharashtra offers one of the best views of nature during the monsoon season in India. Konkan coastal strip along with the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats also known as the Sahyadri Range are the few major attractions in Maharashtra

### Malshej Ghat

A hill station in the mighty Sahyadri ranges, this place in monsoon is engulfed in green hills and innumerable waterfalls. The drive to Malshej Ghat through itself is calming with the picturesque view of the splendid valleys and placid lakes. This mountain pass is also home to various flora and fauna; flamingos are known to come here all the way from Europe during the monsoons! An excellent place to visit for outdoor activities like trekking, hiking, bird watching and there are some good resorts nearby to relax and rejuvenate as well.

### Lonavla & Khandala

The twin hill stations of Lonavla and Khandala close to the Deccan Plateau offers a combined package of land and water. Surrounded by lush greenery and little puddles of water and gushing streams, this is an all in one place to visit in monsoon. The Bhushi Dam situated nearby has a beautiful waterfall to boast; bathe in the streams or have a picnic nearby. Little shacks of food offer some warm tasty dishes! Rajmachi View Point and a Celebrity Wax museum made on the lines of the London's Madame Tussaud's is a new attraction nearby.

### Durshet

Covered in thick forests in the lap of the magnificent Sahyadri ranges with the Amba River flowing through the woods; combined offer a tranquil and pleasant atmosphere for a quick monsoon getaway. The place is full of waterfalls in the rainy season



where one can enjoy trekking through the falls and greenery. For the more adventure seekers, Durshet also offers adventurous activities like rock climbing, rappelling, river crossing, etc. Durshet is also filled with a wide variety of flora and fauna; you can hear the shrill of the birds chirping or see a butterfly at work!

### Lohagad Fort

One of the hill forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, this fort is a perfect blend of historic and adventure. The entrance of the fort is called the Wind Spot which leaves you literally swept off your feet. Lohagad Fort offers a splendid view from the top. From the top you can view the Tung and Tikona Hills, the Pavana Dam and the Duke's Nose. In monsoon the fort is covered in various shades of green making it a sight to behold.

### Amba Khori

One of the most famous picnic spots near Nagpur, Amba Khori's beauty doesn't fail to capture its audience's senses. Located close to the Pench River's bank, this waterfall is known for the peace and serenity it exudes. Visit early morning to enjoy the changing hues of the landscape as the day passes.

### Mulshi Dam

A quick 3 hour drive from Mumbai, Mulshi Dam is your one day escape route from Mumbai's chaos. The Dam built on the Mula River is a major electricity generator for Maharashtra. In the peak monsoon season, the dam flows in full force and there is a deep fog in the region making it feel like literally walking in the clouds. A drive to Mulshi itself is invigorating with the area covered in forest lands and mist.

### Karnala

An envelope of green with gushing waterfalls, Karnala is one of the closest places near Mumbai situated just 80 Kms away.

Treks or drive through Karnala from Mumbai offers a majestic view of the misty Sahyadri Ranges in the monsoon. The waterfalls are refreshing and the Karnala Fort has much to explore. Karnala Bird Sanctuary is home to some of the most exotic birds. Monsoon sees a variety of migratory birds.

### Thoseghar

Thoseghar Village in Satara is filled with waterfalls ranging from 20 meters to 500 meters in height. The Thoseghar Falls, one of the best waterfalls are in their prime in the monsoon with more water gushing from the heights. A calm and serene surrounding with a quiet lake and the only noise filling the silence is from the waterfalls. An ideal place for picnic, a quick swim in the lake or for just watching the ebb and flow of water.

### Kalsubai Peak

The highest peak in the Sahyadri Ranges (1646m) of Maharashtra, it doesn't get better than this. Filled with lush vegetation which also sees a lot of springs and streams during monsoon, Kalsubai Peak is a great monsoon getaway. It has a temple at the top and offers a magnificent view of the backwaters of Bhandardara. An ideal trekking place for adventure enthusiasts; one can also head to the Bhandardara Dam nearby which often overflows in the monsoon.

## Matheran

When you think of a weekend monsoon getaway, the first thing you think about is quiet and calm. Then what better than Matheran, which has rule of no vehicles allowed within the town! Just the journey to Matheran is exciting, a train ride in a heritage railway and travel around the town on horseback or hand pulled rickshaws. The hills themselves have much to offer as the clouds practically descends over it in the monsoon and with an adjoining valley it has over 30 lookout points, the beautiful Charlotte Lake and the ancient Pisarnath Mahadev Temple are the most famous.

## Alibaug

A drive to Alibaug is just as beautiful as the place itself. Alibaug has many beaches to boast and the Kolaba sea fort just around the corner. However, for monsoon give the beaches a skip and head instead to Korlai Fort – a half hour distance from Alibaug, it is a lesser known destination but a fantastic place to visit. Sprawling fort depicting Portuguese, Moghal and Maratha architecture this fort has changed a few hands of reigns. An easy trekking to the top offers a panoramic view of the sea and right down under you can enjoy a swim in what looks like the ruins of the Royal Bath.

## Kolad

Close to the Mumbai – Goa Highway, Kolad is a quaint little place quite close to Mumbai with serene lake surrounded by hillocks and bursting waterfalls. The Kundalika River flows through Kolad and is full to brim in the monsoons, flowing in much gusto. There are white water river rafting facilities at the river. One can also enjoy a swim in the lake or trek about the hillocks near the waterfalls.

## Mahabaleshwar

The most popular hill station in the Sahyadri Ranges of Maharashtra, Mahabaleshwar offers a fantastic panoramic view of surrounding hills and valleys. Monsoons cover the area in thick vegetation and waterfalls and springs crop up. Mahabaleshwar receives some of the highest rainfalls in Maharashtra which makes the hilltops look dressed in rains. About 20 Kms from Mahabaleshwar, there is another hill station called Panchgani. It receives comparatively

less rainfall than Mahabaleshwar and has beautiful valleys and rock formations to boast. It has Asia's second largest mountain plateau called Table Land. Apart from this, Sydney Point, Devil's Kitchen and Parsi Point are some other attractions.

## Tapola

Widely known as Mini Kashmir, Tapola is a satellite village of Mahabaleshwar about 25 Kms ahead of it. Because of its raw beauty and untouched natural landscape, it's a perfect place to visit in monsoon, when the entire area is lush with greenery. One can get an amazing view of the Koyana Dam, which is one of the biggest dams in Maharashtra. But the main attraction at Tapola is the Shivsagar Lake, which all water sports lovers will absolutely love. There are also many strawberry farms and nurseries around Tapola.

## Bhandardara

Bhandardara is a peaceful holiday resort village nestled in the Sahyadri Hills in the Western Ghats. It is located right next to the Pravara River from where one can get spectacular views of the natural beauty in the area. Arthur Lake and Randha falls are the main attractions here. Lying amidst lush greenery, high hills and water, Bhandardara is the perfect monsoon getaway from the hustle and bustle of the city life.

## Igatpuri

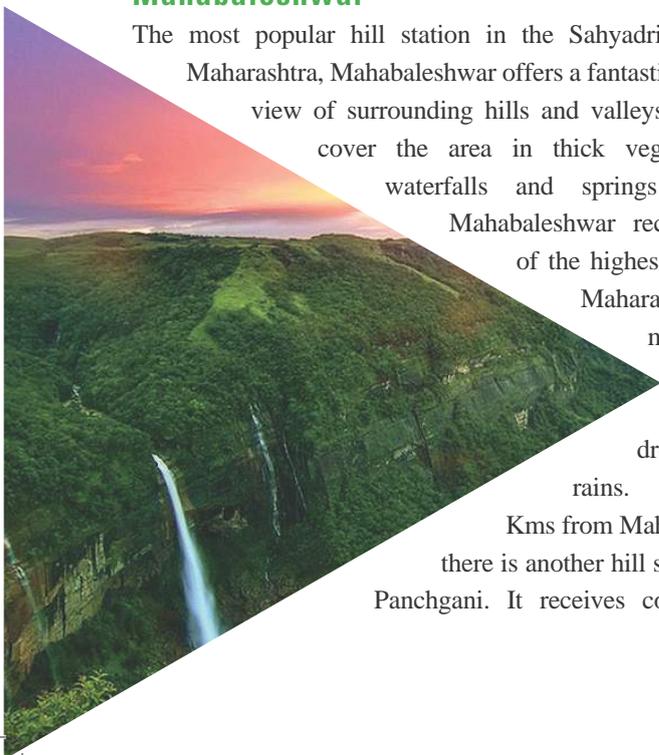
Igatpuri is one of the best monsoon getaways away from the crazy city life. It is a small and charming hill station located in the Sahyadri Hills in the Western Ghats. Dense forests and a number of ancient temples characterize the landscape of Igatpuri. It is renowned for the Vipassana International Academy where one can learn the age old technique of meditation called Vipassana. During monsoon, this tiny place is transformed into another world altogether, especially with the greenery and cool atmosphere.

## GOA

The monsoons season in Goa is simply a magical experience. The real beauty and grandeur of Goa is at its height during the rainy season when it offers a plethora of unique experiences. The rivers joyfully overflow with their rushing streams, the trees dance to the tune of the winds, the mountains and the fields cover themselves with a verdant green carpet ready to welcome you to a land of eternal beauty.

Time to break another myth! Let's talk about Goa beyond its sunny self: True, it's one of the coolest beach destinations in the world and it's just awesome to get tanned at Baga and Candolim. But have you ever considered visiting Goa in Monsoon? No? Well, then you should.

Let me help you paint that picture in your mind. Think empty,



drenched beaches; pristine greens, swelling waterfalls and all the financial benefits of an off season visit. Yes, now you know what I am talking about.

So, here are some compelling reasons and things to do in Goa during monsoon that will have you fall in love with its drenched form.

Goa's iconic Dudhsagar falls is in its full glory during the rains which is one of the most amazing monsoon activities in Goa. Its powerful gush becomes almost dizzying! Stand close too close to it could get you completely drenched.

You can reach the falls either by train or by road through Panaji or Madgaon. And if your young bones are screaming out for more you could also trek up the falls.

Monsoon in Goa brings in the joy of many festivities like; fertility feast of Sao Joao and festival of St Peter that's celebrated by erecting floating stages in the rivers and various cultural programmes. In monsoon the Divar Island gets ready for the famous Bonderam Festival. The festival begins with a vibrant parade with multi coloured flags and the entire island comes alive with performances by famous local bands.

The haunting beauty of the Chapora fort and the Vagator beach makes it some of the best places to visit in Goa in monsoon. There are other forts as well which are great to visit but Chapora definitely make it to the top of the list when it's all cloudy and beautiful.

The wildlife sanctuaries are definitely the best places to visit in Goa in monsoon. Unlike other places, the reserves here are open throughout the year and to witness fresh, green and pristine milieu washed in the rain is an experience you just can't miss. Some of Goa's popular wildlife sanctuaries include Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, The Bhagwan Mahavir Sanctuary, Mollem National Park and Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary.

The spice plantations are no less refreshing and pristine, washed up in the Goan torrents. The Savoi spice plantation is one of the most beautiful places to visit in Goa during monsoon that can be reached through a serene drive along the verdant valley and tropical forests.

All the lover of rains must visit Goa in monsoon to see how the little drops from the sky illuminates the place and makes it unbelievably pristine and romantic. It comes alive in a lush green tropical vibe and everything feels fresh, wet and clean.

So, now that you're aware of all the amazing things to do in Goa in monsoon, you can satiate your rainy day wanderlust even when you're badly strapped for cash.

## Gujarat

Gujarat is another place in Western India which is a must visit in the monsoon season. Breathtakingly beautiful around monsoon and the seasonal falls are among the most picturesque sights in the Gujarat.

### Gira Falls

Located about 5 km from Waghai town, the Gira waterfall is a 30 m natural drop in the Ambica River. It is open to public and accessible during the year. Tribal artists sell aesthetic handicrafts here. Gira Falls are the most popular falls in Gujarat. Also known as Gira Dhodh, the place attracts massive visitors as it falls on the Saputara road. One can visit the nearby Waghai Botanical Garden as well.

### Girmal Waterfalls

Touted as the tallest waterfall of Gujarat, deep inside the wild forests of Dang, Girmal stands tall spawning tiny water particles infinitely. Silver fog and 7 colored rainbows are often seen through. Forest department has built spectacular view points and pathways. Safety railing is roped to prevent accidents. Steps are carved as well to reach near Girmal. On the way to Girmal, at some point, the river Gira takes a complete U-turn. Forest department has developed a beautiful viewpoint exactly above the U-turn. Eco-Development Committee of the department also runs a restaurant named 'U-turn restaurant'. Tasty food, do try it. A full day is needed for this destination. You will cherish the memories of this adventure forever.

### Shankar Waterfall

Shankar waterfall has recently gained eyeballs of tourists. It was unknown to most people a couple of years back. Unlike Gira or Girmal, this fall doesn't unleash gallons of waters to the bottom; instead a thin stream of water showers the earth. Fortunately, that's why one can trek to the bottom and take a shower!

## Madhya Pradesh

Reckoned as the heart of India, Madhya Pradesh has been the best example of nature's beauty. History, Art and Culture is not the only reasons for which Madhya Pradesh is famous, there are some cascading beauties as well that lures nature enthusiasts in large numbers. Waterfall of Madhya Pradesh is as vivacious as



its culture. The cascading beauties of Madhya Pradesh make one understand the real meaning of the quote said by an anonymous 'Live like a waterfall, free and wild.'

The scenic beauty of these waterfalls is opulent; its everlasting scenery makes all these places favorite of photography lovers and nature enthusiasts. So, the tourist is a nature lover then they should make their way to these cascades. Waterfalls of Madhya Pradesh are in full swing during the monsoon season as the heavy downpour fills the waterfalls to the brim. Diversity is synonymous to Madhya Pradesh; the dynamic state is a surreal land that has captivated the hearts of many tourists.

### Dhuandhar Waterfalls

North, South, East, West, Madhya Pradesh has a sizeable number of waterfalls. One of the finest most among them all is the Dhuandhar. The water curves show its unique faces in different seasons. During the months of monsoon, the water rapids turn ferocious while in summer, the look is different as one can see beautiful crevasses the water has carved into the limestone. What makes this cascade special is not its length but its surroundings beauty that is spectacular to experience.

### Tincha Waterfalls

About 25 km from Indore, Tincha Falls, is an ideal weekend getaway. The water drips from a height of about 300 ft and it facilitates for bathing in the river upstream. The exuberant and spectacular waterfall has a pond nearby, which enhances the beauty of the place. It's a sight to behold especially in the monsoons when it is in full and furious flow. From a distance, the waterfall appears like streams of milk rushing down the mountainside. There is also a couple of pools because of the cascading water everywhere that one can swim in, making Tincha Falls a great place for a day full of fun and frolic.

### Apsara Vihar Waterfalls

Apsara Vihar or Fairy Pool offers a shining silver fall cascading down five levels to form five little bathing pools called Panchali Kund, then falling another 30 ft to create the spectacular Fairy Pool itself. Away from the water, there are great views to be had if you climb up the lingam-shaped peak of Chauragarh.

### Bee Waterfalls

A popular waterfall in Pachmarhi, Bee Fall is a perfect picnic

spot. This scenic hill station in the heart of India is dotted with shimmering waterfalls. You can reach Bee Fall by taking a jeep and then trekking up a few meters. Take a refreshing bath or just swim in the pool -- the waterfall lets you make the most of your time.

### Patal Pani Waterfalls

Located at a distance of 36 kilometers from Indore, Patal Pani is quite famous for its grand 150 feet high waterfall. Interestingly, till date, the depth of the pond that forms at the bottom of the fall is unknown. Going with the tale attached to the name of the place, the depth of the pond goes as deep as the underground world, more locally known as Patal. The spot is also equally popular as a trekking hub for many adventure enthusiasts. If you are not one of them, Patal Pani is also a popular picnic spot if you are looking for a day full of fun and frolic with your family and friends.

### Raneh Waterfalls

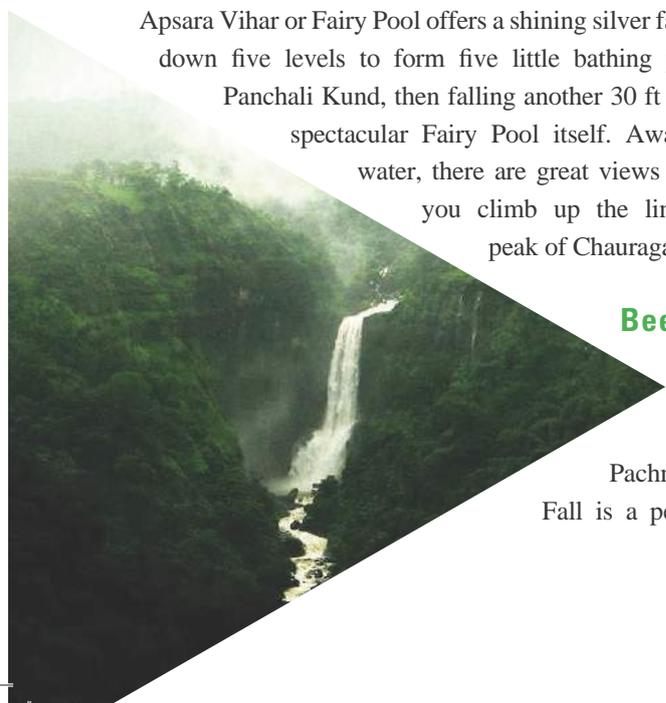
Named after King Rane Pratap, the erstwhile ruler of the region, Raneh waterfalls is a real treat to the eyes. A natural water fall on the confluence of Ken and Khuddar River, it is located in the Chhatarpur district in Madhya Pradesh. The cascading waterfall is quite scenic and is surrounded by wonderful rock formations. Raneh falls are about 20 km from Khajuraho, and are located just where the Ken Gharial Sanctuary begins. The river forms a 5 km long and 30 meters deep canyon, the main attraction at Raneh waterfalls, through which there are series of waterfalls. The canyon is made of pure crystalline granite in varying shades of colours ranging from pink and red to grey. Apart from a few large and small falls which are formed at the assemblage, some of the seasonal falls also appear during monsoons.

### Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh is blessed with an exotic tourist destination. Tourism in Chhattisgarh has many dimensions. From Pre-historic caves, archeological sites of different dynasties and rulers to thundering waterfalls, national parks, lakes and rich wildlife and cultural heritage, Chhattisgarh offers an amazing blend of historical and natural beauty. Chhattisgarh is an exquisitely scenic, covered with dense forest and criss-crossed by two mighty rivers, Indravati and Mahanadi. Ancient underground caves and gurgling waterfalls dot the breathtaking landscape. Incredible natural beauty blended with rich cultural heritage makes Chhattisgarh one of the most promising tourist destinations of India also during monsoon.

### Chitrakote Falls

Chitrakote Falls is located 38 km from Jagdalpur and considered



being the broadest waterfall of India. The waters of the river when flows through dense vegetation and cascades from a height of about 95 feet is a treat to watch and attracts thousands of tourists. The most spectacular views of Chitrakote Falls is during the monsoon season when the river flows in its full fury and touches both the banks filled with silt.

### Chitradhara Waterfalls

The beautiful Chitradhara Waterfalls is located just 19 km from Jagdalpur on the way to Chitrakote Falls. It is one of the best sightseeing and weekend vacation destinations in Chhattisgarh. It lies near a small and serene village called Potanar and attract thousands of tourists from within the state and rest of the country. It has become one of the best picnic spots where families and friends come to enjoy the outdoors and watch the gushing waters cascading down the hill at high speed.

### Tirathgarh Waterfalls

The scenic Tirathgarh Waterfalls is one of the most magnificent waterfalls in Chhattisgarh. The area surrounding the falls features lush green forests that enhances the beauty of the falls. It is also an important religious place featuring a temple which is dedicated to God Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Many tourists and devotees come here from within the state and rest of India for having spectacular views of Tirathgarh Waterfalls as well as offering prayers at the temple.

### Amrit Dhara Waterfalls

Amrit Dhara Falls This beautiful natural waterfall is situated in Koriya district on the Hasdo River. The water from the falls cascades down from a great height, creating a beautiful misty ambiance. The falls is also an important pilgrimage place which features a Lord Shiva Temple.

### Tamra Ghoomar Waterfalls

The stunningly beautiful Tamra Ghoomar Falls is another natural wonder and a scenic spot near Chitrakote. Even though the waterfalls lies in a secluded location, numerous tourists have started thronging the place for picnics and to enjoy the natural beauty of the falls with their families and friends.

## Diu-Daman

Monsoon is the perfect time to witness the beauty of Diu-Daman. Diu is a beautiful island which allures tourists from all over the world with its exotic beaches, tribal culture and architecture. The place offers a great blend of beauty, peace and tranquility to all the tourists. Monsoons arrive with heavy showers in Diu-Daman. It is a good time to visit the place and explore its different attractions. Rainfall can be quite heavy, but if you like rains, you

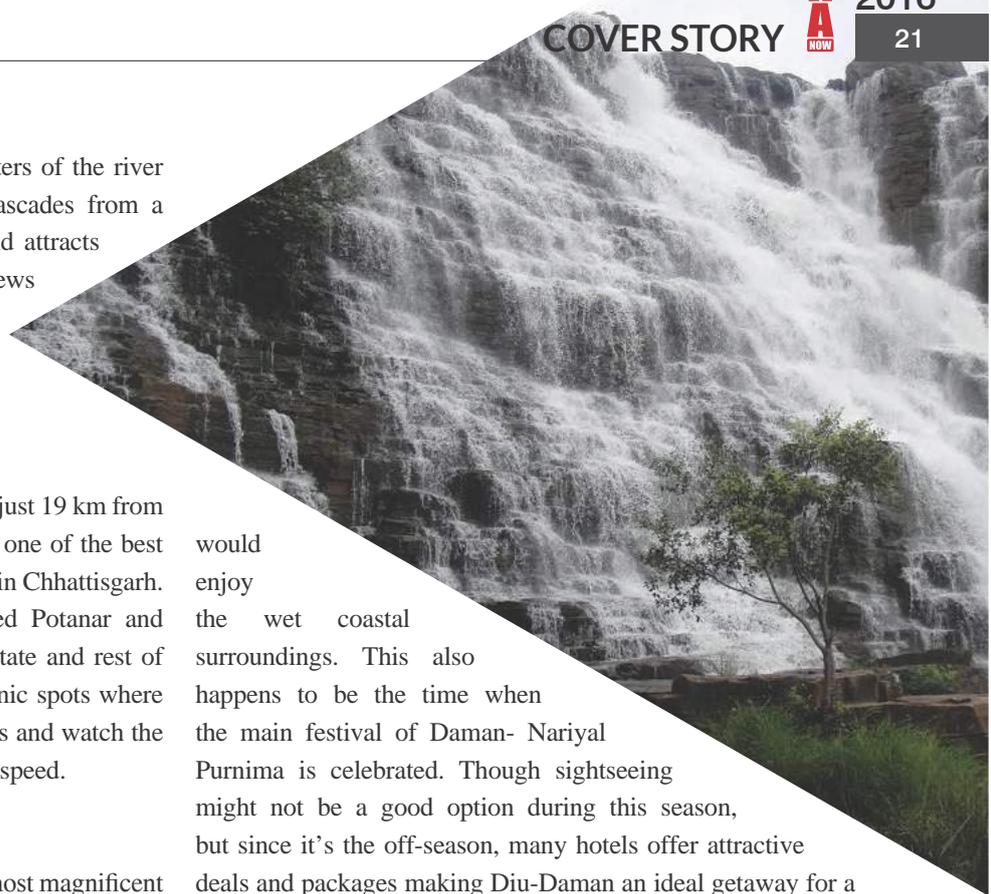
would enjoy the wet coastal surroundings. This also happens to be the time when the main festival of Daman- Nariyal Purnima is celebrated. Though sightseeing might not be a good option during this season, but since it's the off-season, many hotels offer attractive deals and packages making Diu-Daman an ideal getaway for a monsoon budget holiday.

## Dadra Nagar

This small union territory of India, attracts a large number of tourists specially Nature Lovers. Tourism in Dadra and Nagar Haveli is mostly concentrated in its capital Silvassa. One will experience a dreamland in the Nature of Dadra and Nagar Haveli during monsoon. Boating facilities add an extra fun factor in trip of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. One who wants a peaceful vacation, close to nature, then this tiny land has much to offer. Silvassa is good destination in monsoon time, if one like rain, then one will love Silvassa. Dudhni falls and lake, Vainganga lake and garden, Swaminayaran temple are some must visit places.

The major tourist destination cities of Dadra and Nagar Haveli are Ambabari, Amla, Kharadpada, Randha moti and Silvassa. These cities are very popular for tourist due to its attractive tour spots. Some attraction spots around the city Silvassa are Lady of Piety Church, Tribal Cultural Museum and Island Garden and Lion Safari Park. Some other attractions of Dadra and Nagar Haveli are Vanvihar Tourist Complex, Vandhara Udyan, garden of Hirwa Van, Mini Zoo, Tribal Museum, Ayappa Temple and Tapovan Tourist Complex. With numerous picnic spots, beautiful retreats, placid lakes and water activities, Dadra and Nagar Haveli is a paradise for monsoon vacationers.

Monsoon in Western India is special it is the best time to travel to some of the places because the natural beauty of these places is at its very best. Lush green rolling hills, pristine beaches, spectacular waterfalls and beautiful landscapes make many parts of Western India the best monsoon destination. ■





**Meghnand**  
LAWNS & RESTAURANT



**Meghnand Lawns & Restaurant**  
**Quality at its best in Ahmednagar**



**“A clear vision along with determination and hard work, have gone a long way in helping our group achieve successful result and has laid the foundation of the “Meghnand” in food industry in Ahmednagar.”**



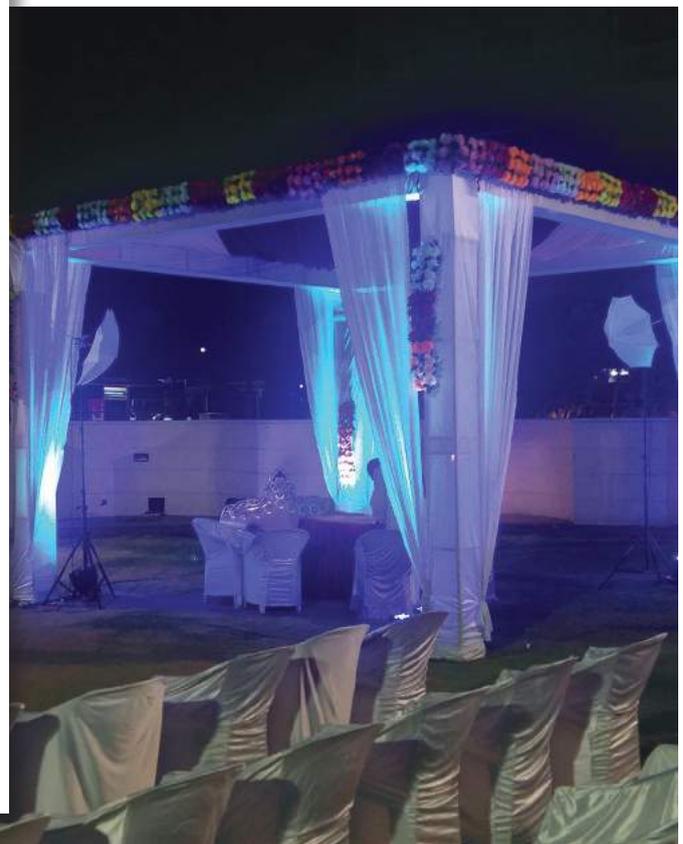
**M**eghnand Lawns & Restaurant is a Multi Cuisine Pure Veg “A” grade Restaurant located in prime location on Nagar Shirdi Road, Savedi, Ahmednagar. They serve Pure Veg North India, Maharstraian, Chinese, Fast food as well as Mughlai food.

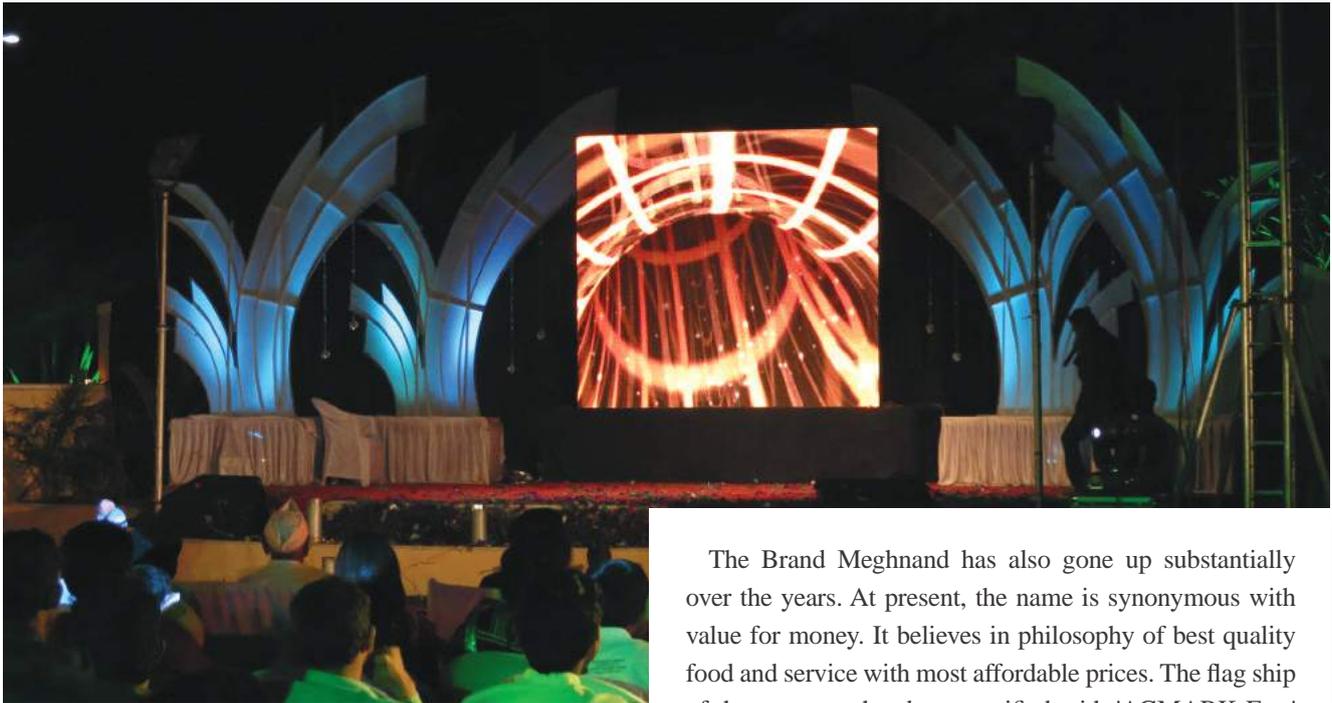
The hotel has A/C Conference Hall, banquet facility from 25 person to 1500 person also a A/C Restaurant with pleasant ambience with outdoor Garden Restaurant Children Park and Ample Parking space.

Meghnand Lawns and Restaurant where Hospitality is a Tradition and name itself spells Hospitality in Ahmednagar. Meghnand is a unique blend of multi cuisine Pure Veg Restaurant and banquet Hall experience with a total area of this is 20,000 sq. ft., spacious AC rooms, attach bathroom and dressing room. Multipurpose Covered Area of 3500 sq ft in Lawn decorated by Exotic Plants and Lights Suitable for Gathering, to enhance ones senses there are beautiful fountain at the Entrance of the Hotel.

The Meghnand Group had a humble and modest beginning, within a span of over 40 years a total of eight establishments were born.

Meghnand group is into Diversified Food Sector such as Hospitality, Manufacturer of Ground Spices, Whole Spices, Pickles, Papad's and Chain of Cold Storages.





The Brand Meghnand has also gone up substantially over the years. At present, the name is synonymous with value for money. It believes in philosophy of best quality food and service with most affordable prices. The flag ship of the company has been certified with 'AGMARK For ' Spices and Papad and 'FPO' Graded Pickles.

Meghnand Lawns & Restaurant was incorporated with the main objective of setting up hotel and restaurants with beautiful ambience along with best Service facilities.

Meghnand Lawns is a unique blend of banquet hall having total area of this is 20,000 sq. ft which can be used for any parties from 100 to 1500 person. The Banquet Halls is one roof, for all occasions. Beautiful Weddings, Corporate Events ,Anniversaries, Ring Ceremonies, Sangeet Parties, Get-togethers, Birthday parties and Theme parties , baby shower , Conferences, Product Launches and Gala events .

Meghnand Lawns & Restaurant is the only pure veg restaurant in Ahmednagar District which has tied up with IRCTC (Division of Indian Railways) e-catering and with Food Panda online.

Excellent Food beautiful Ambiance, have a good time with family and friends at the Meghnand Lawns & Restaurant the best pure vegetarian restaurant in Ahmednagar. ■



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# Turndown Service

**Meghana Tendulkar**  
Executive Housekeeper, Hotel Marine Plaza



**Sound and restful sleep is a basic necessity which has become a luxury in our fast paced lives. To fall asleep as soon as you touch the pillow is a gift that very few people are blessed with. We all need a familiar environment, the sights, the sounds and the smells to get a good night's sleep. Many factors like frequent travelling, jetlag, unfamiliar noises, and uncomfortable room temperatures can affect sleep patterns. Add to that an unfamiliar hotel room and you are sure to lose sleep. That is why hotels go to great lengths to ensure that their guests sleep well.**



**A** good starting point would be to offer a turndown or an evening service to the guest. Turndown literally means turning down the bed and getting it ready for the night. Most of the hotel beds have a bedcover or a bed throw placed on top of the bed. Not only does this make aesthetic sense but ensures that the linen stays protected from people sitting down on the bed during the day.

Turndown gives the hotel a lead to provide a thoughtful, personalized touch to the room. Beds used to be made previously with woolen blankets which were tucked in tightly from all the sides of the beds. The bed had to be given a “triangular fold” in the evenings to allow the guests to get in the beds comfortably. Since the time duvets were introduced instead of blankets, the hotels may or may not give the evening fold as duvets are not tucked in from the sides.



Turndown service starts in the evening at around 5 p.m. onwards and should be completed no later than 9 p.m. The quantity of rooms done by an individual room attendant varies from 45 to 60 rooms which is more as compared to the morning service. This service is relatively brief and is more of freshening type of service rather than a complete cleaning of the room. So, the time taken is shorter. From a security point of view, it also gives the hotel an excuse to enter the guest rooms to check the physical status of the room.

A room attendant will ring the bell as per set procedure. The occupied room is serviced with guest permission in case he/she is in the room. In case service is refused, guest can be asked if he requires some additional amenities and if he is comfortable in his stay.

Rooms as well as bathrooms are freshened up after tidying and emptying out dustbins and ashtrays. Bed throws/ Bedcovers/ Bed cushions are removed and kept at their pre-designated places. The bedside slippers are opened and placed on the side of the bed on a foot mat. Evening tray consisting amenities like laundry lists/ bags, shoe shine bags, pillow menus, comment cards, TV/Curtain remotes is placed on the bed. Breakfast doorknob menu is also placed on the bed. The bathmat is spread out in front of the bathtub in the bathroom.

Amenities and consumables which are used up are replenished. Turndown amenities offered by the hotel are placed in the room. Any room service trays, dishes are cleared at this point of time. Vacuuming of the carpet may be done if required. Curtains/ drapes are closed completely to block out the external light. The room attendant will then take a final look and exit the room.

Late in the evening, when the guest returns back after sightseeing or business, all he wants is a neat and tidy room with a comfortable bed. Housekeeping thus, gets an opportunity to project the image to the guest that they care for his comfort and hygiene and an assurance that he is getting value for his money. Service is given to most of the rooms of the hotel from occupied rooms to all arrivals expected later in the evening.

Many hotels offer turndown amenities to the guests for that warm, personalized touch. Placing a goodnight chocolate or a mint is a fairly common practice all over the hotels. With hotels getting more innovational, many edible amenities like macarons, cookies, cupcakes, bottled cocktails are placed. Soft toys like teddy bears and baby animals can be placed on the bed to give that cuddly feel to the bed. Night cards offering the guest choices of warm milk, herbal teas, hot chocolate and soothing nighttime beverages are also placed. Housekeepers can give personal touches like goodnight quotes, bookmarks and handwritten messages wishing "Good night".

Some hotels will do a special romantic turndown for honeymooners. The bed and bathtub will be decorated with flowers, balloons and towel origami in different shapes. It provides the hotel staff to display their creativity and flair.

Most hotels offer a range of pillows to suit the guest's preferences. The pillows vary from hard, fiber, foam, cervical pillows to more exotic ones like herbal, wheat, soybean and ginkgo. The pillow menu enlisting all these pillows is kept on the bed / bedside table where it can be easily seen by the guests. Some top-end luxury hotels offer guests choice of soothing aroma oils like lavender, sandalwood and ylang-ylang as well as eye masks and earplugs. Special packages can be designed for the guests offering combination of massages and special baths to aid relaxation. Ultimately, sky is the limit to provide a memorable experience to the guests based on the luxury quotient of the hotel.

Today's business travelers check-in during the evening and stay in the guestrooms to save on the time spent in the travelling during workdays. Their first impression of the room is often what they see in the evenings. Hence, hotels pay special attention and take considerable care while turning down a guest room. After all, first impression is the most lasting one. ■



# Ahmednagar

## A Historical City With A Promising Future

**Ahmednagar is a city in the state of Maharashtra, about 120 km northeast of Pune and 114 km from Aurangabad. Ahmednagar takes its name from Ahmad Nizam Shah I, who founded the town in 1494 on the site of a battlefield where he won a battle against superior Bahamani forces. It was close to the site of the village of Bhingar. With the breakup of the Bahamani Sultanate, Ahmad established a new sultanate in Ahmednagar, also known as Nizam Shahi dynasty. Ahmednagar is home to many sugar factories and is also the birthplace of the cooperative movement. Tourism in Ahmednagar has a lot for the tourist to discover. The district is strewn with a number of temples, many of them ancient, which are much visited by the pilgrims. Among them, is the famous Sai Baba temple and Shani Shingnapur temple. Some other famous tourist places in Ahmednagar are Ahmednagar Fort, Anand Dham, Mula Dam, Chandbibi Mahal etc.**

### Ahmednagar Fort



The Ahmednagar Fort is located in the heart of the city of Ahmednagar. It was the headquarters of the Ahmednagar Sultanate. In 1803 it was taken by the British during the Second Anglo-Maratha War. Later it was used by the British Raj as a prison. Currently the fort is under the administration of the Armoured Corps of the Indian Army.

The fort was built by Ahmed Nizam Shah. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wrote a book The Discovery of India in this fort when he was detained by the British in 1942.

### Alamgir



Alamgir is situated near Bhingar on Pathardi road. Aurangzeb died at the age of 91 at the very same place, his body was taken to Khultabad, near Aurangabad and buried there. This historical place also houses a Masjid and Baradari where meetings used to take place.

The library near the masjid has rare Qurans, dating back to the time of Emperor Aurangzeb. One of the Qurans here was written by the emperor himself.

### Amriteshwar Temple



Amriteshwar Temple has been built as per the Hemadpanti architectural style and dates back to 1100 AD. The main attractions of the temple comprise of its intricate carvings.

### Anand Dham



Land of Ahmednagar is made holy by many saints born on this land. One of them is Jain Saint, "Shri Anand RishiRaj". He took Jain diksha at the age of 13 year. The place Anand Dham is developed in his memory. Many social activities are held in this palace in his memory.

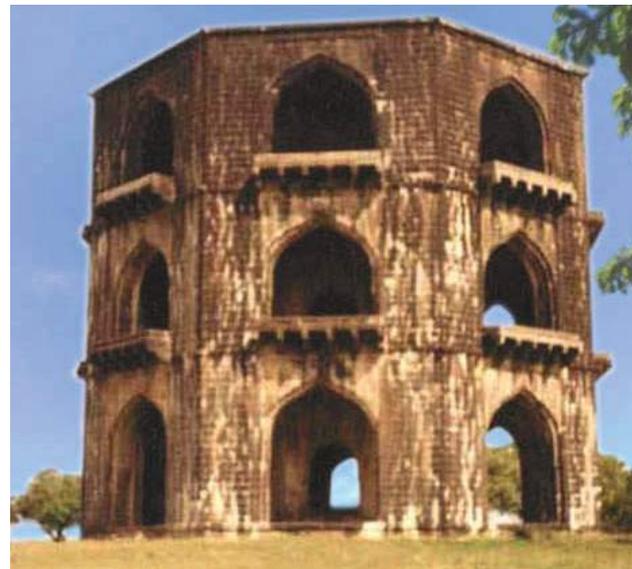
### Black-Buck Sanctuary

There is a sanctuary for Black-Buck at Rehkuri in the Karjat taluka of the Ahmednagar district. The total area of the sanctuary is 340 hectares, wherein exceeding 400 black bucks and 300 Chinkara antelopes can be seen. The total



sanctuary is surrounded by agricultural cultivation outside. Many a times it used to happen, that the antelopes destroyed the crops. It was hence that a fence which gives a mild shock generated from solar means is raised along the sanctuary borders.

### Chandbibi Mahal



It is 13 km from Ahmednagar city. Situated on the top of a hill, it has a view of the city lights at night. It is visible from almost anywhere in Ahmednagar City. This tomb can be seen from any part of Ahmednagar, it is commonly known as "Chandbibi Mahal". But it is a tomb of Sultan Khan II the famous minister of Murtaza nazam Shah I. The hill is about 3080 feet high from sea level. The building is plain but having Eight sided platform. By the simple contrivance of a stone terrace built about twelve feet high and 100 yards broad the tomb seems to rise with considerable dignity from the centre of an octagon. The tomb has angular holes so placed that rising and setting sunlight falls on it.

### Sai Baba Temple, Shirdi

Shirdi is a town located in Ahmednagar. It is famous for the pilgrimage place 'Sai Baba Temple'.

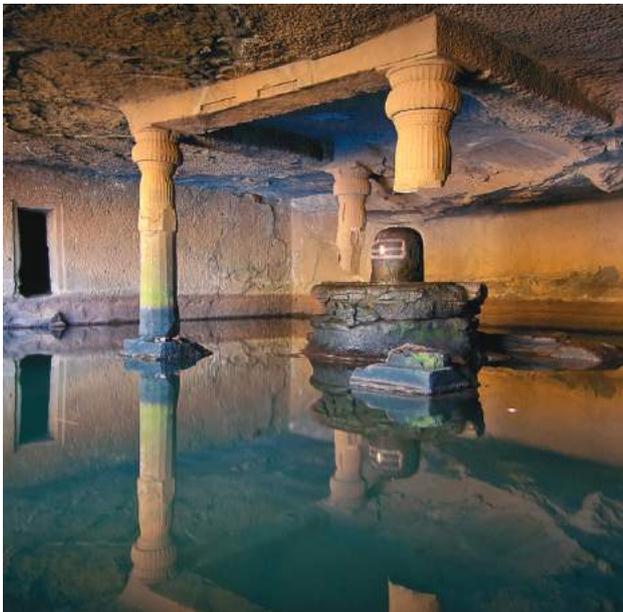
Shirdi is the abode of the famous Indian saint Shri Saibaba, and is a small town fragrant with the devotional strength that



ropes in devotees from the world over. Shirdi is one of the most revered among the spiritual destinations of India and is situated in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra near the sacred city of Nasik.

Both Hindu and Muslim pilgrims visit this town from far corners of India and tourism in Shirdi is gaining huge popularity, drawing considerable number of foreign tourists as well. The key attractions of Shirdi are Sai Baba mandir (temple) and his samadhi (memorial), Dwarkamai (mosque), Gurusthan, Chavadi, Lendi Baug, Maruti Mandir, Chawadi and Samadhi of Abdulbaba.

### Harishchandragad Fort



Harishchandragad is a hill fort in the Ahmednagar region of India. Its history is linked with that of Malshej Ghat, and it has played a major role in guarding the surrounding region. To the east is a well-built lake called Saptatirtha. On its bank are temple-like constructions in which there are idols of Lord Vishnu. Recently these idols have been shifted in the caves near the temple of Harishchandreshwar.

Kedareshwar Cave lies on the fort, in which there is a big Shivlinga, which is totally surrounded by water. The total height from its base is five feet, and the water is waist-deep. It is quite difficult to reach the Shivlinga because the water is ice-cold. The most interesting point on this fort is a cliff called Konkan Kada, which has always fascinated many people for many years. The cliff faces west and looks down upon the Konkan. From here, one can have a breathtaking view of the surrounding region and the setting sun. This cliff is not just vertical; it is an overhang, almost like a cobra's hood. It has been climbed many times. Sometimes a circular rainbow can be seen from this point.

Taramati peak is the topmost point on the fort. It is the 2nd highest peak in Maharashtra. Leopards are seen in the forests beyond this peak. The Temple of Harishchandreshwar at the fort is marvelous example of the fine art of carving sculptures out of stones that prevailed in ancient India. It is about 16 m high from its base. Around this temple there are a few caves and ancient water tanks.

### Nageshwar Temple



This is a great antique construction, and diverse artistic works are seen on this. On the ceiling of the temple are beautiful carvings. The main attraction of the carvings here is the 1.5 m long sculpture of Lord Vishnu in the sleeping posture, popularly known as "sheshshayi Vishnu" in Marathi.

### Kedgaon



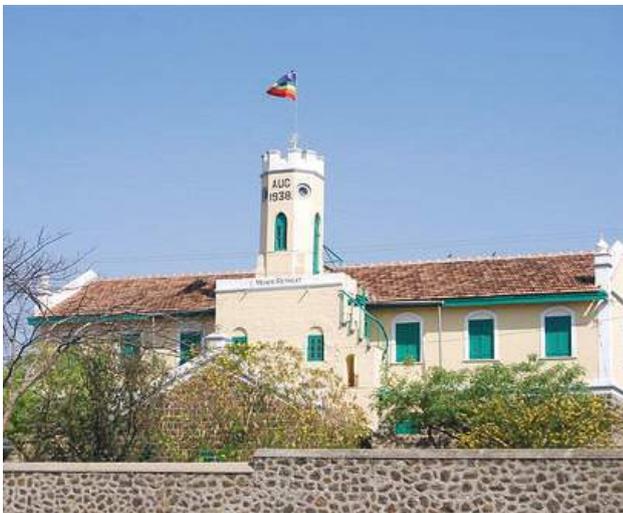
Kedgaon Town is around 3 km from Ahmednagar Railway Station. The village has a famous Durga/Renuka goddess temple. People from all religions visit this temple to celebrate Navratri festival every year and take their blessings from Goddess Durga.

**Maldhok Bird Sanctuary**



Beautiful birds called the great Indian bustard (Maldhok) which is not seen at any other place is seen in Karjat, Shrigonde, Nevase talukas. This region has been declared a sanctuary for these birds. The sanctuary occupies space of nearly 300 hectares. September to December is the best period to visit.

**Meherabad**

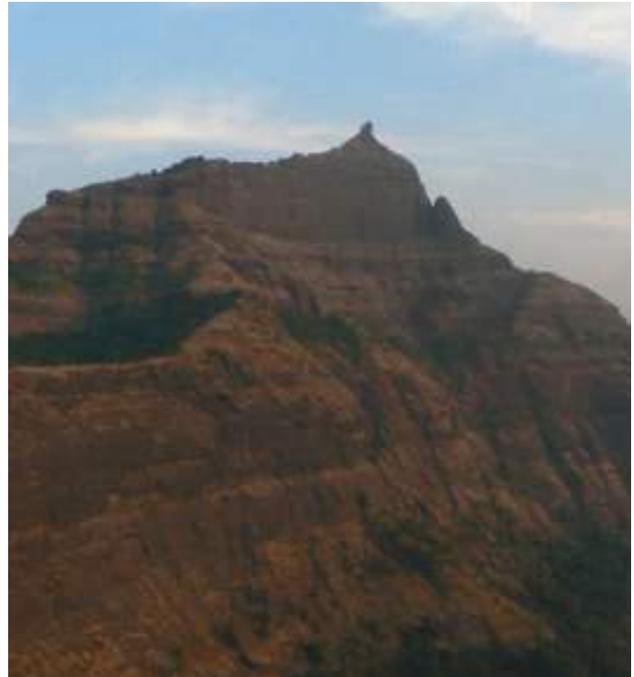


Meherabad was originally an ashram established by Meher Baba near Arangaon Village, in 1923 about 9 kilometers south of Ahmednagar. It is now the site of Meher Baba's Samadhi (tomb-shrine) as well as facilities and accommodations for pilgrims.

Meher Baba, born Merwan Sheriar Irani, was an Indian mystic and spiritual master who declared publicly in 1954 that he was the Avatar of the age. A large number of buildings mostly associated with the earlier decades of Baba's work, the graves of disciples, and a range of pilgrim accommodation and charitable establishments are also there.

Many Baba lovers work or live in the vicinity. Meherabad is a popular place of pilgrimage for both eastern and western followers of Meher Baba.

**Mount Kalsubai**



Mount Kalsubai, at a height of 1,646 meters, is regarded as the highest peak in the Sahyadri Range of Maharashtra. During the time when the Marathas were in power, the peak served as watchtower to fore see any danger. For the adventure enthusiasts, this mount is the perfect place to go on trekking. At the top of the mountain is a small temple that has an ancient well in its backyard. It is said that the water in the well never falls below 3 feet.

**Mula Dam**



Mula is the biggest Dam in Ahmednagar city. It is also called as "Dnyaneshwarsagar Dam". It is very near to Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidhyapeeth. Near the Dam there is a beautiful rest House.

### Pedgaon



Pedgaon is a small village in Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra on the bank of Bhima river. The village consists of one fort known as Fort of Pedgaon or Bahadurgad is now Dharmaveergad. Fort is in total ruins. It contains one building known as Mastani Mahal. There are five temples in the fort, two of which are known as Lakshmi Narayan temple and Baleshwar Temple. Lakshmi Narayan temple is a good example of architecture with carved pillars, images of animals on the walls of temple. There is a good carving in the temple. Another Baleshwar temple is dedicated to Lord Shiv. It is also in ruined state. It contains 8 pillars with good carvings.

### Ratangadh Fort



Ratangadh Fort is also counted amongst the popular attractions of Bhandardara hill station. It once served as the fortress of Chhatrapati Shiivaji Maharaj, when it was captured by his army. The adventure lovers as well as nature lovers will find the place blissful, as it has a number of trekking trails and provides amazing views of the valley below.

### Saint Teresa Church, Haregaon



Haregaon (also Harigaon) is a village in Shirampur, Ahmednagar. It is approximately 5 k.m. from Shirampur. Catholic pilgrims in the area visit the village for the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated on the second Saturday of September. The Jesuit priest in the village started the celebration in 1949 to help local devotees who could not afford to go to the celebration in Bandra, Mumbai.

### Shani Shingnapur



Shani Shingnapur is situated in Nevasa taluka in Ahmednagar district, the village is known for its popular temple of Shani, the Hindu god of the planet (graha) Saturn. Shingnapur is 35 km from Ahmednagar city.

The shrine for Shani comprises of a five and a half feet high black rock installed on an open-air platform, which symbolizes the god Shani. A Trishula (trident) is placed along the side of the image and a Nandi (bull) image is on the south side. In front are the small images of Shiva and Hanuman.

Generally, the temple has 30-40,000 visitors a day, which swells to around three lakh (i.e. three hundred thousand) on amavasya (the new moon day), believed to be the most auspicious day to appease Lord Shani.

### Umbrella Falls



Umbrella Falls are situated near the Wilson Dam and with their breathtaking splendor, will make you fall in love with them. However, the only problem is that the falls can be enjoyed only during the monsoon season, when the rain waters increase the water level of the Arthur Lake.

### Vishal Ganpati Mandir



This Ganeshji temple is located in Maliwada area in Ahmednagar City. This temple has a great importance to the people of Ahmednagar. Here devotees from all over come to worship Lord Ganesha.

### Wilson Dam



Wilson Dam is one of the most popular attractions of the Bhandardara hill station of Maharashtra. The dam was built on the Pravara River, in the year 1910, and resulted in the creation of the Arthur Lake. Perched at an altitude of around 150 meters above sea level, the dam is one of the most popular sites in the region, for going on a picnic.

Ahmednagar is one of the historical cities of India with a glorious past, an innovative present and a promising future. The Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation administers the city. Ahmednagar is among the greenest urban areas in the country. Ahmednagar is an important station that links to Solapur Junction of central railway zone. The city is well-linked by roads with various major cities of Maharashtra and other cities. ■



## Ara India

Manufacturer & Exporter of Premium Home Linens



Though a young yet dynamic organisation “Ara India”, established in the year 2013, is committed towards manufacturing, supplying, whole selling and trading a remarkable collection of attractively designed Home & Hotel Linen. Uniquely designed, this range conforms to the prevailing trends in décor. Linens create soothing and relaxing ambience in rooms. Their range is widely appreciated for its smooth texture, high tearing strength, colorfastness and easy washability. Their ranges are available in different designs and color combinations suited to the divergent demands of the clients. They are exporting in Indian Subcontinents & intended to export all over the world.

The company has concentrated all efforts in order to provide clients with uniquely designed and cost-effective products. And, with the support of their designers, they have been successful in catering to clients' demands.

Ara India possess a sound infrastructure setup, With a view to accomplish entire business activities in an effective manner, they have segregated setup in various units such as designing, quality testing, warehouse and administration. The designing is equipped with latest technology based machinery which enables to come up with distinctively designed range. The warehouse unit is capacious enough to store products in bulk, thereby meeting urgent demands of the clients. To make timely delivery at the clients' end, their setup is linked with all the major transportation modes of the city. Apart from aforesaid, they strive to acquire complete satisfaction of clients with quality business practices. In this direction, the company ensures to carry out dealing process with keeping in mind the interests of clients and ethics of the business. Owing to stringent quality measures and client-centric approaches, they have been able to become the most favored organization regardless of being a new entrant.

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