

hoteliers' 2026
conclave

Re-engineering Hospitality

Programme

Welcome Message

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the **7th HAI Hoteliers' Conclave** being organized by Hotel Association of India (HAI), the apex body of the Indian Hospitality Industry on the 18th of September 2026 at Taj Palace New Delhi.

The theme for the Event is ***Re-engineering Hospitality***. The objective of the Conclave is to provide an industry platform for policy makers and decision makers of hospitality sector to converge in an endeavor to examine how the sector has transformed in the recent years on account of changes among others in consumer behavior, technological advancements, practices in sustainability and to discuss how the sector should evolve in the extremely uncertain, volatile and complex future.

India is the world's fourth-largest economy and also the fastest-growing, expected to become the world's third largest with a projected GDP of \$7.3 trillion by 2030. India Vision of 2047 of a Viksit Bharat is founded in ***Atmanirbharta***. India Tourism Vision 2047 is of a tourism economy of US 3 trillion, targeting to attract 100 million foreign travellers, 20 billion domestic visits and featuring among the top five tourism destinations globally. Hotels are a key sector for tourism growth and development. They also contribute significantly to GDP and employment while adding to the local infrastructure and elevating the standard of living.

HAI is committed to India's ethos of ***"Atithi Devo Bhava"***. HAI Member hotels constantly strive to provide the best in rooms, ambience, comfort, convenience, cuisine and services, enriching the tourist's experience of the destination and are among the best in the country, region and even the world.

We look forward to welcoming delegates to the Event.

Rohit Khosla

Conclave Convener &
Executive Vice President
Indian Hotels Company Limited

M. P. Bezbaruah

Secretary General & Member
Executive Committee
Hotel Association of India

7th HAI Hoteliers' Conclave

18th September 2026, Taj Palace, New Delhi

PROGRAMME

0900 – 1000 Hrs. Registration

INAUGURAL SESSION: 1000 – 1100 Hrs.

Lighting of Lamp; Singing of National Song & National Anthem

Welcome Address	Shri M. P. Bezbaruah Secretary General & Member Executive Committee Hotel Association of India
Opening Address	Shri K.B. Kachru President, Hotel Association of India & Chairman – South Asia Radisson Hotel Group
Special Message	Shri Narendra Modi Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
Inaugural Address	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture & Tourism Government of India
Vote of Thanks	Shri Rohit Khosla Vice President, Hotel Association of India & Conclave Convener Executive Vice President Indian Hotels Company Limited

PLENARY SESSION – I: 1110 – 1200 Hrs. VIEW FROM THE TOP – LEADERSPEAK

Moderator	Mr. Patanjali G. Keswani Chairman & Managing Director Lemon Tree Hotels Limited
Panelists	Ms. Priya Paul Chairperson Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Ltd. Mr. Anil Chadha Managing Director ITC Hotels Ltd. Mr. Shwetank Singh Managing Director & CEO Chalet Hotels Ltd. Mr. Anuraag Bhatnagar CEO The Leela Palaces, Hotels & Resorts Questions & Answers

PLENARY SESSION – II: 1205 – 1235 Hrs. FIRESIDE CHAT WITH AMITABH KANT, IAS (Retd.) FORMER G20 SHERPA OF INDIA & FORMER CEO, NITI AAYOG

Moderator	Dr. Jyotsna Suri Chairperson & MD The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group Questions & Answers
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PLENARY SESSION – III: 1240 – 1300 Hrs. INCREDIBLE INDIA: INVALUABLE ECONOMICS

	Mr. Puneet Chhatwal Chairman, FAITH, Managing Director & CEO The Indian Hotels Company Limited
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**PLENARY SESSION – IV: 1305- 1340 Hrs.
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – APPLICATIONS
IN HOSPITALITY**

Moderator

Mr. Ajay K. Bakaya

Chairman
Sarovar Hotels Pvt. Ltd.

Panelists

Mr. Ankit Khanna

CPO – Hotel, Growth & Emerging Businesses
MakeMyTrip Ltd.

Mr. Ravish Swarup

Founder & CEO
Praxis Services & onefinerate.com

[Questions & Answers](#)

LUNCH: 1340 – 1430 Hrs.

**PLENARY SESSION – V: 1440 HRS-1525 Hrs.
FIRESIDE CHAT ON LEADERSHIP WITH
CRICKET LEGEND KAPIL DEV**

Moderator

Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai

Consulting Editor & Lead News Anchor
India Today Group

[Questions & Answers](#)

**PLENARY SESSION – VI: 1530– 1615 Hrs.
NEW AGE FOOD & BEVERAGE**

Moderator

Mr. Raaj Sanghvi

CEO
Culinary Culture India Pvt. Ltd.

Panelists

Chef Nikhil Nagpal

Avartana
ITC Grand Chola Chennai

Chef Naren Thimmaiah

Karavalli
Vivanta Bengaluru, Residency Road

Chef Doma Wang

Founder
The Blue Poppy, Kolkata

Chef Amninder Sandhu

Kikli, New Delhi

Chef Prateek Sadhu

NAAR, Kasauli

[Questions & Answers](#)

**PLENARY SESSION – VII: 1620 – 1705 Hrs.
TALENT ACQUISITION, INCLUSION & RETENTION**

Moderator

Mr. Zubin Saxena

SVP, Regional Head – South Asia
Hilton Hotels Management India Pvt. Ltd.

Panelists

Mr. Keshav Suri

Executive Director
The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group

Mr. Natwar Nagar

Founder & CEO
The People Network & The Job Plus

Ms. Sonica Malhotra Kandhari

Joint Managing Director
MBD Group

Dr. Vishwanath Joshi

EVP & Head – People & Culture (India)
Great Place to Work

[Questions & Answers](#)

PLENARY SESSION – VIII: 1710 – 1755 Hrs. LEADING LADIES OF HOTEL OPERATIONS

Moderator	Ms. Sonali Chauhan General Manager The Connaught, New Delhi-IHCL SeleQtions
Panelists	Ms. Meena Bhatia Vice President & General Manager Le Meridien New Delhi Ms. Amandeep Kaur General Manager ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru Ms. Asha Deep Sidhu General Manager Vivanta Gurugram Sector 95A Ms. Preeti Makhija General Manager The Leela Palace New Delhi
	Questions & Answers

PLENARY SESSION – IX: 1800 – 1830 Hrs. MICE & WEDDING TOURISM

Moderator	Mr. Rohit Khosla Vice President HAI & Conclave Convener Executive Vice President, IHCL Mr. Samit Garg Managing Director E-Factor Experiences
	Questions & Answers

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF INDIAN HOSPITALITY FOR A VIKSIT BHARAT 2047: 1835 – 1855 Hrs.

Special Address	Shri Suman Billa IAS Additional Secretary & Director General (Tourism) Government of India
	Questions & Answers

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY SHRI BHUVNESH KUMAR, IAS, SECRETARY (TOURISM), GOVERNMENT OF INDIA: 1900-1920

VOTE OF THANKS: 1925 – 1930 Hrs.

Ms. Charulata Sukhija
Deputy Secretary General
Hotel Association of India

DINNER HOSTED BY MR. KB KACHRU, PRESIDENT & MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

About the Organisers

Established in 1996, Hotel Association of India (HAI) has evolved as an integrated hospitality industry platform to keep pace with the growing buoyancy ushered in by the liberalization of Indian economy in the mid-90s. With its membership extending from major hotel groups; boutique, heritage and small hotels, HAI represents the entire spectrum of the industry. As the apex Industry Body, HAI works in the areas of Promotion of Regional Cooperation and Hospitality Research & Education in addition to taking Industry centric initiatives. By launching unprecedented 'Social Inclusion' initiatives, HAI also projects the 'Social Face' of the Indian hospitality industry.

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Hospitality Partner

TAJ
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NEW DELHI

Beverage Partners



HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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