



hoteliers' 2026  
conclave

*Re-engineering Hospitality*

Speakers'  
Profiles



---

**Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**

Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture & Tourism  
Government of India

01

---

**Bhuvnesh Kumar**

Secretary (Tourism)  
Government of India

02

---

**M. P. Bezbaruah (Retd. IAS)**

Secretary General  
Hotel Association of India

03

---

**K.B. Kachru**

Chairman - South Asia  
Radisson Hotel Group

04

---

**Rohit Khosla**

Vice President  
Hotel Association of India & Conclave Convener  
Executive Vice President, Indian Hotels Company Ltd.

05

---

**Patanjali (Patu) G Keswani**

Chairman & Managing Director  
Lemon Tree Hotels Limited

06

---

**Priya Paul**

Chairperson  
Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited

08

S  
T  
A  
T  
E  
M  
E  
N  
T  
C  
O  
N  
F  
E  
R  
E  
N  
C  
E

09

**Vikram Oberoi**

Managing Director & CEO  
EIH Limited

10

**Anil Chadha**

Managing Director  
ITC Hotels Limited

11

**Shwetank Singh**

Managing Director & CEO  
Chalet Hotels Limited

12

**Anuraag Bhatnagar**

Whole Time Director & CEO  
The Leela Palaces, Hotels & Resorts

14

**Puneet Chhatwal**

Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer  
The Indian Hotels Company Limited

15

**Amitabh Kant (Retd. IAS)**

Former G20 Sherpa of India &  
Former CEO, NITI Aayog

16

**Dr. Jyotsna Suri**

Chairperson & Managing Director  
The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group

---

**Ajay Bakaya**  
Chairman, Sarovar Hotels  
Director, Louvre Hotels India

---

17

---

**Ankit Khanna**  
Chief Product Officer  
Hotel, Growth & Emerging Businesses  
MakeMyTrip Ltd.

---

18

---

**Dr. Dhawal Gupta**  
Director, Government Affairs  
Microsoft India & South Asia

---

19

---

**Ravish Swarup**  
Founder & CEO  
Praxis Services & onefinerate.com

---

20

---

**Kapil Dev**  
Former Indian Cricketer

---

---

**Rajdeep Sardesai**  
Consulting Editor and Lead News Anchor  
India Today Group

---

21

---

**Raaj Sanghvi**  
CEO  
Culinary Culture

---

22

---

**Nikhil Nagpal**  
Executive Chef  
ITC Grand Chola

---

23

STARTUP  
CON

25

## **Naren Thimmaiah**

Executive Chef  
Karavalli, Vivanta, Bengaluru, Residency Road

27

## **Doma Wang**

Founder, The Blue Poppy  
Director, Blue Poppy Hospitality

28

## **Chef Amninder Sandhu**

Kikli  
New Delhi

29

## **Chef Prateek Sadhu**

NAAR  
Kasauli

30

## **Zubin Saxena**

Senior Vice President & Regional Head for  
South Asia at Hilton

31

## **Keshav Suri**

Executive Director, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group  
Founder, Keshav Suri Foundation  
Co-Founder, Pride Fund India  
Chair, FICCI D&I Taskforce  
Global Board Member, IGLTA  
Board Member, Outright International

---

**Natwar Nagar**  
Founder & CEO  
The People Network and The Job Plus

33

---

**Sonica Malhotra Kandhari**  
Joint Managing Director  
MBD Group

34

---

**Dr. Vishwanath Joshi**  
EVP & Head – People & Culture (India)  
Great Place to Work

36

---

**Sonali Chauhan**  
General Manager  
The Connaught, New Delhi-IHCL SeleQtions

38

---

**Meena Bhatia**  
Vice President & General Manager  
Le Meridien New Delhi

40

---

**Amandeep Kaur**  
General Manager  
ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru

42

STREET  
CON

43

**Asha Deep Sidhu**

General Manager  
Vivanta Gurugram Sector 95A

44

**Preeti Makhija**

General Manager  
The Leela Palace New Delhi

45

**Chetan Vohra**

Co-Founder & Director  
Weddingline Events & Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.

46

**Samit Garg**

Managing Director  
E-Factor Experiences

47

**Suman Billa**

Additional Secretary & Director General  
Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

48

**Charulata Sukhija**

Deputy Secretary General  
Hotel Association of India

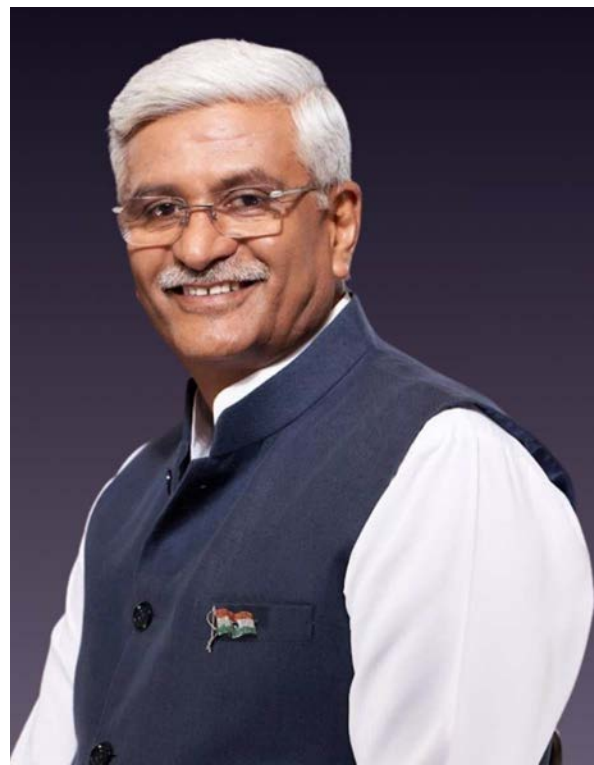
## Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture & Tourism  
Government of India

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is a senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader who has served as the Union Minister of Culture and the Union Minister of Tourism since 2024, as well as a Member of Parliament representing the Jodhpur constituency in the Lok Sabha.

Born on October 3, 1967, in Rajasthan, he earned a Master of Philosophy in Philosophy from Jai Narain Vyas University in Jodhpur and competed as an athlete in basketball at both the national and inter-university levels. His political career began in student politics when he was elected president of the Jodhpur university students' union in 1992, eventually leading to his election to the Lok Sabha from Jodhpur in 2014 with a record margin. Before taking charge of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Tourism in June 2024, he served as the Union Cabinet Minister for Jal Shakti from 2019 to 2024, where he managed core national water initiatives.

Alongside his political career, he served as general secretary of the Seema Jan Kalyan Samiti to support border area welfare and defense, while also earning recognition as a prominent digital communicator and top writer on the Q&A platform Quora.



*Source-Internet*



## Bhuvnesh Kumar

Secretary (Tourism)  
Government of India

Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar is a distinguished 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre who remains a pivotal figure in Indian public administration. He is recognized for policy planning, e-governance advancement, and infrastructural development across various public sectors.

Born on June 10, 1967, he earned an engineering degree as a gold medalist from the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, building a strong foundational background in electronics and communication. He entered the civil services in December 1993 before moving into the IAS rank in 1995, after which he served as District Magistrate and Collector across multiple Uttar Pradesh districts, including Hamirpur, Kaushambi, Meerut, and Aligarh.

Over the course of his career in the state, he managed key portfolios such as Secretary of Finance, MSME, Technical Education, and Vocational Education, while also directing the Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission to regulate hundreds of industrial training institutes.

Expanding his leadership to national assignments, he functioned as Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India, and assumed charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism in New Delhi.

*Source-Internet*

## M. P. Bezbaruah (Retd. IAS)

Secretary General  
Hotel Association of India

Mr. Madan Prasad Bezbaruah, retired as the Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and was Member, North Eastern Council (in the rank of Minister of State). During his career he held many important national and international assignments like Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Departments of Education, Health, Industries, Finance and Home, Chairman of the Assam State Electricity Board, Minister (Economic) in the High Commission of India, London (spearheading economic diplomacy during the first economic reforms programme of the government), Principal Adviser in the Planning Commission of India, Banking Ombudsman for the Reserve Bank of India.

He was Chairman of RBI's Committee on "Ways and Means Advances to the States" and member of the RBI Committee on "Credit Deposit Ratio", a member of the Niti Aayog's "Niti Forum for the NE", and was also a Consultant to the National Development Planning Commission of Ghana. He chaired the committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the concerns of the people from the North East, generally referred to as the 'Bezbaruah Committee'.

The World Tourism Organization appointed him as Honorary Permanent Representative "in recognition of the valuable contribution made to the development of tourism". He served for several years as member of the Strategic Group of UN-WTO and is the only Indian civil servant to be elected the Chairman of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

A recognized international tourism expert, he has authored the report on Indian Outbound Tourism for UN-WTO, a report on SASEC regional tourism and was National Consultant of ADB's SASEC Tourism Development Project, phase I and II, and UN-WTO's project on Development of Coastal Tourism in West Bengal and Orissa.

Mr. Bezbaruah has written four books - "Indian Tourism: Beyond the Millennium", "The Guest is God - Reflections on Tourism", "Frontiers of New Tourism" and "Rethinking of Tourism", and is the Chief Editor of five volume encyclopaedia - "Fairs and Festivals of India". He has also written book chapters in national and international books, written numerous articles in national and international magazines on tourism and on Northeast India and made presentations in many international conferences of UNWTO, World Bank, Canadian Tourism Commission, UNESCAP, International Peace Institute etc.

He secured a first class Masters degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and obtained the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Harvard University, USA.



## K.B. Kachru

Chairman - South Asia  
Radisson Hotel Group



K.B. Kachru is Chairman of Radisson Hotel Group in South Asia and has played an instrumental role in building the Group's business in South Asia since 1998. K.B. continues to be on the governing board of the Group's South Asia business entities including RHG's Joint Venture companies.

K.B. is an active member of various Tourism and Hospitality Advisory Committees at the state and national level. He is presently President of Hotel Association of India, Governing member of Hospitality Skill Council of India (THSC), and on the national committee of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII's) Tourism Committee.

He has been on the Board of Directors for the Tourism Corporation of various state governments and on the Board of Governors of the Institute of Hotel Management in New Delhi.

He was also appointed to the Governing Board of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Trust, J&K, one of India's most prominent and visited Hindu religious destinations. He has served as an executive member of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) India Chapter, the American Society of Travel Agents of India, the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Association of India (FHRAI) and India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB).

He spearheaded the formation of the Institute for International Management and Technology (IIMT) in collaboration with Oxford Brookes University, UK. During his tenure at India Tourism Development Corporation, he led The Ashok Group of Hotels, National duty-free operations. During his tenure he introduced duty-free operations on arrival at all the key international airports in India.

K.B. has been awarded Carlson Fellowship by Carlson Companies, USA. Global recognition for his contribution to Tourism at WTM London, UK and ITB Berlin, Germany. He has received lifetime achievement/ Hall of Fame award at HICSA- South Asia, SATTE and Today's Traveller. He was also bestowed the most prestigious 'Aatithya Ratna Award' by the Hotel Investment Forum of India besides being recipient of 'Hall of Fame' award by Business World (Hotelier).

## Rohit Khosla

Vice President, Hotel Association of India & Conclave Convener  
Executive Vice President, Indian Hotels Company Ltd.

Mr. Rohit Khosla serves as Executive Vice President at The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), a Tata enterprise, with enterprise-wide P&L responsibility across one of South Asia's most distinguished multi-brand hospitality portfolios. Throughout his accomplished career in hotel operations, he has led some of the most iconic Taj hotels across India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Yemen, consistently demonstrating exceptional operational excellence, business acumen, and the ability to lead high-performing teams in culturally diverse and complex business environments while upholding IHCL's enduring standards of luxury hospitality.

His contribution to the hospitality industry extends well beyond the organisation. As Vice President of the Hotel Association of India, Chairman of the Tata Network Forum – North, a Member of the CII National Tourism Committee, and former President of SKAL International Colombo, Rohit has actively shaped industry dialogue, contributed to policy discussions, strengthened institutional collaboration, and championed initiatives that advance the Indian hospitality sector.

His distinguished career has earned both national and international recognition.

In 2025, he was conferred the PATWA Gold Award for Hospitality Management – India at ITB Berlin, one of the hospitality industry's most prestigious global honours, adding to earlier PATWA recognitions for Leadership Excellence and International Achievement.

Earlier in his career, he was honoured by the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India as the Young Hotel General Manager of the Year (2006), reflecting a leadership journey marked by sustained excellence over two decades.

Today, Rohit Khosla is widely recognised as one of the most respected leaders in Indian luxury hospitality. He brings together deep operational expertise, boardroom governance, strategic foresight, and an extensive network of industry relationships. Equally admired for his people-centric leadership, he continues to inspire teams, cultivate enduring stakeholder partnerships, and shape the future of hospitality with integrity, purpose, and excellence.



## Patanjali (Patu) G Keswani

Chairman & Managing Director  
Lemon Tree Hotels Limited

Patanjali Govind Keswani (fondly known as Patu Keswani) is the Executive Chairman of Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd., which owns and operates 120+ hotels and has 130+ in the pipeline across India and internationally.

A first-generation entrepreneur, he founded Lemon Tree Hotels in 2002 with the vision of building India's largest mid-market hospitality chain, anticipating the significant yet underserved demand for high-quality, affordable hotels in the country.

Under his leadership, Lemon Tree Hotels has grown into one of India's largest hotel chains in the midscale and upscale segments. The company achieved a significant milestone when it was listed on the National Stock Exchange of India and the Bombay Stock Exchange on 9 April 2018.

A strong advocate for inclusive employment, Patu has championed the company's commitment to providing opportunities to people with disabilities and individuals from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Today, nearly 18% of Lemon Tree's workforce comes from these communities. In recognition of these efforts, Lemon Tree Hotels has received multiple National Awards from the President of India for being the Best Employer of Persons with Disabilities (2016 and 2011) and for being a Role Model in providing a Barrier-Free Environment to Persons with Disabilities (2012).

Prior to founding Lemon Tree Hotels, Patu spent 17 years with the Tata Group as a member of the prestigious Tata Administrative Service (TAS). His last role within the group was as Senior Vice President at Taj Hotels, where he gained extensive experience in the hospitality sector. He subsequently worked with global management consulting firm A.T. Kearney as an Associate Consultant and Director in their New Delhi office before launching Lemon Tree Hotels.



Patu actively contributes to industry and academic institutions.

He is a member of the Sector Skills Council for Hospitality, Travel and Tourism under the National Skill Development Corporation. He previously served as Chairman of the Skill Council for Persons with Disability, and has been a member of the University Grants Commission as well as the Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management from Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. He has been honoured with the Distinguished Alumni Award by both institutions (IIT Delhi in 2011 and IIM Calcutta in 2012).

Over the years, Patu has received several industry recognitions, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from Hotelier India in 2024 and from International Institute of Hotel Management and International Hospitality Council in 2021. He has also been inducted into the Hall of Fame by the Indian Association of Tour Operators, Hotelier India, and the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India.

He was earlier married to Sharanita and is now married to Heather Lynn. They have 4 children, Aditya and Nayana who live in New Delhi, India and Harry and Grace who live in Dallas, Texas. Being very fond of dogs, Patu has 6 dogs: B.Eagle (a beagle), Mocha (a chocolate labrador), Toy and Poodle (both apricot-coloured toy poodles) who live in New Delhi along with Duke (a white labrador) and Oreo (a French bull) who live in Dallas, Texas.

## Priya Paul

Chairperson

Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited



Priya Paul is a philanthropist and Chairperson, Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels. She has played a significant role in various fields including hospitality, philanthropy, and women's empowerment. As the Chairperson of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels (ASPHL), she has overseen the growth of luxury boutique hotels THE Park Hotels and Zone by The Park. Under her leadership, the company has expanded to encompass more than 42 hotels under different brands across India and has securely overseen a successful IPO. Flurys, the 100 year old pastry brand with 111 outlets, is part of ASPHL too.

She is actively involved on the Boards of Hotel Association of India and World Travel and Tourism Council – India Initiative. She is on the Board of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited, Apeejay Shipping Limited, DLF Limited and DLF Cyber City Developments Limited.

In the non-profit domain, she is the Founder Director and Chair of South Asia Women's Fund, (now Women's Fund Asia) and has been on the board of Breakthrough India. She has been a Trustee of the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA), Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Board Member of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) and is a member of Harvard Business Schools' South Asia Advisory Board. She is on the Board of World Monuments Fund – India and global and the policy body Population Foundation of India, and member of the CII National Committee on Art & Culture.

Priya Paul has a BA in Economics from Wellesley College. She also completed the Owner President Management Program at Harvard Business School.

In 2012, Priya Paul has been awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honour, for her services to Trade & Industry by the President of India. She has also been conferred with the Insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite (National Order of Merit) in 2014 from the President of France. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work from the industry, media and various other bodies.

## Vikram Oberoi

Managing Director & CEO  
EIH Limited

Mr. Vikram Oberoi is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of EIH Limited, the flagship company of The Oberoi Group.

He has been instrumental in shaping the Group's evolution into a globally recognised luxury hospitality brand, leading its strategy, operations and growth across Oberoi Hotels & Resorts and Trident Hotels in India and international markets.

Under his leadership, The Oberoi Group has grown from strength to strength, driven by a clear strategic vision and disciplined approach to expansion. He leads by example, firmly anchored in the Group's core values and philosophy of dharma, with a deep conviction that people are at the heart of the organisation's success.

Mr. Oberoi continues to strengthen organisational capabilities, drive operational excellence and deliver long-term value for partners, shareholders and employees, while ensuring that the Group remains uncompromising in its commitment to exceptional quality and personalised service.

His leadership is defined by clarity of purpose, consistency in execution and an unwavering focus on creating meaningful and enduring guest experiences.



## Anil Chadha

Managing Director  
ITC Hotels Limited



Mr. Anil Chadha was appointed as Managing Director, ITC Hotels Limited in January, 2025.

An alumni of the Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration (WGSHA), Manipal, he joined ITC Limited (ITC) in 1992. He was appointed as the Divisional Chief Executive of the erstwhile Hotels business of ITC in 2021. Prior to that he was the Chief Operating Officer of the Hotels business since December 2019.

Mr. Chadha has spent almost his entire career with ITC Hotels , heading key properties in New Delhi, Agra, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai. He was also responsible for the Southern Region as Area Manager. In 2017, he was elevated to Vice President (South) and later took over as Vice President-Operations, of the Hotels Business in April, 2019.

He is a presently a member of the Executive Committee of Hotel Association of India and the CII - National Committee on Tourism and Hospitality.

Mr. Chadha has received several recognitions in the hospitality industry including – the 'Distinguished ITC Chairman Alumni Award 2022' by the Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration, Best CEO 2022 by WE Global Employees Choice Award, Hotelier of the Year by BBC Food Awards 2018, General Manager of the Year by Business World Hotelier in 2016, Hotelier of the Year by Vir Sanghvi in Hindustan Times (Brunch) 2014, and Food & Beverage Manager of the Year by the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Association (FHRAI) in 2001.

## Shwetank Singh

Managing Director & CEO  
Chalet Hotels Limited

Shwetank Singh is a global hospitality and real estate leader with over 25 years of experience at the intersection of capital allocation, asset management and sustainable value creation. As Managing Director & CEO of Chalet Hotels Limited (CHL), he leads an integrated platform spanning development, operations and asset optimization, with a clear focus on long-term returns and ESG-aligned growth.

Under his leadership, CHL is undergoing a decisive strategic transformation from a traditional asset owner to a fully integrated owner-operator model. The company has deployed over ₹1,200 crore in recent acquisitions, while advancing its proprietary brand, Athiva, launched in October 2025, with a pipeline of 900 keys across high-growth urban and leisure markets. With its operational portfolio and announced pipeline together expected to exceed 5,000 keys by 2029–30, Singh is positioning CHL to capture structural demand in India's rapidly expanding hospitality sector.

Singh's leadership is defined by a disciplined approach to capital deployment and operational performance, delivered by motivated teams. A big believer in the 'People First' approach, he prioritizes 'culture fit' over 'ability' and 'how' over 'what' when it comes to teams.

Prior to CHL, Singh led Golden Sands LLC (Arenco Real Estate) in Dubai, where he managed a diversified portfolio of multi-brand hospitality assets across global operators including Hilton, Marriott, and Taj, with full P&L responsibility. He has also held senior leadership roles at InterGlobe Hotels and Premier Inn India, driving expansion, institutionalizing governance, and enhancing customer-centric service delivery.

An MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), Delhi, with specialization in Finance and Marketing, and a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhanbad, Singh brings a strong analytical and strategic foundation to his leadership.

With a leadership style grounded in execution discipline and people-centricity, Singh remains focused on building resilient, future-ready hospitality platforms that integrate operational excellence, guest experience, and sustainability at scale.



## Anuraag Bhatnagar

Whole Time Director & CEO

The Leela Palaces, Hotels & Resorts



Anuraag Bhatnagar, Whole-time Director and Chief Executive Officer of The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts, is a dynamic leader with an illustrious career spanning over 35 years in the hospitality industry. Renowned for his strategic vision and inspirational leadership, Anuraag has led some of the world's most prestigious Indian and international hotel brands, consistently positioning them at the forefront of the market. His passion for operational excellence, combined with an unwavering commitment to delivering bespoke and memorable guest experiences, has earned him a stellar reputation in the industry.

A seasoned hospitality professional, Anuraag is celebrated for his ability to blend strategic business acumen with exceptional interpersonal skills, driving market-leading returns and creating substantial stakeholder value. He is a results-oriented leader, adept at building and nurturing high-performance teams, guiding them towards ambitious goals, and aligning brand values with key business initiatives. His approach to luxury hospitality is rooted in authenticity, innovation, and a personalised touch, which he believes are brought to life through the power of teamwork.

Anuraag is currently focused on reinforcing and elevating The Leela's stature as the epitome of true Indian luxury while steering the brand towards future growth. His global perspective and deep understanding of the luxury consumer uniquely position him to lead The Leela into its next phase of evolution, catering to the ever-changing aspirations of the discerning global traveller.

Since joining The Leela in 2020, he has led the brand to become a leader in every market in which it operates. Under his leadership, The Leela has consistently earned top honours, including being named the World's Best Hotel Brand by Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards in 2020 and 2021, and maintaining a position among the top three brands in 2023 and 2024 and ranked #2 Hotel Brand in the World in 2026. His strategic vision has driven the brand's growth from 8 to 15 operational luxury hotels, across 13 cities in India. With 9 hotels in the pipeline, The Leela is poised to expand to 24 properties in the next three years, entering high-growth markets such as Agra, Ayodhya, Bandhavgarh, Mumbai, Ranthambore, Sikkim, Srinagar, Dubai and Jaisalmer. His commitment to innovation is reflected in the creation of signature initiatives including Aujasya by The Leela, Tishya by The

Contd...

Leela, Icons of India by The Leela, and Arq By The Leela, the brand's exclusive members-only club. He has also championed talent development through programmes such as the Leela Leadership Development Programme, The Leela Palace Services, and Shefs at The Leela, further reinforcing the brand's positioning as the epitome of true Indian luxury.

Anuraag's journey in luxury hospitality began with The Oberoi Group of Hotels, where he mastered the nuances of the industry. He then took on significant roles at Starwood Hotels and Resorts, and later at Marriott International, where he served as Multi-Property Vice President for Mumbai and Goa, overseeing 12 luxury hotels. During his tenure, he worked with iconic brands such as St. Regis, W Hotels, and The Ritz-Carlton, further refining his expertise in creating unparalleled luxury experiences.

Anuraag's exceptional contributions to the hospitality industry have been widely recognised. He has been honoured with the Preferred Hotel Awards 2025 Hall of Fame award and featured on Hotelier India's 2025 Power List of India's Hospitality Icons. His recognitions also include the Hotelier India 2024 "Hall of Fame" award, the Hospitality Horizon Top 50 Hotel Awards 2024 "Hall of Fame" award, "Hotelier of the Year" at the World of Wedding Summit & Awards 2024, "CEO of the Year" by PATWA International Travel Awards 2023 at ITB Berlin, and "Luxury Hotelier of the Year" by India Gourmet Luxe 2023. Additionally, he has received accolades such as 'Hotelier of the Year' at the EazyDiner Awards 2017 by Vir Sanghvi and at the Food Food India Awards 2018 by Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, as well as the prestigious 'COO/VP of the Year – International' by Hotelier India Awards 2017.

A respected thought leader, Anuraag is a sought-after speaker at academic institutions and industry forums such as HICSA. He also serves on the board of BW Hotelier and Hotelier India magazine. An alumnus of Delhi University and IHM Pusa, Anuraag has further honed his leadership skills through programmes at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, and the University of North Carolina.

Outside of his professional pursuits, Anuraag is an avid whisky and culinary aficionado with a newfound passion for fitness. He enjoys films, music, and the tranquillity of a good book. An enthusiastic trekker, he is always seeking out new travel destinations and challenging peaks to conquer. Above all, Anuraag is a devoted family man, cherishing the time spent with his wife, son, and their two dogs.



## Puneet Chhatwal

Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer  
The Indian Hotels Company Limited

Mr. Puneet Chhatwal is the Managing Director & CEO of The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL). Under his leadership, IHCL has delivered a remarkable turnaround delivering responsible and profitable growth, with its transformation now being taught as a case study at Harvard Business School.

He also serves as Chairman of CII's National Committee on Tourism & Hospitality and Chairman of tourism & hospitality industry's apex body FAITH, representing the industry's voice in India.

Prior to IHCL, Mr. Chhatwal was the Chief Executive Officer and Member of the Executive Board of Steigenberger Hotels AG (Deutsche Hospitality) based out of Frankfurt, Germany. He was also the Chief Development Officer of The Rezidor Hotel Group – Carlson Hotels Worldwide based out of Brussels, Belgium.

He is an alumnus of Delhi University, IHM Delhi, ESSEC Paris, and INSEAD.

## Amitabh Kant (Retd. IAS)

Former G20 Sherpa of India &  
Former CEO, NITI Aayog

Mr. Amitabh Kant is a prominent Indian Public Policy Expert. He is a retired 1980-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Kerala cadre who has held several key leadership roles in the Indian government.

Born on March 1, 1956, he graduated with a degree in Economics (Hons) from St. Stephen's College in Delhi before earning his Master's degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Over the course of his distinguished career in the public sector, he became a trailblazer in tourism by branding Kerala as "God's Own Country" and conceptualizing national campaigns like "Incredible India" and "Atithi Devo Bhavah."

As the Secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), he spearheaded major industrial initiatives including "Make in India" and "Startup India." He subsequently served as the long-tenured CEO of NITI Aayog from 2016 to 2022, where he drove key national initiatives such as the Aspirational Districts Programme and accelerated digital transformation. In 2022, he was appointed as India's G20 Sherpa, successfully steering consensus for the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration during India's presidency.

Following his government service, he has taken on roles as the Chairperson of the Fairfax Centre for Free Enterprise, served as an independent director or board member for organizations such as Larsen & Toubro, ITC Limited, and upGrad, and authored books including *Branding India – An Incredible Story*.



*Source-Internet*



## Dr. Jyotsna Suri

Chairperson & Managing Director  
The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group

Dr. Jyotsna Suri has been associated with Bharat Hotels since its inception. In 2006, she took on the mantle of Chairperson & Managing Director. Under her stewardship, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group became one of the leading privately-owned domestic hotel brands in India, with a focus on the luxury segment.

Dr. Suri has been conferred with the Order of The Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by Japan Government for her contribution towards strengthening strategic ties between India and Japan in economic and tourism sectors. She is the first Indian Woman to have received the Imperial honour since its commencement for foreign nationals in 1981.

Besides this, she has been the recipient of over 65 National and International awards and recognitions. Dr Suri holds various portfolios with Industry Associations – Past President FICCI; Mentor, FICCI Tourism & Culture Committee; Mentor, DEI Committee, FICCI; Executive Member of HAI; Chair World Travel & Tourism Council, India Initiative (2026-2028); Member of Board of Governors for National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology and Member of Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs.

## Ajay Bakaya

Chairman, Sarovar Hotels  
Director, Louvre Hotels India

Ajay K. Bakaya is a seasoned hotelier and a visionary leader who has been instrumental in shaping the growth and success of Sarovar Hotels. A trailblazer in the mid-market hospitality segment, Ajay has driven the brand's vision from its humble beginnings—starting from a shared office table to its current stature of nearly 140 hotels in 85 destinations across India, Nepal, and Africa.

An alumnus of Cornell-ESSEC, France, and a graduate of the Oberoi School of Learning and Development, Ajay brings a wealth of knowledge and international experience. His career spans assignments in India, Australia, Africa, France, and Scotland, enriching his perspective on global hospitality standards.

Beyond his professional achievements, Ajay is an avid cyclist, having completed the grueling 1,000 km Tour of Nilgiris. His dedication to fitness has instilled in him values of patience, positivity, and discipline, which are reflected in his leadership style. Ajay's work mantra, "Sincerity and hard work will always give results," continues to inspire his team and peers.

Ajay's contributions to the industry have been widely recognized. He was named "Entrepreneur of the Year" by the Federation of Hotels and Restaurants Association of India (FHRAI), and Hotelier India has honored him as the "CEO of the Year" and "Hall of Fame" awards.





## Ankit Khanna

Chief Product Officer  
Hotel, Growth & Emerging Businesses  
MakeMyTrip Ltd.

Ankit serves as the Chief Product Officer at MakeMyTrip, where he is responsible for product development of accommodations, holidays, growth, payments and emerging & new businesses. In this strategic role, he oversees the entire product lifecycle for hotels, driving innovation and user experience enhancements.

He brings over two decades of experience across industries including ecommerce, payments and financial services. Prior to joining MakeMyTrip, he was the Head of Product at CareemPAY based out of UAE. His earlier stints include serving as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Product Officer for Freecharge wherein he was responsible for product development, merchant acquisition, user growth, marketing & operations.

In 2010, Ankit was a part of the founding team of Snapdeal and was the company's first product team member. During his stint with Snapdeal, he also led a team of more than 100+ product managers and concluded his stint as SVP of Product Development at the company. He started his entrepreneurial journey by co-founding, iTasveer, an online service for photo printing in 2006.

Ankit is a graduate from Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi.

## Dr. Dhawal Gupta

Director, Government Affairs  
Microsoft India & South Asia

Dhawal is responsible for advancing strategic government partnerships and policy engagement to support secure, inclusive, and responsible digital innovation. At Microsoft, he works at the intersection of public policy and digital technologies with a strong focus on fostering a trusted and resilient digital ecosystem.

A firm advocate of public-private collaboration, Dhawal works closely with policymakers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders to help shape and advance forward-looking technology policies. Prior to joining Microsoft, he held diverse roles across the Government of India, and the private sector, bringing extensive experience in navigating the complex interplay between technology, policy, and societal impact.



## Ravish Swarup

Founder & CEO  
Praxis Services & onefinerate.com

Ravish Swarup brings over three decades of leadership experience across hospitality, travel, and aviation, combining deep operational expertise with a strong technology vision. A former Senior Vice President at The Oberoi Group, he led global reservations, distribution, and revenue functions, and is a graduate of The Oberoi Centre for Learning & Development (OCLD) and an MBA.

He is the Founder & CEO of Praxis Services and onefinerate.com. Praxis, a leading Global Capability Centre, supports ~30% of India's branded hotel inventory, managing 900+ hotels and ~500,000 transactions across hotels and airlines, delivering AI-led solutions grounded in real operating expertise.



## Kapil Dev

Former Indian Cricketer



Kapil Dev Ramlal Nikhanj, born on January 6, 1959, and affectionately nicknamed the "Haryana Hurricane," is a legendary former Indian cricketer and captain who is widely regarded as one of the greatest all-rounders in cricket history.

He famously led India to their historic first Cricket World Cup title in 1983, a campaign highlighted by his heroic, unbeaten 175\* against Zimbabwe after coming in with the team struggling at 17 for 5. Over his illustrious career, he played 131 Test matches, scoring 5,248 runs and taking 434 wickets, while also appearing in 225 One Day Internationals where he scored 3,783 runs and claimed 253 wickets. To this day, he remains the only player in cricket history to achieve the monumental double of over 5,000 runs and 400 wickets in Test cricket.

In recognition of his exceptional contributions to the sport, he was awarded the Padma Shri in 1982 and the Padma Bhushan in 1991, later being named the Wisden Indian Cricketer of the Century in 2002 and inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2010.

Following his retirement, he served briefly as India's national coach, pursued professional golf, was commissioned as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army, and was appointed as the first chancellor of the Sports University of Haryana in 2019. Additionally, he has authored several books over the years, including *By God's Decree* in 1985, *Cricket My Style* in 1987, *Straight from the Heart* in 2004, and *We, The Sikhs* in 2019.

*Source-Internet*

## Rajdeep Sardesai

Consulting Editor and Lead News Anchor  
India Today Group

Rajdeep Sardesai, 60 is an award winning senior journalist, author, TV news presenter. His latest book: The Election that Surprised India 2024 has been short listed for various awards and is a national bestseller as were his previous two books, 2019: How Modi won India, and 2014: The Election that changed India, which has been translated into half a dozen languages, His book Democracy's Eleven: The Great Story of Indian Cricket, was shortlisted by MCC Lords as cricket book of the year in 2017-18.

Currently the consulting editor and lead news anchor of the India Today group, he has over 35 years of journalistic experience in print and television. He was the founder editor of the IBN 18 network which included CNN IBN, IBN 7 and IBN Lokmat. Prior to that, he was Managing Editor of both NDTV 24x7 and NDTV India and was responsible for overseeing the news policy for both the channels. He has also worked with The Times of India for 6 years and was city editor of its Mumbai edition at the age of 26.

During his long career in journalism, he has covered major national and international stories, specialising in national politics. He has won more than 50 awards for journalistic excellence, including the prestigious Padma Shri for Journalism in 2008, the International Broadcasters award for coverage of the 2002 Gujarat riots, the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism award in 2007 and the 2019 Prem Bhatia award for political journalism for analysis of the 2019 elections. The first Indian to win the Asian Television award for both talk show and news presentation, he has been News Anchor of the year at the Indian Television Academy a record ten times. In 2020, he was conferred with the Lifetime achievement award at the annual news broadcasting awards. He has been the President of the Editors Guild of India and was also chosen as a Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum. Sardesai writes a fortnightly column across several newspapers. He has his own blogsite and is the third most followed journalist in the world on social media site, Twitter. A graduate of St Xaviers college, he has completed his Masters and LLB from Oxford University and played first class cricket at Oxford and captained Mumbai schools.



## Raaj Sanghvi

CEO  
Culinary Culture



Raaj Sanghvi is an entrepreneur and one of India's most influential voices in the country's food and beverage ecosystem. He is the CEO of Culinary Culture, India's most prestigious and influential culinary platform that has redefined how restaurants, chefs and dining experiences are celebrated across the country.

Under his leadership, Culinary Culture has launched several landmark properties and industry-shaping IPs including FoodSuperstars, India's definitive chef ranking; Ultimate Restaurant Ratings, the country's first and only star-rating system for restaurants; Street FoodSuperstars, India's first national street food awards; and Culinary Conversations, a thought-leadership platform spotlighting global and Indian culinary icons.

He is known for bringing some of the world's most acclaimed chefs to India including Massimo Bottura, Mauro Colagreco, Heston Blumenthal, Virgilio Martinez helping position the country more prominently on the global gastronomic map.

An alumnus of McGill University, Montreal, Sanghvi's professional background spans Vanity Fair in New York, LVMH – Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton in Mumbai, and Red Chilies Entertainment. He is a regular contributor on luxury, travel, and gastronomy for leading publications such as Business Today, Vogue India, Mint, The Nod, and Business Standard.

Sanghvi is also a regular presence on industry panels and global food and beverage forums, where he contributes to shaping conversations around India's evolving culinary identity. He has served as a judge for Diageo World Class India and was a member of the Indian contingent at the global finals in Shanghai (2024) and São Paulo (2023).

In 2018, Upper Crust Magazine described him as "the one to watch out for in the media space." Widely regarded as a tastemaker and cultural curator, he continues to shape how India is experienced and celebrated through F&B.

## Nikhil Nagpal

Executive Chef  
ITC Grand Chola

Chef Nikhil has built an 20-year career with ITC Hotels, starting in 2004 after graduating from the Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration. He honed his culinary skills at ITC Maratha, ITC Grand Central, ITC Maurya Sheraton New Delhi & Park Sheraton before joining ITC Grand Chola. Nikhil Nagpal who was part of the conceptualising & pre-opening team is responsible for the restaurant's continuing fame and popularity — 9 years after it was established by a visionary team of chefs, at ITC Grand Chola.

Avartana (used interchangeably for mysticism and iteration) blends innovation with tradition to present South Indian Peninsula cuisine in a reimagined context. The team at Avartana had a firm grounding in the pragmatic skills of cooking, an understanding of the universal concepts of fine dining and the spirit of adventure to create, integrate and surpass the expectations of the diner. Local spices, delicate broths, infused oils, fresh coconut, aromatic curry leaves augment the essence of cooking at Avartana.

Nikhil's passion for food began in his family kitchen, influenced by diverse regional cuisines during his father's military postings. A pivotal moment in college sparked his love for South Indian flavours, which now shape Avartana's unique identity.



Nikhil is lauded for his dynamism, and creative touches to luxury dining, his penchant for immersive team building and his immaculate project execution. Nikhil was rated amongst the top 10 hotel chefs in India for the year 2025 by Haier Hospitality Horizon Awards, Chef of the Year at Zee Zest 2025 & is featured amongst top chefs by Food Super Stars.

Avartana has earned a spot-on Asia's 50 Best Restaurants list (No. 30 in 2023 and No. 43 in 2024). Nikhil's innovative approach has established Avartana as a global culinary trailblazer. Avartana continues to feature amongst the top restaurants in India by Conde Nast Traveller and several other admirable listings.

Avartana's avant-garde approach has had huge success in the progressively evolving city of Chennai and has become a must-visit experiential destination from its very opening. The dynamic and meticulous team at Avartana has catered to multiple state ambassadors, cine stars, Consul Generals, sports personalities, royalty, national and international luminaries, corporate moguls, and the gourmets and gourmands in Chennai and pan India.

After the overwhelming success of Avartana Chennai, ITC Hotels opened Avartana in Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, and Colombo promising to replicate the pioneering progressive restaurant to whet the discerning palates of these metropolises.

Avartana's idea and execution are aligned to "the pursuit of excellence" which has always been ITC's culinary philosophy.

## Naren Thimmaiah

Executive Chef

Karavalli, Vivanta, Bengaluru, Residency Road

Chef Naren Thimmaiah has been the face of the Iconic Karavalli for over three decades. Naren joined the Taj group of hotels after completing his graduation in Commerce and subsequent graduation in Hotel Management. Being the face of Karavalli he has successfully nurtured and charted the course for the iconic restaurant to complete thirty-one wonderful years of existence, the popularity growing with each day evident by the numerous recognitions the restaurant has received over the past decade. He takes pride in singling out “maintaining the consistent quality of the product offered and holding the team together” above anything else when it comes to rating his own achievement

Naren Thimmaiah holds the distinction of participating in the World Gourmet Summit held at Singapore in the year 2005. In its history from inception, Naren Thimmaiah holds the distinction of being the fourth to attend this prestigious event representing India. The World Gourmet Summit is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning gastronomic event where only ten chefs from all over the world are invited to present their expertise, widely recognized as one of the foremost gastronomic events in the world inaugurated in 1997 it continues to gain reputation with each annual event.

He has also been featured as one of the top 10 Chefs in India by a survey conducted by a Food lover’s BlogSpot called Chowhound. He is popular on TV Shows, regular contributor on food and lifestyle magazines, serves on the Board of Studies of Christ University and Srinivas University apart from many Hotel Management institutes, and advises on the Food Panel of Master Chef India.

Committed to his work he adds that the role of an Executive Chef is multi-faceted with attention being given to food safety through the various certifications like HACCP, ISO 22000, OHSAS 18001, also being actively involved in Process Improvement initiatives through Six Sigma. Naren is very involved in the refining of the menu at the Karavalli, by constantly learning, and highlighting the dishes from various communities; he travels often, trying out the various fares of eateries and homes along the South West coast of India. He believes that, “Like museums, regional restaurants also preserve traditions.”



Contd...

- 1) February 2009, at the Government of India, National Tourism awards held at New Delhi, Naren Thimmaiah adjudged as the Best Chef of India in his category.
- 2) August 2009, Naren was awarded the Millennium Excellence Award for Quality in promoting tourism by Economic Growth Society of India at the international seminar held at Katmandu.
- 3) February 2015, Addressed India International Centre Symposium in New Delhi on Kodava Culture and Food.
- 4) February 2017, at the Eazydiner Awards, Naren Thimmaiah adjudged as the Chef of the Year.

**Naren's contribution has ensured Karavalli listed among the finest:**

1. 50 Best Restaurants in Asia (St. Pellegrino – 2013- 44th, 2014 – 49th).
2. Top 100 Restaurants in the World in the hugely popular FOODIE GUIDE 2014 by Glam Media.
3. 1001 Restaurants - You must Experience before you Die – Jenny Linford.
4. The New York Times – 36 Hours – Asia & Oceania
5. La Liste 2024 France – World's Top 1000 Culinary destinations-November 2023.

**Naren featured in the following Books of repute:**

1. 'Unusual people do things differently' by TGC Prasad, a management book.
2. Where Chefs Eat – A Guide to Chefs Favorite Restaurants' – Phaidon Books - Worldwide: Joe Warwick.
3. Tata Review - Prestigious Tata Magazine - as one of the five Taj Chefs for their contribution.
4. Milletology – Indian Federation of Culinary Associations – Millet Book – United Nations initiative.

**Karavalli Awards:**

1. H&FS- Best Indian Restaurant, Year: 1996.
2. H&FS- Best Indian Restaurant, Year: 1997.
3. H&FS- Best Indian Restaurant, Year: 1998.
4. Hotel & Food Service Culinaire – Silver Medal, Year: 1999.
5. Best coastal cuisine restaurant awarded from Just dial in the year of 2014-2015 & 2015-2016.

## Doma Wang

Founder, The Blue Poppy  
Director, Blue Poppy Hospitality

Hello, I am an award-winning celebrity chef whose Restaurant is consistently named one of the best restaurants of India. People also fondly call me the "Momo Queen". Many young girls & women look up to me for single handedly raising my two daughters & growing a successful business & being an inspiration to them, motivates me to do better each day.

### AREA OF EXPERTISE:

- Tibetan Cuisine • Chinese Cuisine • Nepali Cuisine

### EXPERIENCE:

- A successful Restaurateur & Chef (30+ years of experience) who specialises in Himalayan Cuisine
- Expert in curating menus & setting up of restaurants & QSR Chains under my new consultancy company
- Brand Endorser & motivational Guest Speaker
- Executed pop ups for 5 star properties pan India & hi-end luxury weddings.

### AWARDS & MEDIA PRESENCE:

- Winner of Food Superstars Top 30 chefs of India 2022, 2024, 2025 ranking 19<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively
- Awarded a 3 star Culinary Culture, Ultimate Restaurant Rating across pan India, 2024
- Brand Endorsement & menu curation for Hong's Kitchen, a unit of Jubilant Food works, 2023-2024
- Awarded "The Icons of North Bengal" Award for excellence in field of cooking in 2021 conducted by Dainik Jagran
- Awarded The Best Restaurant Award by The Telegraph Food Guide Awards 2020
- Awarded The Best Restaurant Award by The Times Food Award in 2019
- Awarded the Women Achievers Award 2021 by Nanighar, "Women who made a difference" Award by Damini, IHC Women Achiever Award 2019 by IIHM
- Regularly appears on Newspapers, Magazines, Cooking shows in Kolkata
- Prepared Meals for Epiphany Lutheran & Episcopal Church, Marina, California for 280-300 pax as a social cause for 4 weeks.



## Chef Amninder Sandhu

Kikli  
New Delhi



Chef Amninder Sandhu is one of India's most celebrated culinary innovators, renowned for her dedication to open-fire cooking, slow-food philosophy, and the preservation of regional heirloom recipes. Raised in North East India, her culinary journey began with a passion for traditional cooking methods and deep-rooted regional flavors. Over a career spanning more than two decades, she has redefined modern luxury dining by stripping away industrial conveniences to reconnect with age-old culinary heritage.

Her breakthrough came as the head chef at Arth in Mumbai, India's first completely gas-free restaurant. At Arth, Chef Sandhu gained international acclaim by preparing elevated Indian cuisine entirely over wood fire and charcoal using traditional clay pots, iron cookware, and slow-cooking techniques. Her mastery of open-flame cooking and rare regional ingredients earned her the prestigious National Award for Best Lady Chef from the Ministry of Tourism, India.

Chef Sandhu gained global recognition when she represented Indian cuisine on Netflix's hit international culinary competition series, *The Final Table*, where her authentic flavors and meticulous techniques impressed world-renowned chefs.

Continuing her culinary evolution, she has established several acclaimed ventures, including Bawri in Goa—a restaurant designed around age-old traditions, comforting regional recipes, and slow-cooked Indian feasts—and Palaash, a wilderness-to-table dining experience situated near Tipai in Maharashtra. She also launched delivery initiatives like I'm Wholesome and Ambuja to bring artisanal, wholesome food to wider audiences.

Chef Amninder Sandhu stands as an ambassador for India's rich culinary heritage. Through her philosophy of gasless cooking, sustainable ingredient sourcing, and revival of forgotten traditions, she continues to inspire a new generation of chefs to look back at heritage techniques to build the future of Indian gastronomy.

## Chef Prateek Sadhu

NAAR  
Kasauli

Chef Prateek Sadhu is known for redefining Indian cuisine through a deeply personal and ingredient-driven lens. As the founder of NAAR in the mountains, his cooking is rooted in the landscapes, seasons, and communities of the region, blending research with modern technique to tell stories of place. After leading acclaimed kitchen in Mumbai, Prateek has become known for championing indigenous produce, forgotten traditions, and hyperlocal sourcing, creating a dining experience that is both distinctly Indian and globally relevant.



## Zubin Saxena

Senior Vice President & Regional Head for South Asia at Hilton



Zubin Saxena, a seasoned leader with over 25 years of experience in the global hospitality industry, currently serves as the Senior Vice President & Regional Head for South Asia at Hilton. In this pivotal role, based at the Hilton corporate headquarters in Gurgaon, he leads a team of industry best professionals supporting 115 operating and pipeline hotels. Zubin is responsible for steering Hilton's growth and enhancing the brand's presence in South Asia.

Zubin, an alumnus of the University of Glasgow, holds a master's degree in business administration, graduating with distinction. Before joining Hilton, he carved a distinguished career with leading brands, notably serving as the Managing Director and Area Senior Vice President at Radisson Hotel Group for eight successful years, showcasing consistent leadership excellence. His journey also features pivotal roles at Inter Continental Hotels Group, Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels, and HVS New York, where he demonstrated expertise in strategic development, operations, investments and advisory capacities.

Beyond his professional role, Zubin is also an active member of various industry bodies such as Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Hotel Association of India (HAI), Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) and others. Zubin has been recognized with several prestigious accolades throughout his career, including being featured in "The Economic Times 40 under Forty – India's Hottest Business Leaders List" in 2019. Most recently, in 2026, Zubin was recognized as one of India's Top 50 Great People Managers.

## Keshav Suri

Executive Director, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group  
Founder, Keshav Suri Foundation  
Co-Founder, Pride Fund India  
Chair, FICCI D&I Taskforce  
Global Board Member, IGLTA  
Board Member, Outright International

Keshav Suri currently serves as the Executive Director at The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group. Known for his hands-on approach and innovative mindset, he has played a pivotal role in elevating the Group to a prominent position in the hospitality industry. The Lalit, as a brand, is renowned for its luxurious experiences and exceptional service with an essence of inclusion.

Celebrated for his keen business sense and ability to identify untapped potential, Keshav is expanding the portfolio The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group. Under his leadership, the Group hotels across the country have witnessed a diversity in offerings and introduction to innovative food and beverage concepts that are tailored for a sophisticated palate. Notably, his brainchild, Kitty Su, the Group's nightclub, celebrated twelve successful years in August 2023, solidifying its status as one of the longest-running and most inclusive (LGBTQIA+) nightclubs in the country.

Beyond corporate successes, Keshav is a prominent LGBTQIA+ activist, who played a crucial role in the movement to decriminalize Section 377 in India. As a petitioner himself, he advocates for building an inclusive nation, leading to the establishment of the Keshav Suri Foundation. This non-profit organization is dedicated to embracing, empowering, and mainstreaming marginalized communities. The Foundation, the official affiliate for the 'It Gets Better Project' in India, has contributed to a global recognition for the Group as one of the most inclusive hotel chains. He is also the Co-Founder of Pride



Fund India, India's first dedicated LGBTQIA+ philanthropy fund that supports grassroots NGOs and community-led organisations working towards inclusion, dignity, and systemic change.

Keshav's unwavering dedication has earned him numerous accolades, including being named a Top 100 LGBT+ Executive for three consecutive years by Yahoo Finance & Outstanding List, the Pioneer Award by IGLTA (International LGBTQ+ Travel Association), Attitude Pride Award, India UK Achievers Award and approximately 15 national honours, including 'Change Maker' by Hindu Businessline, 'Culture Icon of NewHood' by Mens XP, 'Agent of Social Change' by GQ, and 'Tycoons of Tomorrow' by Forbes India, to name a few.

As a sought-after speaker, Keshav actively participates in public forums, conferences, and events, using his engaging and articulate presence to advocate for diversity, inclusion, and LGBTQIA+ rights, he has established himself as a compelling force for positive social change, extending far beyond his industry.

An alumnus of St. Columbus School, New Delhi, Keshav is a distinguished scholar, holding degrees in Law and Business from the University of Warwick, a Master's Degree in International Management from Kings College, London, and an LLM Degree from the School of African & Oriental Studies (SAOS), London.

## Natwar Nagar

Founder & CEO

The People Network and The Job Plus

Natwar Nagar, Founder & CEO, The People Network and The Job Plus.

With over 25 years of transformative leadership in Human Resources, Natwar Nagar has been at the forefront of building and scaling some of the most influential hospitality talent and advisory firms, including HVS, Hotelivate, and now The People Network and The Job Plus.

As Founder of The Job Plus India's leading employability-led skilling platform for the service-hospitality sector - he is fundamentally reshaping how talent is discovered, trained, and deployed at scale. Under his leadership, The Job Plus has partnered with 35+ leading brands, successfully training and placing over 4,000 youth in collaboration with THSC, creating sustainable livelihood pathways across India.

His work has earned global and national recognition. The Job Plus has been invited to the prestigious 10th Global Education Conference by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and also selected for a special World Bank program in Andhra Pradesh. He has been invited by the Ministry of Skill Development and the Ministry of Tourism to present its impact across India.

Natwar has further strengthened industry thought leadership through the landmark Indian Hospitality Compensation Report 2025–26, setting new benchmarks for the sector.

Deeply committed to social impact, he serves on the Board of KOSISH – The Hospice, advancing care and dignity for the elderly and tribal women in Jharkhand, and actively supports the Clothes Box Foundation, championing inclusive and purpose-driven development.

A relentless advocate of industry-led skilling, Natwar continues to drive a bold vision – aligning talent creation with real market demand and unlocking opportunity at scale.



## Sonica Malhotra Kandhari

Joint Managing Director  
MBD Group



A visionary business leader and entrepreneur, Ms. Sonica Malhotra Kandhari is the Joint Managing Director of MBD Group, one of India's most diversified and respected conglomerates. With a strong foundation in finance and strategy, she leads the Group's businesses across hospitality, education, real estate, retail, commercial office spaces and residences, while also overseeing critical corporate functions including finance, taxation, and legal.

Over the past two decades, Ms. Sonica has played a pivotal role in shaping the Group's evolution into a dynamic force across multiple sectors. Under her leadership, MBD Group marked its entry into hospitality with the launch of Radisson Blu MBD Hotel, Noida, the first five star hotel of Noida followed by the successful launch of Radisson Blu MBD Hotel, Ludhiana, as the first five-star luxury hotel in Ludhiana, further strengthening the Group's footprint in India's luxury hospitality landscape. She has also driven the development of landmark mixed-use destinations such as MBD Neopolis in Jalandhar and Ludhiana, creating integrated hubs that combine luxury hospitality, premium retail, and entertainment. In parallel, she has scaled the Group's award-winning food and beverage brands including Made in India, SXVIII, The Chocolate Box & Lounge, and Rare Eastern Dining (RED), positioning them as distinctive culinary experiences within the hospitality sector.

Ms. Sonica's leadership reflects a strong focus on strategic, future-oriented growth, where innovation, responsible development, and long-term value creation remain central to the Group's philosophy. She has been instrumental in strengthening governance frameworks, expanding business verticals, and positioning MBD Group for sustained growth across evolving markets while aligning business strategy with global standards of leadership and enterprise development.

Beyond India, Ms. Sonica has driven the Group's international expansion with commercial office developments in Mayfair, London, and luxury residences in Belgravia, London, along with upcoming projects in Bengaluru, Udaipur, and Greater Noida.

In a significant milestone, Ms. Sonica now leads MBD Group's luxury hotel management mandate with Radisson Hotel Group,

Contd...

marking the first time a global hospitality major has executed a master franchise agreement for the deployment and management of Radisson Hotel Group's luxury and lifestyle portfolio under the brand name Radisson Collection MBD and Radisson RED MBD hotels in India, shaping brand-led and asset light growth, operational excellence, and long-term expansion within the luxury and lifestyle hospitality space.

Alongside her business leadership, Ms. Sonica is deeply committed to corporate social responsibility through Ashok Karya, the official CSR initiative of the MBD Group. The initiative focuses on community development, education, social welfare, and inclusive growth, reflecting the Group's belief that businesses must play an active role in contributing to society. Through Ashok Karya, the Group continues to undertake impactful initiatives that support underprivileged communities and promote sustainable social development.

An alumna of Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University, and IMI Delhi, Ms. Sonica holds an MBA in Finance and has completed multiple leadership and growth programmes at Harvard Business School. A consistent academic topper, she combines analytical rigour with a global outlook and a hands-on leadership style. She is also the Group Editor of Democratic World, MBD Group's quarterly thought-leadership magazine.

Recognised for her leadership in business and hospitality, Ms. Sonica has received several prestigious honours including The Economic Times Most Promising Women Leader, Times Power Icon, Women of the Decade in Innovation & Enterprise, and a Fellowship from the International Institute of Hotel Management.

She actively contributes to industry forums and is a Member of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), Delhi Chapter, and also part of an Angel Network, supporting entrepreneurship and emerging ventures. She has been a jury member, keynote speaker, and panellist at leading platforms.

A firm believer in people-led growth, Ms. Sonica's vision is to build future-ready businesses while nurturing talent and giving back to society, ensuring that MBD Group's growth journey remains inclusive, purposeful, and enduring.

## Dr. Vishwanath Joshi

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



- 25+ years professional experience
- 20+ years in Executive Management Education and Development
- PhD in Organizational Development
- Leadership Development for Sr. Leadership

### CLIENTS:

- Bosch • Siemens • BnY Mellon • L&T • Chubb India • Tata Motors
- Tata Autocomp • Wipro • ICICI Lombard • Operative • Godrej
- Havells • Hexaware • NPCI • Thermax • Birlasoft • Reliance Retail
- NPCI • Atlas Copco • Synchrony etc.

Dr. Vishwanath Joshi is Executive Vice President and Head of People & Culture at Great Place to Work®, India. In this role, he is responsible for conceptualizing, designing, delivering and assessing Great Work Place Leadership Development interventions for a variety of clients. In his role as Head of People & Culture, VJ is responsible for strengthening the people and culture processes and practices for GPTW India. So far, he has facilitated more than 350+ workshops on the theme of Giftwork®- a propriety Manager Capability framework of Great Place to Work®. VJ was also a part of the Senior Leadership team at Great Manager Institute® till recently driving People Manager Capability programs.

In his prior role, VJ (as he is fondly called), was the Chief People Officer at Hexaware Technologies Ltd., a 30000 people mid size IT services organization. This role involved providing a strategic direction to all the people processes and programs and aligning them to a high growth business environment, leading to a High Engagement-High Performance culture globally. Under his leadership, Hexaware was certified as a Great Place to Work twice in a row by Great Place to Work Institute®.

VJ was also a Practice Head for Leadership Development at Great Place to Work Institute® for 5 years before taking up the CPO role at Hexaware.

For the last 20+ years, VJ has designed and delivered Executive Education programs for 5000+ senior professionals through his association with Symbiosis International University in areas around Leadership & Organization Development.

His academic pursuits includes a PhD in Organization Development and his thesis uncovered how professionals experience career as a part of their life experiences. VJ is a Phenomenologist.

His personal mission is to keep the 'H' in HRM alive in organizations.

**SPECIALIZATION:**

- People Manager Capability building
- Organizational & Leadership Development
- Organizational diagnosis, Cultural building practices and strategies
- Building Values Driven Organization
- Aligning Leadership, Culture & Strategy

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

- Member of National HRD Network
- Alumni – Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION:**

- HR Excellence Award 'Sym-Urja' by National HRD Network and Symbiosis Skills University in recognition of contribution to the field of HR.

## Sonali Chauhan

General Manager

The Connaught, New Delhi-IHCL SeleQtions



Ms. Sonali Chauhan is a distinguished hospitality leader with over two decades of experience across some of the world's most respected international and Indian hotel brands. An alumna of the prestigious Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), she began her hospitality career as a Corporate Trainee with Hyatt Hotels, laying the foundation for an exceptional journey marked by operational excellence, strategic vision, and a steadfast commitment to guest satisfaction. Sonali further enhanced her leadership and strategic management capabilities by completing the prestigious Executive Programme in Strategy and Organisation at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. This experience broadened her global perspective and strengthened her ability to lead organizations through evolving market dynamics and business transformation.

During her tenure with Hyatt Hotels, Sonali advanced through a series of operational and leadership roles, she was a key member of the pre-opening team for Hyatt Regency Kolkata, playing an instrumental role in the successful launch and establishment of one of Eastern India's premier hospitality destinations. Sonali later joined The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), where she contributed significantly to the successful opening of Taj Santacruz, Mumbai, one of the company's flagship luxury hotels. Her strong leadership skills and operational expertise led to her appointment as Resident Manager at Taj Palace, New Delhi, where she oversaw hotel operations and championed service excellence at one of the capital's most iconic luxury properties.

She subsequently took on the role of General Manager at The Connaught, New Delhi – IHCL SeleQtions, where she successfully led the hotel's launch and strategic positioning as a distinctive lifestyle destination in the heart of the city. Under her leadership, The Connaught has earned recognition for its personalized guest experiences, innovative hospitality offerings, and unwavering commitment to operational excellence, while reflecting the rich heritage and values of IHCL.

Widely respected within the hospitality industry, Sonali is recognized for her ability to build high-performing teams, foster a culture of collaboration, and consistently deliver exceptional guest experiences. Her achievements have earned her several prestigious accolades, including the General Manager – Upper Upscale (North Zone) award at the 8th BW Hotelier Indian Hospitality Awards, recognizing her outstanding leadership and contribution to the hospitality sector. She is also the recipient of the IHC Hospitality Women Achiever Award, a testament to her exceptional leadership, innovative approach, and unwavering dedication to excellence in the hospitality industry. These recognitions underscore her influence as one of the leading women professionals shaping the future of hospitality in India.

Beyond her operational responsibilities, Sonali actively contributes to industry forums and leadership initiatives. As a former member of the Hotel Association of India, she has participated in discussions and initiatives focused on leadership development, talent management, and the advancement of women in hospitality. Her dedication to mentoring future leaders and promoting inclusive growth continues to make a meaningful impact on the industry.

Sonali Chauhan's professional journey—from an IHM graduate and Corporate Trainee to an award-winning General Manager and Stanford executive programme alumna—reflects her dedication, resilience, and unwavering pursuit of excellence. Through her visionary leadership and passion for hospitality, she continues to inspire teams, elevate guest experiences, and contribute significantly to the growth and evolution of the hospitality industry.



## Meena Bhatia

Vice President & General Manager  
Le Meridien New Delhi

Ms. Meena Bhatia is a Hotelier with over 4 decades of luxury hotel experience. She started with Oberoi Grand, Kolkata and thereafter moved on to spearhead Sales as Associate Director of Sales in Hyatt Regency Hotel Delhi.

After doing her graduation in English from University of Delhi, Meena did her Post Graduate Diploma in Travel, Tourism & Hospitality Management from IMM, Kolkata; and went to Cornell University Ithaca, United States of America to do her General Managers Program.

At present Meena Bhatia is Vice President & General Manager at Le Meridien New Delhi. She is the head of Strategic Planning, Brand Management and Business Development of the Hotel and has been at the heart of driving transformational change in Le Meridien New Delhi from being a pure five star property to an iconic luxury hotel.

She not only develops and ensures the execution of the budget, but also directs Hotel's leadership in the achievement of all financial and operational budgets and goals.

Extremely conscious about the brand standards, she introduces and implements Brand Programs, assesses and ensures that the Brand Standards are adhered to. She also handles all communications with Marriott International and has been on the Brand Advisory Board of Le Meridien. She monitors the quality of Marketing and Communications and creative execution of the brand Programs. With her great analytical approach she is responsible for analysing reports to enhance revenue and Brand positioning.

She is known for building a strong communication network in the organisation for smooth functioning and achievement of goals. Apart from these she interacts with guests regularly and ensures that their overall experience with the Hotel is a positive one.

She is the Hotel Representative for classification of Hotel with Ministry of Tourism, Department of Tourism, she is on the panel for various Tourism & Hospitality events, Guest Speaker at Hospitality Institutes and is actively involved with various CSR activities especially initiatives taken for "Women Empowerment" and "Save The Girl Child" with various institutes like Concern India, AIMA and DMA.

Meena conceptualised and founded Women's Whiskey Appreciation Club at Le Meridien New Delhi – a club focusing on knowledge, appreciation and responsible drinking. She is actively involved with various associations and chambers namely FICCI Ladies Association, Delhi Women's International Press Club, ICPB, SKAL, TAAI, FHRAI, HRNAI, Hotel Association of India. She was assigned as a Jury of Women Entrepreneurs Awards of Delhi Management Association; she is also a Executive Committee member for AIMA for their project "Pragati" - Celebrating the Achievements of Women; she is a Executive member of Tourism Council Committee - CII and also Committee Member of Delhi State Council of CII.

Meena Bhatia has won many national and international awards like 'General Manager' Award' and 'Best Franchise Hotel' Award by Starwood Hotels & Resorts, and has been covered in Travel publications as well as leading dailies & electronic media.

## Amandeep Kaur

General Manager  
ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru

Amandeep Kaur is the General Manager of ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru, bringing with her over two decades of rich experience in the hospitality industry. An alumna of the prestigious Welcomgroup Management Institute (WMI), she began her journey with ITC Hotels as part of the pre-opening team at ITC Grand Central, Mumbai, laying the foundation for a remarkable career marked by operational excellence and people-centric leadership.

Over the years, she has held key roles across some of the country's most iconic hospitality destinations, including ITC Sonar, Kolkata, and Sheraton New Delhi, where she honed her expertise in housekeeping operations. Amandeep played an instrumental role in the opening of ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, the largest hotel in the ITC Hotels portfolio, before taking on the position of Executive Housekeeper at ITC Grand Bharat, Gurugram, one of India's most distinguished luxury retreats.

Her association with ITC Gardenia began as Executive Housekeeper, where her strategic approach, operational acumen, and ability to inspire teams quickly earned her a promotion to Resident Manager within a year. Known affectionately as "Aman" by colleagues and friends, she is recognized for fostering an empowering work culture that encourages collaboration, growth, and excellence. A strong advocate of inclusive leadership, she believes that people are at the heart of every great hospitality experience.

Her appointment as General Manager is special milestone, making her the first woman to lead ITC Gardenia as General Manager. Under her leadership, the hotel continues to strengthen its position as a benchmark for luxury hospitality and responsible luxury practices.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Amandeep is an explorer at heart. She enjoys trekking, solo travel, and discovering new cultures and perspectives through her journeys. An avid reader, she values lifelong learning and personal growth. Her most cherished moments, however, are those spent with her son and family.

A testament to her leadership excellence and contribution to the hospitality industry, Amandeep was honoured with the 'Best General Manager - South' award in the Upper Upscale Category at the Indian Hospitality Awards 2023. Her journey continues to inspire aspiring hoteliers and hospitality professionals across the country.



## Asha Deep Sidhu

General Manager  
Vivanta Gurugram Sector 95A

Mrs. Asha Deep Sidhu is a qualified Chartered Accountant and Cost Management Accountant with over 18 years of experience at Indian Hotels Company Limited. A dynamic professional, she brings extensive expertise across both finance and hotel operations.

Throughout her career, Asha has gained deep business insights while working at several iconic properties, including Taj Palace Delhi, Taj City Centre Gurugram, Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur, and Sawai Man Mahal, Jaipur.

Combining strong financial acumen with operational leadership, Asha is known for her empathetic and people-centric approach. She fosters meaningful connections with teams and stakeholders alike, while her sharp business sense and resilience continue to drive innovation, performance, and excellence.





## **Preeti Makhija**

General Manager  
The Leela Palace New Delhi

A seasoned leader with extensive experience in the hospitality industry, Preeti has been an integral part of The Leela group since 2011, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to excellence and operational expertise.

Preeti's leadership story is compelling precisely because it is built on longevity, intention, and quiet authority. She joined The Leela Palace New Delhi during its pre-opening phase in 2011 as a Duty Manager and has since grown alongside the iconic palace - playing a pivotal role in shaping its guest philosophy, operational culture, and global positioning. In 2025, she assumed the role of General Manager, now steering the overall vision, strategy, and performance of one of India's most celebrated luxury addresses.

## Chetan Vohra

Co-Founder & Director  
Weddingline Events & Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.

Chetan Vohra, 50, is a distinguished name in India's experiential and wedding industry, with over 24 years of leadership in large-scale event management. Over the course of his career, he has been associated with some of the country's most celebrated productions — from grand Bollywood showcases to high-profile corporate events and bespoke luxury celebrations.

He is the Founder and driving force behind Weddingline, one of India's leading Wedding Management and Consulting companies, known for curating iconic celebrations and milestone events for an eminent clientele. Recognised for his refined design sensibility, structured planning approach, and forward-thinking vision, Chetan has built a brand that is synonymous with scale, elegance and flawless execution.

Beyond his entrepreneurial ventures, Chetan currently heads Wed In India, a national initiative focused on positioning India as a premier global wedding destination. Through this platform, he actively collaborates with tourism boards, hospitality leaders and government stakeholders to promote India's diverse cultural landscapes, heritage venues and luxury hospitality offerings to the international wedding market. His work is contributing to reshaping how India is perceived in the global destination wedding ecosystem.

He also leads Line Communications, with both organisations continually innovating within the experiential space. Among his pioneering concepts is an ambitious vision for structured Wedding Tourism — a model that integrates hospitality, culture, design and logistics to redefine destination celebrations in the years ahead.

A respected industry voice, Chetan mentors young professionals and students who aspire to build careers in weddings and events. His companies have been decorated with several international accolades, reflecting their global standards and creative excellence.

Outside of work, he is a passionate collector of vintage and classic cars and an avid connoisseur of food.

Chetan Vohra is based in New Delhi, India. He can be reached at [chetan@weddingline.in](mailto:chetan@weddingline.in) or +91 999 988 7123.



## Samit Garg

Managing Director  
E-Factor Experiences



Samit Garg is the Managing Director & Co-Founder of E-Factor Experiences Ltd., an experiential firm that enjoys a near-mythological status for crafting transformative, enviable experiences across the globe.

Distinctive, revolutionary, bold, and larger than life are qualities that define Samit's approach to creating experiences that consistently push the boundaries of the industry. A pioneer in organizing India's luxury events market into a well-structured ecosystem, he has led landmark projects across culture, tourism, entertainment, and global events, including India's participation at the World Expo.

He is also the force behind original experiential IPs such as Shiva Immersive and The Bridal Retreat, alongside several national and international tourism initiatives developed in collaboration with state and central governments. His work is driven by a belief that culture should be experienced, not merely observed.

Beyond E-Factor, Samit serves as the President of the Event & Entertainment Management Association (EEMA), India's apex body for the events and experiences industry, leading the transformation and growth of the country's creative economy. He also contributes to Destination Promotion Bureaus, business forums, and government committees.

At the core of his vision is the belief that the economic potential of natural, sporting, and cultural assets can be unlocked by moving beyond static museums and galleries to create living experiential spaces, new marketplaces, and cultural landmarks that connect traditional ecosystems with the modern world.

## Suman Billa

Additional Secretary & Director General  
Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

Suman Billa (often spelled Suman Bill) is a Senior Indian Administrative Service officer from the 1996 Kerala cadre. He Serves as the Additional Secretary and Director General in the Ministry of Tourism for the Government of India, leading national policy, global cooperation, and tourism infrastructure growth.

Born on December 24, 1970, he earned an M.A. in English and an M.Phil. in Sino-Burmese Relations while studying at premier institutions, including the London School of Economics and Political Science. His career journey began with various field and state posts in Kerala, such as District Collector for Palakkad and Director of Kerala Tourism, before he gained national experience as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism from 2014 to 2019.

He later expanded his global exposure by working in Madrid, Spain, as the Director of Technical Cooperation and Silk Road Development for the United Nations World Tourism Organization, after which he returned to Kerala to serve as Principal Secretary for Industries and NORKA before assuming his current central leadership roles.

Throughout his career, he has contributed significantly to Indian tourism by shaping major policy frameworks for Incredible India, promoting sustainable, rural, adventure, and golf tourism, and continually strengthening international ties and global outreach.



*Source-Internet*



## **Charulata Sukhija**

Deputy Secretary General  
Hotel Association of India

Charu serves as Deputy Secretary General of the Hotel Association of India (HAI), bringing 40 years of comprehensive hospitality and tourism experience to her leadership role. Her career spans foundational operational leadership at ITDC, corporate travel management with ITC's International Travel House Ltd., and international corporate affairs as Director for Challenge Hospitality in Bangkok (managing luxury properties including lebua at State Tower).

In her current capacity at HAI, which she joined in 2008, Charu represents and advocates for the apex national forum of Indian hospitality. She is an academic achiever with qualifications from Delhi University, IHM Pusa, and the International Management Institute (IMI), New Delhi.

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**Mr. K.B. Kachru**  
*President*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Chairman - South Asia*  
Radisson Hotel Group



**Mr. Puneet Chhatwal**  
*Corporate Member*  
(Immediate Past President)  
Hotel Association of India  
*Managing Director & CEO*  
The Indian Hotels  
Company Limited



**Mr. Rohit Khosla**  
*Vice President*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Executive Vice President*  
The Indian Hotels  
Company Limited



**Ms. Priya Paul**  
*Corporate Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Chairperson*  
Apeejay Surrendra Park  
Hotels Limited



**Mr. Vikram Oberoi**  
*Corporate Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Managing Director & CEO*  
EIH Limited



**Dr. Jyotsna Suri**  
*Corporate Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Chairperson & MD*  
Bharat Hotels Limited



**Mr. Anil Chadha**  
*Corporate Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Managing Director*  
ITC Hotels Limited



**Mr. Patanjali G. Keswani**  
*Corporate Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Chairman and MD*  
Lemon Tree Hotels Limited



**Mr. Ajay K. Bakaya**  
*Fellow Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Chairman*  
Sarovar Hotels Pvt. Ltd.



**Mr. Shwetank Singh**  
*Fellow Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Managing Director & CEO*  
Chalet Hotels Limited



**Dr. J.K. Mohanty**  
*Member & Hony. Secretary*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Managing Director*  
Swosti Premium Limited



**Mr. R. Shankar**  
*Member & Hony. Treasurer*  
Hotel Association of India  
*President - Corporate & Legal Affairs, EIH Limited*



**Mr. Rupak Gupta**  
*Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Managing Director*  
U.P. Hotels Limited



**Mr. Shashank Bhagat**  
*Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*Managing Partner*  
Radisson Blu Marina Hotel  
New Delhi



**Mr. Mandeep Surie**  
*Member*  
Hotel Association of India  
*General Manager*  
IHCL SeleQtions



**Mr. M.P. Bezbaruah**  
*Member (Ex-officio)*  
*Secretary General*  
Hotel Association of India



**Ms. Charulata Sukhija**  
*Member (Ex-officio)*  
*Deputy Secretary General*  
Hotel Association of India

Gold Partner

**TATA**  
CONSUMER  
PRODUCTS

Silver Partner

**Welspun**<sup>®</sup>  
HOSPITALITY

Bronze Partners



**premier**  
*Fine Linens*  
SINCE 1945



**REPOSE**<sup>®</sup>  
LEAVE YOUR SLEEP TO US

**hyperpure**  
BY ZOMATO



Elevators  
& Escalators



**asianpaints**  
**PROJECT SALES**  
Paints | Waterproofing | Flooring | Repair | Admixtures



Hospitality Partner

**TAJ**  
PALACE  
NEW DELHI

Beverage Partners



**Ujva**  
WINE OF SOUTH AFRICA



**HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA**

B-212-214, Somdutt Chambers-I, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066, India

Telephone : +91 2617 1110/ 2617 1114/ 2617 1115

E-mail : [info@hotelassociationofindia.com](mailto:info@hotelassociationofindia.com), [hai@hotelassociationofindia.com](mailto:hai@hotelassociationofindia.com)

Web : [www.hotelassociationofindia.com](http://www.hotelassociationofindia.com)