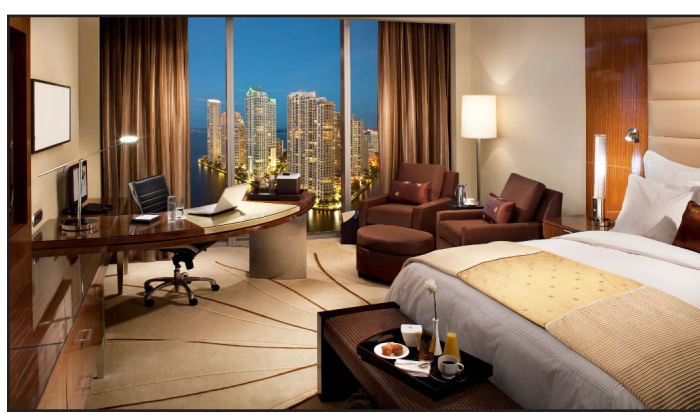


### Hotel occupancies dip in Oct amid fall in business travel, says HVS Anarock

While nationwide hotel occupancy slumped for the month of October 2022, compared to September, owing to a drop in business travel because of the festival season, average room rates in the organised hotel industry continued their upward trend, helping hotels maintain their revenues to above the pre-pandemic levels for the month. According to a new report by hospitality consultancy HVS Anarock, Hotels & Hospitality Overview India, Mumbai and New Delhi remain the top markets with occupancy rates exceeding 65% in October 2022, while Goa had the highest average rate, over INR 10,000 for the month. In October, room occupancies slumped the most in cities like Chandigarh, New Delhi and Hyderabad between 5-10% as compared to October 2019. Mumbai and Bengaluru, too, saw a low of under 5%. The company, though, said that occupancies remained strong in Kolkata, Pune, Goa, Chennai and Kochi, higher by about 1-5%.



### Leisure Hotels to expand its hostel brand

Leisure Hotels Group, which owns 22 properties across four states, is looking to expand its Bedzzz branded hostels brand, launched two years ago, said Vibhas Prasad, Director of the hospitality firm.



Vibhas Prasad

The second Bedzzz hostel has come up in Varanasi, after the one in Rishikesh. Though the first property is owned and managed by the company, the Varanasi hostel is functioning under a management contract. "These properties have rooms as well as hostel-style individual beds and are in the budget to mid-market space. It is easy to get a return on investment within a few years," he added.

"The beds model is the most profitable of all our verticals because it requires less capital to be deployed and the return on investment is much sooner than other hotels. It is a mid-scale offering but has dynamic pricing and that makes it quite viable," said Prasad.

### ED attaches 40% shares of Hotel project in Noida

The Enforcement Directorate recently attached at least forty per cent shares of the Hotel Project within the Commercial Centre in Uttar Pradesh's Noida. The assets attached by ED belonged to the 1,40,000 sq. ft. Floor Space Index (FSI) hotel project of Garden's Galleria.

"ED has provisionally attached 40% Share of the Hotel Project (1,40,000 Sq. Ft. FSI Space) within the Commercial Centre, "Garden's Galleria", Noida. The attached asset was owned by Unitech M/s Rancho Services Limited, Cyprus and the value of attached asset INR 65.32 Crore," the ED said in a tweet. According to the reports, the attached asset worth INR 65.32 crore was owned by Unitech M/s Rancho Services Limited, Cyprus.

### Tourism, hotel industry badly suffering in Jammu: AJHLA

All Jammu Hotels and Lodges Association (AJHLA) has expressed strong resentment against the attitude of the JKUT Administration and alleged that Tourism/Hotel Industry has been badly suffered in the Jammu region.

An emergency meeting of the AJHLA was held at Jammu under the chairmanship of Inderjeet Khajuria, wherein the members expressed serious concern over the poor condition of Jammu people particularly those connected with the tourism/hotel industry. They alleged that the UT administration has done nothing to support this industry.

While speaking during the meeting Khajuria stated that Hotel Industry in Jammu region is passing through its worst phase of life after-effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pawan Gupta, President of the Association, expressed disappointment in ignoring the Tourism sector, particularly the hotel industry from the purview of any relief package from the government even after repeated requests for the same to the government, umpteen times.



### Business travel to clock strongest growth momentum in January-February: Sanjay Sethi

Business travel shows bright prospects as the sector is all set to clock the strongest growth momentum in the January-



February period which has very few holidays and even December will post extremely strong growth despite holidays kicking in, Sanjay Sethi, MD & CEO, Chalet Hotels said.

"We don't get a major rub-off from the holiday season but we've done extremely well during non-holiday season periods," Sethi added.

Sethi claimed that the months of September and October were decent while November is stronger and hotel companies that rely on business travel are back on track. Domestic travel is now 190 per cent of pre-pandemic levels, Sethi said. "Future of the industry looks extremely strong I'm very bullish both for the business and the leisure segment and we will continue to explore opportunities in the leisure segments as we continue to consolidate business in existing assets within the portfolio," he added.



### Absolute Barbecues mulls rapid expansion

Barbeque buffet restaurant chain – Absolute Barbecues (popularly known as AB's) is aiming to reach its 100th outlet by 2024. In a recent interaction with Hospitality Biz at a press conference organised at Hyderabad, Vivek Kolukula, Territory Manager, AP & TS, Absolute Barbecues informed that the brand which has 60 outlets across India, covering 23 cities is now mulling a rapid expansion.

"Within the next 18-24 months we want to hit 100 marks across India. To be in line with the current expansion plan we are targeting to open two outlets per month. We are opening 3 outlets this month. Attapur in Hyderabad, Pune and Kolkata each will have 1 new outlet by this month," Kolukula informed.

While speaking about the company's plans specifically for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Kolukula said, "We already have 11 outlets in Hyderabad and will soon be adding two more outlets in Attapur and Medipally in our portfolio, which will increase the count to 13. As per the expansion plans, we are targeting 20-25 outlets in Telangana and AP soon." The restaurant chain also has an international presence with three outlets in Dubai.