

### Japan to invest INR 7,200 crores in Uttar Pradesh; HMI Group developing 30 hotels

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government's efforts of harnessing UP's tourism potential have not only led to an increased influx of domestic and

foreign tourists but also will generate ample employment opportunities in tourist destinations, the statement said.

In 2022, Uttar Pradesh witnessed the arrival of 24.87 crore tourists to the state, of which the

number of foreigners was 4.10 lakh. Owing to the sustained efforts of CM Adityanath, the tourism and hospitality sectors also garnered immense attention from the investors in the Global Investors Summit held recently in the state capital.

The tourism and hospitality centres of Uttar Pradesh have received investment proposals of INR 98193 crores and INR 20722 crores, respectively. In the coming years, about 1.45 lakh employment opportunities will be created from both sectors.



### Hike in LPG price worries hotel industry

Domestic and commercial LPG cylinders across the country saw a hike of INR 50 and INR 350.5 per unit, respectively, effective from March 1.

Several groups in the city have expressed concerns about their businesses being affected due to the price hike.

P C Rao, president, Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association (BBHA), said that the hike in commercial gas prices is "very abnormal and comes as a big blow to the hotel industry".

He plans on meeting Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri along with BBHA members to present their demands.

### Leisure travel led recovery in hospitality sector: Puneet Chhatwal

Puneet Chhatwal, MD & CEO of IHCL, said leisure travel helped the hospitality sector recover from the loss of business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Leisure across the globe and in the domestic markets has led the recovery in the sector which was demolished during COVID times," said Puneet Chhatwal, MD and CEO of IHCL. "The sector is back to pre-COVID 2019-20. We are almost at 130 percent plus on RevPAR (revenue per available room) recovery." Chhatwal said Indian Hotels has opened many hotels and "they are all in a kind of a settling down, stabilising phase," mainly coming through rates, and "when the recovery is rate-driven, profitability increases." He added that the group opened 17 hotels in the calendar year and will open 17 more hotels in the financial year.



### FSSAI tool can now detect repeated use of cooking oil

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has developed a repurpose used cooking oil (RUCO) traceability application to check repeated frying of food items beyond the safety limits.

To maintain the quality of cooking vegetable oil in repeated frying, the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) First Amendment Regulation-2017, prescribed the limit for total polar compounds (TPCs) at a maximum of 25 per cent. Beyond that, the vegetable oil is not suitable for use.

Subsequently, the FSSAI issued the guidelines for the collection of used cooking oil (UCO) by biodiesel manufacturers from good business operators (FBOs) in May 2019. The guidelines stipulated that the FBOs whose consumption of edible oil for frying is more than 50 liters per day would maintain the usage record and would dispose of UCO to agencies authorized by the FSSAI or the Commissioners of Food Safety in States and Union Territories.



### Jamie Oliver restaurants to open in India

Jamie Oliver's international restaurant business is set for a rapid expansion in India and could reach more than 200 sites in the country, its franchise partner has said.

The chef's restaurants are already the largest Italian casual dining chain in India with 20 sites spread across nine cities, and now Jamie Oliver Restaurants plans to treble its footprint and expand to new areas of the country.

It will work in partnership with Dolomite Restaurants Pvt Ltd, which is the master franchisee for the Jamie's Italian, Jamie's Pizzeria and Jamie's Diner brands in India.



### Rebel Foods gets mandate to run Wendy's restaurants in India

UAE-based cloud kitchen operator Kitopi has acquired the food and beverage (F&B) group AWJ for an undisclosed amount. Headquartered in Dubai, AWJ is the holding company behind the delivery and dine-in brands such as Sushi Do, Catch 22, Operation Falafel, Awani, among others. The acquisition falls in line with Kitopi's aim to invest in and facilitate regional brands and extend its global reach.

It will help Kitopi strengthen its presence in its home market as well as the AWJ group of brands explore expansion into new markets. AWJ is also set to benefit from Kitopi's smart kitchen operating system (SKOS).

The acquisition is a part of Kitopi's strategy to invest in and grow regional brands and take them global, it said.

"AWJ built some of the region's much-loved brands, and it is going to be a privilege to continue to innovate, elevate and expand its success," said Mohamad Ballout, chief executive and co-founder of Kitopi.

"We have built on our core fundamentals, raising the bar and setting the business up for a sustainable future. It is now time for a new chapter," said Manhal Naser, group chief executive and co-founding director of AWJ.

