



20 YEARS AND COUNTING

HVS India recently celebrated its 20th anniversary at Leela Palace New Delhi's Le Cirque

HVS, a global hospitality consulting and services organisation, recently completed 20 years of its operations in India at Le Cirque at the Leela Palace New Delhi. This was the perfect occasion for the HVS India family, industry colleagues and clients to come together and commemorate this milestone and prepare for the beginning of the next phase in its growth.

Speaking at the event, Manav Thadani, chairman, Asia Pacific, shared his experiences and the challenges he faced during these past two decades. He was the first employee for HVS in the Asia Pacific region. Having started his consulting career with HVS' New York office, Thadani returned to India in August 1997 to set up a national base. From a one-man company to creating a reputed consulting firm in the country's hospitality space, he spoke about his journey over the years. Today, HVS India has expanded into multiple verticals including Asset Management, Executive Search and HICSA conference.

Thadani believes that a company is as

good as its people, and a key fundamental to HVS India's success has been the quality of its team. Hence, on this special occasion, he heartily thanked his alumni – many of whom have now taken up key positions in the hotel development space in India. Currently, the heads of development at international hotel chains like

Marriott International, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, Hilton Worldwide and AccorHotels comprise HVS alumni.

NOTABLE AUDIENCE

Also speaking at the event were Arjun Sharma, chairman of Select Group, Ashish Jakhanwala, MD and CEO of SAMHI



Hotellers, bureaucrats and industry top brass gathered for the anniversary celebration.



KB Kachru, chairman emeritus, South Asia of Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, Sushil Gupta, MD, Asian Hotels (West), Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog with Vivek Nair, CMD of The Leela Palaces Hotels Resorts.



Kapil Chopra, president of The Oberoi Group shares a light moment with Arjun Sharma, chairman of Select Group.



The HVS team and alumni are all smiles.



Bibhor Srivastava, group publishing director, ITP Media Group with Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and Manav Thadani, chairman, APAC, HVS.



Suresh Kumar, CEO of Fortune Park Hotels, Rajiv Kaul, president of The Leela Palaces Hotels Resorts, Manav Thadani of HVS, Priya Paul, chairperson, of Apeejay Surrendra Hotels, Dipak Deva, MD, Sita along with The Oberoi Group's president, Kapil Chopra, VP, HR, Shailja Singh and VP, Development, Jaideep Dang.

(also Thadani's partner at SAMHI) and Kapil Chopra, president of The Oberoi Group, who shared their thoughts and experiences of their long-term relationship and association with HVS India. The icing on the cake, literally, was the presence of Amitabh Kant, the man behind initiatives like Make in India, Startup India, Incredible India and God's Own Country. Presently acting as the CEO of NITI Aayog, he made the closing speech, commending HVS' contribution to India's tourism and

hospitality landscape, and congratulated the team for their laudable accomplishments over the last 20 years.

The event also saw an esteemed gathering of industry top brass from across the country, bringing together distinguished personalities from the hotel, aviation and real estate businesses. A number of prominent hotel owners, including Patu Keswani, MD of The Lemon Tree Hotel Group, Sushil Gupta, CMD Asian Hotels (West), Priya Paul, Chairperson

of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels, were also in attendance. Industry leaders from various brands including Navjit Ahluwalia from Marriott International, KB Kachru and Raj Rana from Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, Jean-Michel Cassé from AccorHotels, Rahul Pandit from Ginger Hotels, and Kapil Chopra from The Oberoi Group were also present (with the latter denying rumors that he was leaving the Oberoi group to join Taj hotels as the new CEO).

In conclusion, Thadani commented, "These 20 years bear testimony to HVS India's success, and the anniversary marks an important milestone for the company as we look back on our incredible journey and achievements. A group, which was at its very infancy only two decades ago, has, over the years, learnt to take giant leaps in creating a reputation for itself among client organizations. At HVS, we continue to invest in finding and nurturing the best talent, while at the same time celebrating long term business relationships with our valued clientele." ■