

HOTELIER INDIA

VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 10 | NOVEMBER 2025 | ₹100
PUBLISHED BY ITP MEDIA (INDIA)

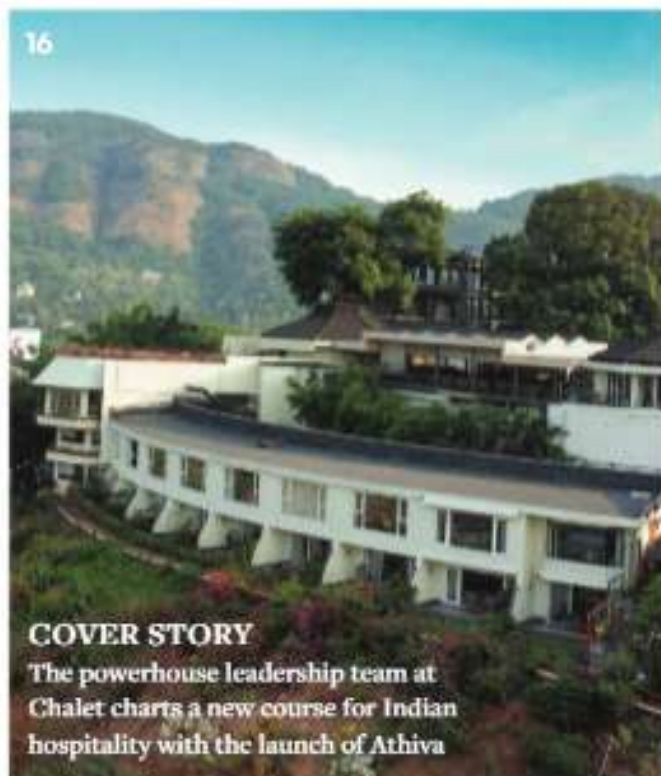


Standing (L-R): Sanjay
Sethi (MD & CEO)
and Shantanu Singh
(CEO-designate);
Seated (L-R): Nitin
Khanna (CFO) and
Gaurav Singh (COO)

CHALET RISING

Decoding the leadership that built an empire — and Athiva

November 2025



COVER STORY

The powerhouse leadership team at Chalet charts a new course for Indian hospitality with the launch of Athiva

Page 10

“When paired with sustainable business models, regional tourism capital can secure cascading economic dividends as well as generational social and environmental benefits.”

Shruti Shibulal, Executive Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, Tamara Leisure Experiences



Features

BIZ WHIZ

Arjun Baljee on reinventing ROHL and launching ICONIQA

30

HUMAN RESOURCES

The gritty women behind The People Network

34

DESIGN

Heritage interiors are all the rage

38

F&B

What's trending in wedding feasts in hotels?

42

TREND

All about the many wedding packages hotels are offering

46

IN FOCUS

Plant-based meats are soon becoming a hot favourite

50

TRAVEL

Cruising through Sri Lanka's Jetwing properties

52

THIRD EYE

How to live and thrive in life and the corporate jungle

57



Avni Tripathi, Director and CMO,
Anahata Resort



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



Vijay Dahiya, Partner, team3



Amit Aurora, Partner at groupDCA



Every hospitality project has the potential to tell a story through words, space, material, and atmosphere.



Incorporating local art and craft isn't about ornamentation but about creating a living dialogue between tradition and contemporary comfort.

Sonali Chauhan, General Manager, The Connaught, New Delhi, IHCL SeleQtions, says, "In today's landscape, what truly sets properties apart is character, and that is where design plays a defining role. SeleQtions was built around this philosophy: hotels that celebrate legacy, individuality, and a strong sense of place, bringing experiences to life through their location, décor, service, and cuisine. For us, that means a sensibility inspired by Georgian and Art Deco heritage with an unmistakably urban Delhi energy. Guests gravitate towards hotels that mirror the destination they have come to experience. When the property embodies the city, it becomes more than a place to stay; it becomes part of the journey."

"Hotels are increasingly integrating greenery, water, natural light, and ventilation to create healthier, more restorative spaces. Flexibility is also redefining planning."

- Amit Aurora

Architect Speak

Every hospitality project has the potential to tell a story through words, space, material, and atmosphere. Design shapes how a guest experiences those stories, often from the very first moment of arrival.

"The journey through a hotel can be choreographed much like a narrative, where each space reveals a layer of the place it belongs to, its landscape, craft, or people. When details are drawn from the local context and interpreted with purpose, the space begins to feel alive and connected. The most memorable hotels are those that let guests feel where they are, where the design guides them through a story of culture, memory, and belonging without ever needing to say it aloud," opines Vijay Dahiya, Partner, team3.

Hotel design today is being reshaped by the way people travel and the kind of experiences they seek. One of the strongest trends is a move away from formulaic models toward immersive, place-based design. A facade that borrows from traditional shading devices or a courtyard that echoes patterns of community gathering is no longer seen as nostalgic; it is now seen as a means of creating authenticity and identity.

Another significant trend is the rise of wellness and biophilic design. "Hotels are increasingly integrating greenery, water, natural light, and ventilation to create healthier, more restorative spaces. Flexibility is also redefining planning, with lobbies that double as co-working hubs, restaurants that transform into cultural venues, or guest rooms designed for both work and rest. At the same time, sustainability has become a core component of decision-making, influencing everything from construction systems to waste management. Technology, too, is present but more seamless, supporting comfort rather