



VARANASI
56th FHRAI ANNUAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 21-23, 2026
अनंत काशी: अध्यात्म, संस्कृति, व्यंजन और शिल्प से पर्यटन के भविष्य का नेतृत्व
Ananta Kashi: Leading the Future of Tourism through
Spirit, Culture, Cuisine and Craft

Incredible India

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

DAY 1 – FRIDAY, 21ST AUGUST 2026

10:00 Hrs onwards	Registration
17:30 Hrs - 21:00 Hrs	Inaugural Ceremony
17:30 Hrs - 17:35 Hrs	- National Anthem - Lighting of Lamp
17:35 Hrs - 17:40 Hrs	Welcome Address by Shri Garish Oberoi, Chairman, Convention Organizing Committee
17:40 Hrs - 17:45 Hrs	Presidential Address by Shri Surendra Kumar Jaiswal, President, FHRAI
17:45 Hrs - 17:55 Hrs	Address by Shri Anil Chadha, Managing Director, ITC Hotels*
17:55 Hrs - 18:05 Hrs	Address by Shri Dimitris Manikis, President & Managing Director Europe, Middle East, Eurasia and Africa (EMEA), Wyndham Hotels & Resorts*
18:05 Hrs - 18:15 Hrs	Address by Shri K B Kachru, Chairman Emeritus & Principal Advisor, Radisson Hotels Group - South Asia*
18:15 Hrs - 18:25 Hrs	Theme Address by Shriji Huzur Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Ji Mewar of Udaipur, Patron, 56th FHRAI Annual Convention
18:25 Hrs - 18:35 Hrs	Keynote Address by Shri Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, IHCL (Taj Group)
18:35 Hrs - 19:25 Hrs	- Address by Guest of Honour Shri Ravindra Jaiswal, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Stamp and Court Fee, Registration, Government of Uttar Pradesh Shri Rohan Khunte, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Goa Shri Jaiveer Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism & Culture, Government of Uttar Pradesh Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha - Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh*
19:25 Hrs - 19:35 Hrs	Special Address by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji, President, Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh*
19:35 Hrs - 19:50 Hrs	Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest*
19:50 Hrs - 20:00 Hrs	FHRAI Bharat Gourav Awards – Honouring the Maestros of Varanasi
20:00 Hrs - 21:00 Hrs	Incredible India Evening – Cultural Performances by: - Deobrat Mishra Ji - Sitar Maestro - Pandit Rudra Shankar Mishra Ji - Kathak - Ustad Rizwan Haider Ji - Shehnai
21:00 Hrs onwards	Inauguration of Exhibition followed by Networking Gala Dinner at Taj Ganges, Varanasi

DAY 2 – SATURDAY, 22ND AUGUST 2026

04:30 Hrs - 06:30 Hrs	Visit to Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple/Swarved Temple
10:30 Hrs - 11:00 Hrs	Inaugural Session by Shri Yogi Adityanath , Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh
11:00 Hrs - 11:30 Hrs	Theme Address by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji* and Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati Ji*
11:30 Hrs - 12:00 Hrs	Business Session – I Session on Weddings by Shriji Huzur Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Ji Mewar of Udaipur
12:00 Hrs - 12:15 Hrs	Partner Session I
12:15 Hrs - 12:45 Hrs	Presentation by Mr. Amrit Abhijat, IAS , Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism & Culture Department and Religious Affairs Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh*
12:45 Hrs - 13:30 Hrs	Business Session – II Brand Heads: The Strategy, Equity, and Future-Proofing Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Sharma, Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer - South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group Panelists: - Mr. Zubin Saxena, Senior Vice President & Regional Head - South Asia, Hilton Hotels - Mr. Sudeep Jain, Managing Director - South West Asia, IHG Hotels & Resorts* - Mr. Rahool Macarius, Market Managing Director - Eurasia, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts - Mr. Jatin Khanna, Chief Executive Officer, Sarovar Hotels - Mr. Shwetank Singh, MD & CEO, Chalet Hotels
13:30 Hrs - 14:30 Hrs	Networking Lunch
14:30 Hrs - 14:45 Hrs	Partner Session II – ICICI Lombard
14:45 Hrs - 15:00 Hrs	Standalone Session I
15:00 Hrs - 15:30 Hrs	Business Session – III The Future of Spiritual & Wellness Tourism in India: Tradition, Transformation and Technology Moderator: Ms. Narayani Ganesh, Editor, Speaking Tree Panelists: - Mr. Vikram Cotah, Chief Executive Officer, GRT Hotels & Resorts - Mr. Samir MC, Chief Executive Officer, Tamara Leisure Experiences Pvt. Ltd. - Mr. Gaurav Singh, Chief Operating Officer, Chalet Hotels - Mr. Souvagya Mohapatra, Managing Director, Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts - Mr. Craig Wedge, Hotel Irada by Marriot, Pune Wine Country* - Dr. Blossom Kochhar, Chairperson, Beauty and Wellness Sector Skill Council (BWSSC) & Blossom Kochhar Group of Companies
15:30 Hrs - 15:50 Hrs	Partner Session III
15:50 Hrs - 16:20 Hrs	Business Session – IV Architects & Developers: Chasing the Lowest Construction Cost-Per-Key Moderator: Mr. Rohit Matin, Architect, Rohit + Matin Architects Panelists: - Mr. MA Matin, Architect, Rohit + Matin Architects - Er. SS Beniwal, Director, Beniwal Associates Pvt. Ltd. - Dr. Nadeem, Chief Executive, Serene Designs and Consultants Pvt. Ltd. - Mr. Tarun Tanwar, Principal Designer, Tarun Tanwar Associates
16:20 Hrs - 16:40 Hrs	Fire-side Chat with President of the UP-Mayor's Council along with Hon'ble Mayor of Varanasi
17:00 Hrs - 19:00 Hrs	Ganga Aarati at Namoh Ghat
20:00 Hrs onwards	Cultural Performances & Networking Gala Dinner at Hotel Hilton, Varanasi Fashion Show by KamaKazi and Rahul & Rohit Mishra - Singers

DAY 3 – SUNDAY, 23RD AUGUST 2026

04:30 Hrs - 06:30 Hrs	Subah Benaras – Cruise Ride
10:30 Hrs - 11:00 Hrs	Inaugural Session by Shri Yogi Adityanath , Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh
11:00 Hrs - 11:15 Hrs	Presentation on Gastronomy by Mr. Amrit Abhijat , Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism & Culture Department and Religious Affairs Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh
11:15 Hrs - 11:45 Hrs	Business Session – V Building MICE Capital: Transforming Indian Cities into Global Mega-Event Hubs Moderator: Mr. Manish Tolani, Vice President & Commercial Director - South Asia, Hilton Hotels* Panelists: - Mr. Neeraj Kharwal, Managing Director, India Trade Promotion Organization* - Mr. Nikhil Sharma, Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer - South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group - Mr. Vishwapreet Singh Cheema, President, Lemon Tree* - Mr. Vikram Lalvani, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Sterling Holiday Resorts Ltd. - Ms. Monisha Dewan, Vice President Sales & Distribution - South Asia, Marriott International* - Mr. Chander Mansharamani, Chairman, India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB) - Mr. Rajiv Kapoor, General Manager, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts Mumbai* - Mr. Sabbas Joseph, Co-founder & Director, Wizcraft International Entertainment
11:45 Hrs - 12:00 Hrs	Masters of the Modern Food Business: Restaurant Success Story - I
12:00 Hrs - 12:10 Hrs	Partner Session IV – LG Electronics
12:10 Hrs - 12:50 Hrs	Business Session – VI Tourism Secretaries: Enabling Policy Framework for EoDB, State Incentives and Tourism Infrastructure Development Moderator: Mr. Yugal Joshi, Programme Director, NITI, Aayog* Session Chair: Mr. Suman Billa, IAS, Additional Secretary & Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India Panelists: - Mr. Suneel Anchipaka, IAS – Managing Director & CEO, Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation* - Representative from Tourism Department of Jharkhand - Representative from Tourism Department of Odisha - Representative from Tourism Department of Goa - Representative from Tourism Department of Uttarakhand
12:50 Hrs - 13:00 Hrs	Standalone Session II
13:00 Hrs - 13:30 Hrs	Business Session – VII The New-Age Indian Diner: Cracking the Code of Contemporary Palates Moderator: Chef Rajeev Gulshan, Dean, Le Cordon Bleu Panelists: - Chef Davinder Kumar, President, Indian Culinary Forum* - Mr. Thomas Fenn, Co-Founder, Mahabelly* - Mr. Ankit Gupta, Co-Founder, Burma Burma* - Mr. Anurag Gupta, Co-Founder, DotPe* - Mr. Rakesh Roy, Owner, El Chico Hotels & Restaurants Pvt Ltd., Prayagraj - Mr. Namit Gulati, Director, Gulati Restaurant & Foods Pvt Ltd.
13:30 Hrs - 14:30 Hrs	Networking Lunch

14:30 Hrs - 13:00 Hrs	Business Session – VIII Unlocking New Tourism Opportunities: The Role of Travel Agents & Tour Operators Moderator: Mr. Ashish Gupta, Consulting CEO, FAITH Panelists: • Mr. Ved Khanna – President, Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India • Mr. Ajeet Bajaj, President, Adventure Tour Operators Association of India • Mr. Ravi Gosain, President, Indian Association of Tour Operators • Mr. Vijai Lal, Regional Representative, Indian Heritage Hotels Association • Mr. Satish Sherawat, President, Indian Tourist Transporters Association • Mr. Sunil Kumar R., President, Travel Agents Association of India • Mr. Ajay Prakash, President, Travel Agents Federation of India • Mr. Anil Kalsi, Vice President, Travel Agents Federation of India • Mr. Rajiv Mehra, General Secretary, FAITH / Senior Vice President, IATO
13:00 Hrs - 15:45 Hrs	FHRAI Excellence Award for Hospitality Students
15:45 Hrs - 16:00 Hrs	Masters of the Modern Food Business: Restaurant Success Story - II
16:00 Hrs - 16:15 Hrs	Tourism Vision @2047 by Mr. Bhuvnesh Kumar, IAS , Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India*
16:15 Hrs - 16:45 Hrs	Business Session – IX Tech & Transformation: Future-Proofing Indian Hospitality Moderator: Ms. Kamal Gill, Founder & President, Today's Traveller* Panelists: • Mr. Vipin Khandelwal, Senior Manager, Area Technology, South West Asia, IHG Hotels & Resorts* • Mr. Abhishek Logani, Chief Business Officer – Hotels, MakeMyTrip.in* • Representative from Clear Trip • Representative from Golbibo • Representative from Agoda • Representative from Ease My Trip • Mr. Shoaib Ali, National Sales Head, STAAH India* • Mr. Niraj Ramani, Country Head, Yanolja Cloud Solution*
16:45 Hrs - 16:50 Hrs	Partner Session V – Radiowalla
16:50 Hrs - 18:30 Hrs	Valedictory Session & FHRAI Hospitality Excellence Awards Chief Guest - Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat , Hon'ble Minister of Tourism & Culture, Government of India
20:00 Hrs onwards	Cultural Performances and Networking Gala Dinner at Hotel Hilton, Varanasi

* To be Confirmed