

REDEFINING HOSPITALITY

Executive Director of **Kamat Hotels India Ltd**, **Vishal Vithal Kamat** tells us about his legacy and the hard work it takes to elevate the brand

Vishal Vithal Kamat is the Executive Director of Kamat Hotels India Ltd, a prominent name in India's hospitality industry, listed on both BSE and NSE. Vishal is a IHMCTAN Mumbai graduate with over 15 years of experience in the hospitality sector. He spearheads the company's operations and management functions on both corporate and property levels. Vishal leads a team of industry professionals, driving the success of Kamat Group's flagship brand 'The Orchid' - Asia's First 5 Star Ecotel Hotel, 'Fort JadhavGadh,' Maharashtra's sole fort heritage hotel, Lotus Eco Beach Resorts in Konkan, Orissa, and Goa and the latest upper-mid segment chain of hotels, IRA by Orchid Hotels.

Having embarked on his professional journey at the age of 13 within his family's restaurants, Vishal imbibed the intricacies of business from the ground up. His innovative planning and implementation strategies are recognised across the industry, along with his active involvement in fostering tourism and setting up hotel properties in collaboration with various state tourism boards. Vishal's influence extends beyond the operational realm, evident in his engagements with various travel industry associations, contributions as a guest lecturer at premier institutes, and recognition, such



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as the 'Young Achiever 2013 Award' from the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industry, among other accolades. He is currently the Vice Chairman, Maharashtra, CII.

WHICH DISH FROM KAMAT HOTELS' MENU BEST REPRESENTS YOU?

I would undoubtedly choose the 'Idli'. This simple yet profound choice symbolizes my innate innocence and purity, akin to the dish's pristine appearance. The unique texture, transitioning from firm to soft, mirrors my adaptability and willingness to embrace change. Much like how the Idli complements chutney and sambar, I strive to enhance myself in various situations,

remaining approachable to everyone.

SHARE A MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM YOUR JOURNEY.

I've encountered numerous unforgettable and eccentric incidents that underscore the allure of this ever-evolving field. I learn from my daily engagements with people from varied backgrounds and aspirations. Our hotels across India serve as platforms for guests to experience distinct encounters, whether seeking acknowledgment or pursuing adventures. I feel, to be a true hotelier, you should know how to handle any situation – be it within the hotel or in life. This has definitely sharpened

my ability to solve problems, transforming each day into a valuable lesson in adaptability.

HOW DO YOU STAY MOTIVATED, ESPECIALLY DURING TOUGH TIMES?

My unwavering motivation and vitality are rooted in the profound legacy passed down from my grandfather to my father, and now entrusted to me. It would be a disservice to both myself and the Kamat legacy if I fail to elevate it to its zenith. Considering the challenges of the past and the recent resurgence we've experienced, I feel an obligation to seize this golden era in hospitality.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR MAJOR MILESTONES.

For me, cherishing milestones is all about showing gratitude with your deeds to make people happy. I am very proud that IRA by Orchid Hotels, is garnering great success. We have opened IRA in six locations, including Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, Nashik, Sambhaji Nagar, Bhavnagar, and Noida Sector 62. We have also pledged to donate 1% of our sales from IRA towards the education of the girl child.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

Our future plans are centered around the expansion of The Orchid Hotel brand, and IRA, exemplified by recent openings in Ayodhya, Sambhaji Nagar, and Orchid Hotel Jamnagar. Our growth strategy is to stay focused, build deep connections with each location and leverage the brand's reputation. The quality remains paramount as reflected in our high customer-satisfaction ratings on platforms such as TripAdvisor.