



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
18:00 Hrs - 19:30 Hrs	Inaugural Ceremony - National Anthem - Lighting of Lamp - Welcome address by Shri Garish Oberoi, Chairman, Convention Organizing Committee - Address by Shri Surendra Kumar Jaiswal, President, FHRAI - Address by Keynote Speaker Shriji Huzur Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Ji Mewar of Udaipur, Patron, 56th FHRAI Annual Convention - Address by Guest of Honour - Address by Guest of Honour Shri Jaiveer Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism & Culture, Government of Uttar Pradesh - Address by Guest of Honour Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism & Culture, Government of India FHRAI Bharat Gourav Awards – Honouring the Maestros of Varanasi - Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest - Vote of Thanks
19:30 Hrs	Inauguration of Exhibition
19:30 Hrs - 20:30 Hrs	Incredible India Evening – Cultural Performances by Various Gharanas of Varanasi
20:30 Hrs onwards	Networking Gala Dinner at Taj Ganges, Varanasi



DAY 2 – SUTURDAY, 22ND AUGUST 2026

04:30 Hrs - 06:30 Hrs	Visit to Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple
10:30 Hrs - 10:40 Hrs	Partner Session I – UCO Bank
10:40 Hrs - 11:20 Hrs	Theme Address by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji
11:20 Hrs - 11:50 Hrs	Business Session – I Session on Weddings – Curated by Shriji Huzur Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Ji
11:50 Hrs - 12:00 Hrs	Standalone Session
12:00 Hrs - 12:30 Hrs	Partner Session II – Jharkhand Tourism
12:30 Hrs - 13:15 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 (RHG) Panelists: - Mr. Anil Chadha, Managing Director, ITC Hotels - 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
13:15 Hrs - 13:30 Hrs	Standalone Session
13:30 Hrs - 14:30 Hrs	Networking Lunch
14:30 Hrs - 14:45 Hrs	Partner Session III – ICICI Lombard
14:45 Hrs - 15:00 Hrs	Presentation by Mr. Bhuvnesh Kumar, IAS , Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India
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 - Dr. Blossom Kochhar, Chairperson, Beauty and Wellness Sector Skill Council (BWSSC) & Blossom Kochhar Group of Companies - Mr. Abhishek Logani, Chief Business Officer – Hotels, MakeMyTrip.in
15:30 Hrs - 15:50 Hrs	Partner Session IV – Ingram Micro
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 Deigner, Tarun Tanwar Associates
16:20 Hrs - 16:30 Hrs	Closing Session
17:00 Hrs - 19:00 Hrs	Ganga Aarati at Namoo Ghat
20:00 Hrs onwards	Cultural Performances & Networking Gala Dinner at Hotel Hilton, Varanasi

DAY 3 – SUNDAY, 23RD AUGUST 2026

04:30 Hrs - 06:30 Hrs	Subah Benaras – Cruise Ride
11:00 Hrs - 11:15 Hrs	Presentation by Mr. Amrit Abhijat, IAS , Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, 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 (RHG) - Mr. Vikram Lalvani, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Sterling Holiday Resorts Ltd. - 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: Independent Success Story - I
12:00 Hrs - 12:10 Hrs	Partner Session V – LG Electronics
12:10 Hrs - 12:40 Hrs	Business Session – VI Mayor's Session for Smart Cities, Seamless Hospitality: Redefining Urban Governance for Tourism Growth Moderator: Mr. Mohit Bhasin, Global Head - Economic Growth, Government and Public Services, KPMG in India Panelists: - Mayor of Varanasi, Bareilly - Mayors from other regions – Indore, - Mr. P. Guruprasad, IAS, Principal Secretary, UDD, GoUP - Mr. Shoaib Ali, National Sales Head, STAAH India - IDS Next Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd. - Yanolja - Luminous India
12:40 Hrs - 12:50 Hrs	Standalone Session
12:50 Hrs - 13:30 Hrs	Business Session – VII Tourism Secretaries: Enabling Policy Framework for EoDB, State Incentives and Tourism Infrastructure Development Moderator: Mr. Yugal Joshi, Programme Director, NITI, Aayog Panelists: - Mr. Suman Billa, IAS, Additional Secretary & Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India - Shri Suneel Anchipaka, IAS – Managing Director & CEO, Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation - Chandigarh - Jharkhand - Odisha - Uttarakhand
13:30 Hrs - 14:30 Hrs	Networking Lunch
14:30 Hrs - 14:50 Hrs	Partner Session VI – UP Tourism
14:50 Hrs - 15:35 Hrs	FHRAI Excellence Award for Hospitality Students
15:35 Hrs - 15:50 Hrs	Masters of the Modern Food Business: Independent Success Story - II
15:50 Hrs - 16:20 Hrs	Business Session – VIII The New-Age Indian Diner: Cracking the Code of Gen Z & Millennial Palates Moderator: Chef Rajeev Gulshan, Dean, Le Cordon Bleu

Panelists:

- Chef Manish Mehrotra
- Chef Manisha Bhasin, ITC
- Chef Shipra Khanna
- Chef Davinder Kumar, President, Indian Culinary Forum
- Thomas Fenn, Co-Founder, Mahabelly
- Ankit Gupta, Co-Founder, Burma Burma
- Anurag Gupta, Co-Founder, DotPe

16:20 Hrs - 16:25 Hrs**Partner Session VII – Radiowalla****16:25 Hrs - 18:00 Hrs****FHRAI Hospitality Industry Awards****20:00 Hrs onwards****Fashion Show and Cultural Performances by KamaKazi** followed by
Networking Gala Dinner at Hotel Hilton, Varanasi