



# AHAR Connect



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## United fight against the proposed amendment to the Maharashtra Rent Act - Adarsh Shetty

Forever News reporter

**Mumbai:** The Indian Hotels and



**Welcome Address by the host Vice president, AHAR Shri K. V. Shetty, Zone-II**

Restaurants Association held its 5th Monthly Managing Committee Meeting on May 14, 2015 at the Hotel Krishna Palace Residency, Nana Chowk, Mumbai.

The meeting focused around various major issues affecting Mumbai restaurateurs including the proposed amendments to the Maharashtra Rent Act and the Juvenile Justice Act, among others.

AHAR President Shri Adarsh Shetty called upon all members to stand united and seek revokal of the proposed amendments to the Maharashtra Rent Act stating, if it is implemented, restaurateurs operating from rented premises will be adversely affected.

### Proceedings

#### Address by the President

The President Shri Adarsh Shetty began the meeting and requested Host Vice President Shri K. V. Shetty to welcome the gathering.

#### Welcome Address by the host Vice president

Shri. K. V. Shetty, Vice President, Zone-II and the host of the meeting welcomed all the members. He thanked all committee members of his zone for electing him as the vice president. Condoling two veteran hoteliers Shri. Vasant Shetty and Shri Narayan C Shetty who departed recently for their heavenly abode, he said, their absence was being sorely felt by AHAR. The VP noted, with the help of committee members, an amount of

Rs. 2, 60,000/- was collected till date as membership fees and assured, the target given by the president will be achieved at the earliest, adding his team will do its best in attending the grievances of members.

Confirmation of the minutes of the 4th Monthly Managing Committee Meeting held on 25.3.2015.

The Hon. Gen. Secretary briefed the house that an item of Events of the month was inadvertently left out in the Agenda circulated and should be read as Item No. 4. Events of the month.

The Hon. Gen. Secretary Shri Sukesht Shetty Presented the minutes of the 4th Monthly Managing Committee Meeting held on 25.3.2015.

The house confirmed the same

Proposed by Shri Nitin R Shetty  
Seconded by Shri Prabhakar Shetty.

#### Approval of accounts for the month of March 2015.

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Gen. Secretary presented the Accounts for the month of March 2015.

The House approved the same. Proposed by Shri Balakrishna Shetty  
Seconded by Shri Satish Shetty.

#### Events of the month

The president's briefing included:  
• Police are raiding various restaurants especially in suburbs and arresting the owners and also sending the workers to the Juvenile Home on the pretext of child labour by applying

(Continued on page 2)



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# Synopsis of 5th Managing Committee Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

vague provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act. "We have met Shri Deven Bharti, Joint Commissioner of Police - Law & Order, Mumbai Police and briefed him about the misuse of provisions of acts by cops and also submitted list of cases, where the provisions of Juvenile Justice Act applied by Police on workers were squashed in other states in India. Shri Deven Bharti instructed all DCPs not to invoke non applicable rules and cautioned them against harassing hoteliers. As a result the harassment has stopped now," he added.

• A delegation of AHAR met Shri Prakash Mehta Minister of Housing, Labour & Mines guardian minister of Raigad district Government of Maharashtra recently after waiting from 12.00 noon till 12.00 midnight and discussed in detail the harassment by the Mumbai Police and various NGOs in Child Labor issues and the abuse of provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Juvenile Justice Act. "The minister agreed with our contentions and advised us to submit a revised memorandum as per our discussions. A revised memorandum with a forwarding letter by Shri Niranjan Shetty, BJP spokesman and our sub-committee chairman was presented to both Shri Prakash Mehta and Smt. Vidya J Thakur, Minister of State for Child Welfare and Development," he added. The President thanked the entire team including Advisor Shri Arvind Shetty and Shri Sanjay Upadhyay, Vice President of BJP Mumbai Unit for their support and participation. He said, it was understandable that the Minister had sought inputs from other departments, adding: "We are sure that some favorable decision may be taken after this meeting and presentation."

• AHAR has filed a Writ Petition in Bombay High Court against illegal food hawkers who are operating in spite of the judgment by the Supreme Court of India, banning cooking in open spaces.

• Through a Right To Information query, the Municipal Council of Greater Mumbai has clarified that so far the proposed 'Hawking' and 'Non Hawking' zones are not yet finalized. It is understood that in few wards the AMCs are earmarking the Hawking and Non-Hawking zones on their own

volition. "Once we receive the list we will compile and lodge our protest, if it is blocking the fronts and sides of our

product and avail the launch offers. He further said that whenever a new product or vendor approaches the

of the firm to register the same, so that AHAR can discuss, negotiate and get the best rate and offers for its

Mahanagar Gas Limited piped gas under the pretext that hoteliers are not complying with the clause of

## Proposed Amendment to Rent Control Act by Govt. of Maharashtra - Dr. Chandrashekhar Prabhu

The AHAR President briefly introduced Dr. Chandrashekhar Prabhu, an ex Member of Legislative Assembly and the President of Maharashtra



**Dr. Chandrashekhar Prabhu addressing AHAR members.**

Amendments to Rent Act, if implemented by the government. Dr. Chandrashekhar Prabhu said: "Though I am an Architect by profession, I am basically an hotelier. My father operated the Poornima Veg. Restaurant in Colaba. Due to my commitments I could not continue to run the hotel but I still own the premises."

During his presentation he pointed that the Draft Housing Policy of the Maharashtra Government suggests amendments to the Maharashtra Rent Control Act, 1999. When the Amendments are implemented tenants occupying above 800 Sq ft of residential premises or more than 500 Sq ft of commercial space will lose the protection

more than the prescribed space will be excluded from Rent Control Act and will have to pay market rates as per the principles in the Ready Reckoner issued for Stamp Duty purposes. There is also a provision that the landlord can charge 30% of the income of the tenant as rent. If a tenant owns more than two rented premises, then his whole income will go either in taxes or rent, and he will be left with nothing for himself. Since the vast majority of tenants cannot afford these rents, they will face eviction. Moreover the buildings occupied by such tenants are proposed to be removed from the MHADA repairs liability. Today all cessed buildings are repaired by MHADA if the tenants and/or the

Tenant ownership Scheme under Chapter VIII A of the MHADA act by which tenants co-operative Housing Societies are permitted to apply for acquisition of the premises by offering to pay 100 months' rent.

He further said that the necessary amendments to the Act will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly during the monsoon session. He also said that two petitions challenging the rent act are still pending in Supreme Court of India.

Shri Prabhu said that it is the time to unite as more than 85 percent of the Restaurants are on rental and Pagdi System. He further assured his support in briefing the Act and its impacts in any place for AHAR members and assured his full support. While elaborating the process and the method The Action Committee for the Protection of Tenants Rights will seek an urgent appointment with the Chief Minister and the Housing Minister to request their urgent intervention in the matter. He said it was high time to agitate as was done in the past. Not only the hoteliers but all traders should unite, fight and stall this amendment. "We have to express our anger," he said.

On behalf of AHAR, president Shri Adarsh Shetty assured the support of the association in this fight against what they termed as Draconian amendments.

While concluding the meeting Shri Chandrashekhar Prabhu was felicitated with bouquets by the president and advisors.

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## Maharashtra government to pull out proposed Rent Control Act

**MUMBAI:** Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis has assured that the government will withdraw a controversial proposal that would have allowed landlords to increase rents to market rates. Shri Fadnavis gave immediate telephonic directions to housing minister Shri Prakash Mehta. This act will be of great relief to over 25 lakh tenants across the city,

The much awaited assurance came after a delegation of tenants' associations including a representation from the Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association (AHAR) from the island city under the leadership of BJP leader Shri Ashish Shelar met CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis. The delegation had given a 15-day ultimatum to the state government to withdraw its proposal. Tenants are protected under Rent Control Act at present. Landlords say the result is that they hardly get any money to maintain their properties. However, tenants say if a new law, as proposed, comes in, it will force many families to vacate or shift their residences and businesses.

The government proposed an amendment to the Rent Control Act that will deprive the existing rent act protection to all commercial establishments occupying more than 46.5 sq m and residential tenants occupying more than 80 sq m. Tenants and experts say, this will increase rents to 300-500 times. Most of the South Mumbai buildings are under the PUGREE system hence a major chunk of tenants will be benefited from withdrawal of this amendment.

Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA). He requested Dr. Chandrashekhar Prabhu to brief the background and effects of the proposed

provided by the Maharashtra Rent control Act. This will result in displacement of lakhs of residential and commercial tenants. Any tenant occupying

landlord fail to come forward for repairs. Removal of the buildings from the MHADA liability to repair would also mean that such buildings can never avail of the

existing restaurants," he said.

• United Breweries Ltd. had registered their new product King Fisher Ultra Max with AHAR. Our members are advised to support the

members, they have to ensure that the product is registered with AHAR. If it is not registered member restaurateurs can advise company sales persons or concerned officials

members, he added.

• Weights and Measurement Department (Legal Metrology Dept.) officials were visiting the restaurants in suburbs and sealing meters of the

standardization of gas meters. "This has created a panic amongst hoteliers and we are taking necessary remedial measures," he added.

(Continued on page 4)

# AHAR Tribute to Late Shri Vasant Shetty, Ex VP.

Mumbai: The Indian



**Hotels and Restaurants Association (AHAR)** members paid rich tributes to Shri Vasant Shetty Ex VP of AHAR who had left for his heavenly abode on 14.2015.

**President Shri Adarsh Shetty** said the support, sacrifice and co-operation rendered by Shri Vasant

Shetty to the entire hotel industry in general and AHAR in particular will be remembered with gratitude forever.

Advisors condolence messages. Shri Santosh Shetty, Shri A. B. Shetty, Shri S. M. Shetty and Shri Arvind Shetty highlighted his valuable contribution to AHAR and the hotelier community. The team AHAR paid their homages.

The entire members gathered prayed for the eternal peace of departed



soul of Shri Vasant Shetty.

Address by Advisors

Shri Santosh R Shetty: The Contribution of Late Shri Vasant Shetty to AHAR is immense and will always be

remembered. He was very simple, sincere and straight forward. If he wished he would have been the President of AHAR several years ago. He made the

Zone-I vibrant and active through his efforts.

Shri Arvind Shetty: Late Shri Vasant Shetty was a living encyclopedia with vast knowledge supported by documents. More than half of his life time was spent with AHAR.

Shri A. B. Shetty: Late Vasant Shetty's contribution to AHAR and the hotel industry will be remembered forever. His use of innovative technology in cooking food several years ago shows his commitment to the trade which also benefited others hoteliers.

Shri S. M. Shetty: Late Vasant Shetty was a live wire and his love and affection for AHAR cannot be measured. We will miss a dedicated and committed hotelier. ●



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# Synopsis of 5th Managing Committee Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

He pointed out AHAR swung into action and on the same day, met the General Manager of MGL and Shri Sanjay Pandey, an official at the Metrology Department.

"It is understood due to non-standardization of gas meters the Metrology Department has taken action. Due to our efforts Metrology Department agreed not to cease gas supply and MGL will take the corrective measure of replacing these meters immediately. We have also drafted reply to the letters of MGL sent to our members regarding likely disruption of gas supply. We understand that MGL has already started replacing the meters after our representation and complaints. It is our endeavour to always protect our member's interest. For any clarification in this regard the members may contact the office or the Honorary General Secretary or Honorary Joint Secretary", he added.

### Speech by Sub Committee Chairmen.

• **Shri K. K. Mahale-Hawkers Action Committee:** WP is filed in Bombay High Court against the illegal food hawkers. AHAR has made all the officials of the State Government, Food and Drug Administration and

the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai as party to this petition in the court.

• **Shri Bhaskar Shetty-Publications-** Metro Cash & Carry is offering gift vouchers worth Rs. 500/- for every purchase of Rs. 2,000/-. The said gift voucher is published in our monthly newsletter AHAR Connect. He called upon AHAR members to avail the benefit.

• **Shri Santosh Shetty-Coordinator-** Sub-Committee summed up that there are no major issues during the period under review. "The non-renewal of a RC by the police for 4 months without a valid reason of an hotelier was attended by the Honorary Joint Secretary Shri Vishwapal Shetty who got it renewed instantly," he added.

### Presentation by VPs

**Zone I Shri J. D. Shetty:** Refusal to renew Police Registration Certificates (RC) & PPEL by ACP of the area was attended and got the renewal through intervention.

**Zone II Shri K. V. Shetty:** Child Labour harassment by Police in Nagpada attended and after showing the age proof, the Police

released the workers.  
**Zone III Shri Suresh Shetty:** Membership Drive is on.

**Zone IV Shri Sunil Shetty:** We should expose the MGL in excess billing due to faulty meters.

**Zone V Shri Ravindranath Nire:**

Complaints of members regarding large scale illegal selling of liquor by Beer Shoppe and Chinese joints. We will meet the Sr Inspector - Excise of the Division and discuss the matter. So far we have collected membership of Rs.2,00,000/-.

**Zone VI Shri Sunil Patil:**

In Child Labour harassment, the owner of Raviraj Hotel, Kanjurmarg came forward to lodge the complaint. We have met the DCP -Zone-VII and submitted all relevant papers regarding Child Labour and High Court cases and convinced him of misuse of sections of JJ Act and IPC by the Police. After studying the Hotel Raviraj Case, DCP has suspended SL Rao for 7 days.

**Zone VII Shri Rajan Shetty:** A Child Labour harassment in Hotel Blue Park was attended and sorted out.

**Zone VIII Shri Jagdish Shetty:** All the Hoteliers of Bandra East, where

the Bye-Election to the Assembly held recently pooled their resources and filed WP in Bombay High Court against the full Dry day on election result day. The HC allowed Restaurants to open after 6.30 p.m. on the result day. Met an hotelier who was arrested in Child Labour matter by Police by using wrong acts. The Hotelier has not complained to AHAR. We assured him of all support and advised him to pursue the matter.

**Zone IX Shri Sudhakar T Shetty:**

Membership drive is on.

**Zone X Shri Anil Salian:**

A Non renewal case of PPEL in Kandivili was attended and sorted out through Shri Prabhakar Shetty, Police Committee Chairman. Met DCP, Zone-IX and briefed him with relevant circulars, court judgments regarding the Child Labour issues. The DCP assured that workers above 14 years age will not be disturbed.

### President

• In Child Labor matters we understood that owner of a hotel in Vile Parle was arrested with the application of wrong sections by the cops. Most hoteliers are scared and seek "settlement" with the police. Such members should fight against

this harassment by complaining to AHAR. "AHAR will provide all the logistical support to such hoteliers. Any external settlement will nullify the efforts of the VPs and office bearers who are using their time and energy in attending such harassments cases," he said.

• "After our meeting with the Joint Commissioner of Police - Law & Order Shri Deven Bharti the harassment by police in child Labor issues has stopped. We understand that instructions were also sent from the Labor Ministers office to the Mumbai Police in this regard," he said.

• The entire team and members of AHAR offered heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Shri Vasant Shetty ex Vice President and prayed to Almighty God to give strength to his family to bear this irrecoverable loss.

### Tribute to Late Shri Vasant Shetty, Ex VP.

The house paid rich tributes to Shri Vasant Shetty Ex VP of AHAR who had left for his heavenly abode on 1.4.2015. President Shri Adarsh Shetty said the support, sacrifice and co-operation given by Shri Vasant Shetty to the entire hotel industry in general and AHAR in particular will be remembered with gratitude forever. Advisors Shri Santosh Shetty, Shri

(Continued on page 5)

# Synopsis of 5th Managing Committee Meeting

(Continued from page 4)

A. B. Shetty, Shri S. M. Shetty and Shri Arvind Shetty highlighted his valuable contribution to AHAR and the member community. The team AHAR paid their homages.

The capacity full gathering prayed for the eternal peace of departed soul of Shri Vasant Shetty.

### Address by Advisors

**Shri Santosh R Shetty:** The Contribution of Late Shri Vasant Shetty to AHAR is immense and will be remembered. He was very simple, sincere and straight forward if he wished he would have been the President of AHAR several years. He made the Zone-I vibrant and active through his efforts. The amendment to Rent Act by the new government is Draconian and if implemented will have a devastating effect on hotels and restaurants operating from rented premises. We have to use the social media and print media to air our grievances against these amendments. The MRP is charged for different people in different way. It should be discussed and fought.

**Shri Arvind Shetty:** Late Shri Vasant Shetty was a living encyclopedia with vast knowledge supported by documents. More than half of his life time was spent with AHAR.

**Shri A. B. Shetty:** Late Vasant Shetty's

contribution to AHAR and the hotel industry will be remembered forever. His use of innovative technology in food cooking several years ago shows his commitment to the trade and also benefiting others.

**Shri S. M. Shetty:** Late Vasant Shetty was a live wire and his love and affection for AHAR cannot be measured. We will miss a dedicated, committed hotelier. It is the time to unite for all the rented hotel owners and fight against the amendment in Bombay Rental Act proposed by the government, who simply wants to drive away the traders and businessman at the behest of MNCs. As done in the past, we have to come to the street, take support of all other traders and see that the amendment is stalled.

**Hon. Gen. Secretary:** We advise the members to sell the packed food, beverages across the counter should be on MRP and the hotelier can charge cost above MRP for the customer inside the hotel. It is required as the recent judgment of Delhi High Court.

### Others

**Shri Sadanand Shetty:** We have to take support of all traders running their business from rented premises and fight against this amendment. Restaurateurs operating from rented premises should be educated about the gravity of this situation.

**Shri Gaurang Shah:** The Supreme Court has given a clear verdict of banning the

cooking of fund in open space. We can go for contempt of court. But filing a separate WP against food hawkers in High Court cannot serve the purpose.

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### Condolence

The house offered its condolence to the following:

1. Smt. Sarojini S Shetty Mother of Prasad Shetty, Hotel Aparna, Sion on 24.3.2015.
2. Shri Narayan C Shetty, Prarthana Hotel, Elphinstone Road on 22.4.2015.
3. Smt. Vishala S Shetty, Mother of Ashok Shetty, Ashok Bar, Wadala on 24.4.2015.
4. Shri Sitaram Shetty father of Shailendra Shetty, Ex VP on 28.4.2015.

5. Shri Babu I Shetty Milan Punjab Bar and Restaurant, Kol Dongri, Andheri [E] on 3.5.2015

6. Shri Gurmukh Khemchand Chawla, Hotel Bhagat Tarachand, Mumbadevi on 12.5.2015.

7. The Victims of Nepal Earth Quake.

8. The Brave Fire Brigade officers who lost their life in Kalbadevi Fire.

### Vote of Thanks

The Meeting was concluded by Vote of thanks by the Hon. Gen. Secretary Shri Suresh Shetty to the President for conducting the meeting in a dignified way, Management of Krishna Palace, Dr. Chandrashekar Prabhu, Sponsors of Stalls, Media Partners Karnataka Malla, Udayavani, Forever News, USL, UBL and Pernod-Ricard for liquor support and members for attending in large numbers.

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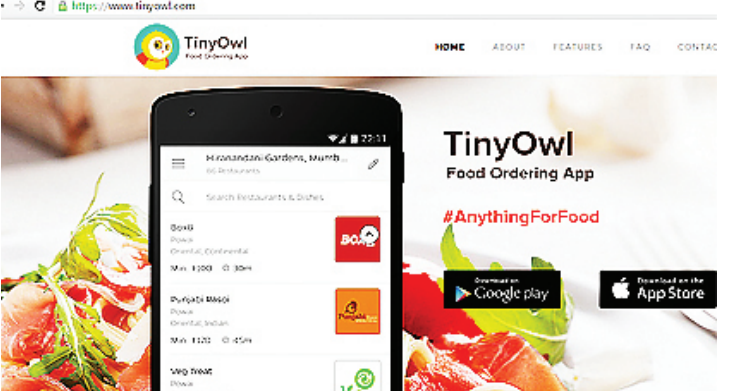
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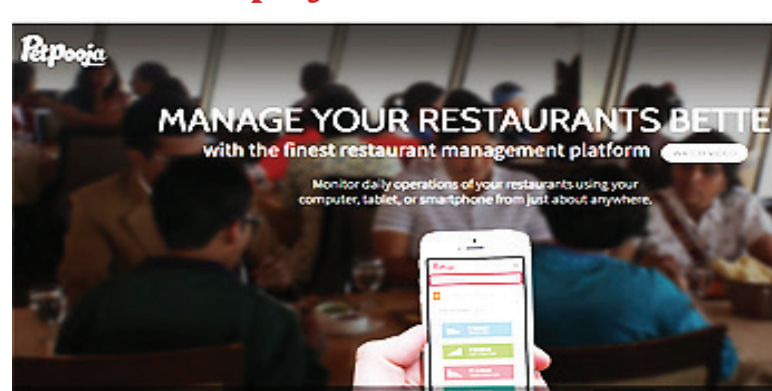
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## Mumbai's Misal Pav Beats Dishes From Across The World. Crowned World's Tastiest Veg Snack!

By Team AHAR

**Mumbai:** Praised for its “wonderful textural colors and contrasts”, the Foodie Hub Global Awards held in London this week awarded the Mumbai Misal Pav as the ‘The World’s Tastiest Vegetarian Dish’. Combined with Pav (bread), Misal, a curry of peas, potatoes, chopped onion and tomatoes, and farsan is a local favorite.

The Mumbai breakfast delicacy is also a much loved local snack. While there are variations across the state, it is the recipe from Aaswad restaurant in Mumbai’s Dadar, that won this honour. Aaswad chefs Shri Vilas Gangaram Taral and Shri

Tukaram Shankar Utekar, gave away this recipe to Asian Age: “We start with boiling moth beans and other pulses and then add spices and curry leaves. Later we temper it with garlic, mustard seeds and cumin seeds. Our special missal masala is added to complete the dish. This is the basic usual recipe; to this, we add farsan, lemon juice and coriander leaves to make authentic missal.”

You’ll see Misal served with curd or sev, and varying spice palates. In Pune, the spices are toned down, but Mumbaikars prefer it spicy, says Mumbai Foodie Hub Expert Kalyan Karmarkar who nominated the restaurant’s dish. The

home of the Misal though is Kolhapur, where it is said to be the spiciest. But for Mumbaikars, Aaswad is the heart of Misal. The restaurant is a part of Mumbai’s legacy - it was inaugurated by Bal Thackeray in 1986, and today churns out 400 plates of its favorite dish, at Rs. 48 a plate.

Shri Suryakant Sarjoshi, Aaswad’s founder regarded the use of homemade spices as the winning element in his recipe. The humble Misal has beaten Vegan Spinach Pie (Athens), Baby Beans with Quail Egg (Barcelona), Black Barley (Perth) and Palmito Assado na Casca (Rio de Janeiro). ●

## An eatery with a difference



AHAR management identified the specialist food joint and published a special report in the AHAR Hospitality magazine JAN-FEB-March 2013.

**S**warmed with restaurants that cater to the poor and the rich, Mumbai irrefutably has become a gastronomic paradise. Skillfully prepared dishes and competitive pricing have changed the city’s culinary scenario and enjoying the spoils of this labour is every Mumbaikar worth his vada pao.

If you find yourself craving for some traditional Kande pohe or Misal pav, the heart of Mumbai is where you need to be. Aaswad Upahar and Mithai Griha located in Dadar West, has the most recommended Pure Vegetarian Maharashtra Cuisine.

Tucked away next to Sena Bhavan and Kohinoor Mills at Dadar, Aaswad blends great grub with brisk service. This charmingly quaint place has held fort for more than 26 years and continues to fix some brilliant pure Maharashtra cuisine for its patrons. The finger-licking hot favourites are kothimbir vadi and thalipeeth.

Shrikrishna Ganesh Sarjoshi, a simple yet determined lad from interior of the Konkan region ventured out from his humble village in 1968 to seek his fortune in Mumbai. He joined Trupti Restaurant (now extinct) as a salesman. Seeing his dedicated hard work, the then owner of the Restaurant Shri Vinayak Bhagvat, offered him a partnership to operate the restaurant.

There was no looking back after that by this humble Maharashtra, who in 1986 opened Aaswad Upahar and Mithai Griha. The foundation stone was laid by none



other than the Shiv Sena Supremo late Shri Balasaheb Thackeray.

Now Shrikrishna Ganesh’s son Shri Suryakant S. Sarjoshi, who has done CA on the professional front, took over the reigns to operate the restaurant.

In 1996 the Restaurant was expanded and in 2006 it was converted into a fully air-conditioned restaurant. This led to the entry of more and more non-Maharashtrian clientele besides the regular Maharashtra patrons to the restaurant, which otherwise was traditionally a bastion for Maharashtra.

The Restaurant has around 15 covers, but it is full with clientele almost morning to late evening.

Aaswad is an economical restaurant serving authentic Maharashtra food. Other than the regular Maharashtra snacks like misal pav, usal and pav bhaji, Aaswad is very famous for its kothimbir vadi and thalipeeth. The shrikhand lassi (known as “Piyush”) is a speciality here. The place is clean and air-conditioned. An entire meal for a person would usually not amount to more than Rs 100/-. They do home deliveries as well around Dadar and Matunga.

Aaswad is a value-for-money eatery that is among the very lifelines of this fast-paced city.

-Mickie Menon

AHAR HOSPITALITY 09 JAN - MAR 2013

## Hygiene and food safety violations abroad are detrimental to the image of Indian restaurants

**New Delhi:** Indian restaurants, already encumbered with implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act of India (FSSAI) clauses will have to ensure their premises- especially kitchens and dining areas- are spotlessly clean if they hope to cater to the large number of foreign nationals who are expected to converge upon the country thanks to the ‘Make In India’ drive. In recent weeks, a large number of Indian restaurants abroad have come under scrutiny of food inspectors following reports of unhygienic practices and poor maintenance of premises.

Recently, an Indian restaurant in the UK named ‘Spice Hut’, was fined almost Rs. 8 Lakh by a court in Brixton, UK, after food inspectors found and proved beyond any reasonable doubt that its kitchen had not been cleaned for weeks. Inspectors also uncovered more grisly

practices at the restaurant such as improper storage of raw material in refrigerators, defective equipment and other violations of Britain’s strict food hygiene and safety laws.

According to news reports, at least two dozen ethnic Indian restaurants located in the six countries of the Arabian Gulf region are warned or face temporary and permanent closure for violation of food safety norms of those countries. Food inspectors detected violations such as cracks between ceramic tiles and old wooden furniture- which caused insects, especially cockroaches to breed in their crevices. Indian restaurateurs were also pulled up for storing dough used to make

chappatis and parathas in plastic bags- apparently unfit for food storage, in refrigerators, unclean microwave ovens, vegetable cut at least two days prior to cooking and the repeated use of the

same oil for frying, among other infractions.

While these incidences have

no direct connections with the restaurants business in Mumbai or India, reportage of such incidences of flouting health and food safety standards of various countries have made Indian restaurants notorious abroad as “unsafe” to eat in, for foreign nationals. In India too, such stringent food safety and restaurant hygiene laws can be expected to be implemented sometime later this year, according to sources. “Once this occurs, Indian restaurants will have to take extra precautions to ensure they are not found napping on food safety and hygiene standards,” sources added.

Sources pointed out, in most foreign countries, restaurants are by law required to use only metal furniture to ensure that insects do not breed. “This regulation

is followed across the board by Multi National Companies (MNCs) engaged in the fast food business at all their restaurants abroad and in India. Various regulatory authorities in this country might also consider implementing such laws for indigenous restaurants to ensure they meet hygiene levels that meet and exceed world standards,” sources further added.

Currently, most packaged food companies in India are complying with the FSSAI rules and such certification is reflected on their bottles, tetra-packs, sachets and other containers. “This can also mean that Indian restaurateurs, who earlier used non- FSSAI approved foods such as sauces, ketchups, noodles and other material will now have to buy only those endorsed by the authorities, adding to operational costs,” sources opined. ●



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