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AAHOA Announces Initiatives to Promote Economic and Workforce Development in India

GUJARAT, INDIA, January 9 – AAHOA, the world’s largest hotel owners association with nearly 20,000 members who own 60% of hotels in the U.S., announced today a strategic partnership to create workforce opportunities at India-based hospitality schools and to actively promote “Made in India” products for U.S.-based hospitality businesses.

AAHOA leadership, including **AAHOA Chairman Bharat Patel**, held recent meetings with Indian dignitaries and government officials, including the **Honorable Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel**. As a result, AAHOA is committing to:

1. Partnering with India-based educational institutions to **implement training programs and skill-development initiatives** that will equip young individuals to pursue successful and global careers in hospitality; and
2. Actively **promoting, prioritizing, and providing support for the sourcing of “Made in India” products**, including textiles, furniture, and plumbing fixtures, for U.S.-based hospitality businesses.

“With strong family ties and a significant footprint in the United States encompassing more than 36,000 properties, the AAHOA community is uniquely positioned to showcase the best of India to the world,” said **AAHOA Chairman Bharat Patel**. “Our new initiatives aim to not only fuel economic and workforce development and progress, but to create a stronger platform for the exchange of ideas and innovation between the world’s leading democracies.”

According to [S&P Global Ratings](#), India will remain as the fastest-growing major economy for at least the next three years, positioning it to become the world's third-largest economy by 2030. AAHOA recognizes the significant opportunities to capitalize on India’s explosive growth and influence in ways that provide mutually beneficial outcomes for both the U.S. and India.

“As the world’s largest hotel owners association, and with the anticipated explosive growth of the Indian economy, AAHOA continues to expand its influence onto the global stage,” said **AAHOA President & CEO Laura Lee Blake**. “AAHOA’s extensive network and influence in India create an ideal environment to build upon trade and workforce development initiatives that further support our vibrant community of Indian-American entrepreneurs, providing them with resources and solutions that will meaningfully impact their businesses.”



To view and download more images from the meeting, please click [here](#).

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About AAHOA

AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the world, with Member-owned properties representing a significant part of the U.S. economy. AAHOA's 20,000 members own 60% of the hotels in the United States and are responsible for 1.7% of the nation's GDP. More than one million employees work at AAHOA Member-owned hotels, earning \$47 billion annually, and member-owned hotels support 4.2 million U.S. jobs across all sectors of the hospitality industry. AAHOA's mission is to advance and protect the business interests of hotel owners through advocacy, industry leadership, professional development, member benefits, and community engagement.