



INDIALAW

Hospitality

Leading Hospitality Law Firm in India for Hotels, Licensing, and Franchising

PRACTICE PROFILE • MAY 2026

Overview

Our firm provides comprehensive legal services to the hospitality industry, offering strategic, regulatory, and transactional support to hotels, resorts, restaurants, food service operators, travel companies, and other leisure businesses across India. We help clients navigate the complex legal and regulatory landscape governing hospitality operations, development, franchising, licensing, and compliance.

Our firm's dedicated team brings deep industry insight and legal expertise to support stakeholders at every stage of the hospitality business lifecycle from land acquisition and project development to operations, branding, and dispute resolution.

We assist:

- **Hotels and Resorts:** with structuring management and franchise agreements, licensing and regulatory approvals, land use and zoning matters, and operational compliance.
- **Restaurants and QSR Chains:** in navigating FSSAI norms, labor laws, supply chain agreements, lease negotiations, and trademark protection.
- **Developers and Investors:** in hotel development, joint ventures, REIT structuring, and due diligence for mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures.
- **Travel and Leisure Companies:** on digital platform compliance, consumer protection laws, data privacy, and regulatory clearances.

Our Services

- Structuring and negotiating hotel management, franchise, lease, and concession agreements
- Advising on land acquisition, construction, and environmental compliance
- Licensing and approvals from local and central authorities (including FSSAI, pollution control boards, and excise departments)
- Employment law compliance and workforce structuring
- Brand protection, trademark registration, and enforcement
- Taxation, FDI compliance, and cross-border transactions
- Litigation and dispute resolution including consumer disputes, employment claims, and regulatory actions

Key Highlights

Why Choose Us

Our firm combines commercial acumen with legal rigour to offer tailored, practical solutions for hospitality businesses. We understand the operational realities and market pressures our clients face, enabling us to provide not only legal counsel but also strategic business insights. Whether you are launching a new hotel, managing a restaurant chain, or investing in the sector, we ensure your interests are protected at every turn.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 What does a hospitality law practice cover in India?

It covers the full lifecycle of hospitality businesses, including hotel management and franchise agreements, FSSAI and excise licensing, land acquisition, zoning approvals, employment structuring, brand protection, and dispute resolution for hotels, restaurants, and leisure operators.

Q2 When should a hospitality business engage a lawyer in India?

Ideally before signing any lease, management agreement, or franchise term sheet. Early legal involvement helps structure ownership, secure regulatory approvals in the correct sequence, and avoid costly renegotiations once construction or operations have begun.

Q3**Which Indian regulators and statutes govern hospitality operations?**

FSSAI governs food safety. State excise departments handle liquor licensing. Pollution control boards issue environmental consents. Local municipal bodies grant building and occupancy approvals. Labour compliance falls under central and state employment statutes, and the GST regime applies to room tariffs and F&B sales.

Q4**How long does it take to obtain all licenses for a new hotel in India?**

Timelines vary by state, but securing the full stack of approvals, including FSSAI registration, fire NOC, excise license, environmental consent, and trade license, typically takes 6 to 18 months. Delays in land title clearance or zoning permissions are the most common cost drivers.

Q5**What documents are needed to begin legal work for a hospitality project?**

We typically need the title chain and land records, draft or executed lease and management agreements, project plans and layout approvals, existing licenses, FSSAI registrations, GST filings, employment records, and any pending litigation or show cause notices from regulators.

Q6**What common legal mistakes do hospitality operators make in India?**

Operating without proper excise or FSSAI licenses, using poorly drafted management agreements that conflate ownership and operational control, ignoring state specific labour law requirements, and failing to register trademarks before franchising. Each of these exposes the business to penalties, shutdowns, or costly disputes.