



Pragnesh Rai,
owner, Sambar
Pub & Kitchen

than just Music, Drinks and Food. That's where a place Sambar Pub & Kitchen comes in offering all the above plus an experience to take home with them.

How do you plan to scale up?

As it has just been over 3 months, since we opened the Sambar Pub & Kitchen at Khar, we taking it a bit slow with regards to scaling. But yes, by the end of this year we do plan to spread out the Sambar Experience across Mumbai.

Who would primarily be your consumer audience?

We are open too all audiences. But primarily we are focused on drawing a little mature audiences. Audiences that belong to the age group of 30-40 yrs. Ideally we are looking for audiences that are looking for their very own Neighbourhood Bar. A bar they can just walk in with their

'Bringing diversity to regional cuisine'

Having schooled for the better part of his formative years in Mumbai, **Pragnesh Rai** went on to complete his hotel management degree from IHM Mumbai, followed by a stellar management training at the Taj Group of Hotels. Post this 2 year stint, Rai went on to join his family business to successfully run Deepak Restaurant and Bar for over 5 years. Being bit by the entrepreneurial bug early in his youth, Pragnesh then branched out on his own to help run pubs & eateries such as Loca Loca and Hungry Birds in Mumbai whilst continuing to head operations at Deepak. In conversation with **Dominic Rebello**, Rai says, "South Indian food is a sheer delicacy - there is so much to explore in this region's cuisine and it is my dream to change the mindset of it being limited to dosa and wada."

What drives you?

Coming from the Hospitality, F&B backgrounds, I think what truly drives me is the ability to conceptualise, create, deliver unique concoctions for the forever experimental Indian palate.

How big is the potential for a business like yours?

For A theme based pub/bar setup like ours, I think the potential is astronomical. There are just way too many generic Pubs/Clubs which has kind of become too redundant. Our understanding of the markets tell us that audiences are now looking for something more

friends, have a few drinks, a few laughs.



Where do you see yourself five years down the road?

Currently I am just focused on this year, trying to reach out to more and more people, establishing myself as an Entrepreneur. But, yes, in the next 5 years, I surely see myself executing all those of diverse ideas that I always had in my

head. The plan would be to bring these concept to reality and I am sure audiences will love every bit of that diversity just as they have loved Sambar.

Beauty and Personal Care industry set for exponential growth

By A Business Reporter

"A platform like Beauty India has the potential to shape the future of the Indian beauty industry. The \$3-billion beauty services industry offers huge opportunities across the value chain for talented beauty and styling professionals, managers and entrepreneurs. Apart from the opportunity in the domestic market there is significant interest in the global market for all things Indian," said Pushkaraj Shenai - Chairman, Advisory Committee - Beauty India & CEO-Lakmé Lever Pvt. Ltd. at the inauguration of Beauty India; an exclusive B2B exhibition catering to the needs of the beauty, cosmetics and personal care in-

dustries in Mumbai yesterday.

Considering the growth potential of the beauty industry, internationally renowned organizers of various B2B and B2C exhibitions, Sumansa Exhibitions have launched Beauty India's debut edition, which opened in Mumbai at BEC, yesterday and will continue till March 29th, 2017. Popular Bollywood style icon and actor Malaika Arora and Lakmé Lever India CEO, Pushkaraj Shenai jointly inaugurated the exhibition that hosts over 75 exhibitors.

Himanshu Gupta, General Manager, Sales & Marketing B2B Events, Sumansa Exhibitions said, "The overall beauty and personal care market in India is estimated at Rs 74,700



Malaika Arora at Beauty India Show crore and has been expanding at 13% year-on-year. Through our exhibition, we aim to provide international and domestic brands a suitable platform for exploring business opportunities, finding partnerships, exchange of ideas and networking."



BUSINESS SHOTS



Indian consumers most optimistic about well-being in Asia-Pac

Indian consumers are the most optimistic lot in the Asia-Pacific region, says a survey, which marked it mainly to upbeat sentiment over robust pace of economic growth and stable macroeconomic fundamentals. According to the MasterCard 'Well-Being Index' 2017, India is very optimistic with a score of 75 points - the highest level of optimism in the second half of 2016 - out of the 18 countries surveyed in the Asia Pacific. India is followed by the Philippines at 73 points, Indonesia and Vietnam 71.4 each and China 68.2.

'Most equity-based MFs underperform in last 1 year'

In terms of returns to investors, most of the equity focused mutual funds in the country have underperformed their respective benchmark S&P BSE indices, for one year ended December 2016, says a report. The analysis is part of S&P Dow Jones Indices' scorecard SPIVA which tracks the performance of actively managed Indian mutual funds against their benchmarks over the one-year, 3-year, 5-year and 10-year periods, as on December 31, 2016.

CHEMEXCIL presented 'Lifetime Achievement Award' To Ashok Kadakia



Nirmala Sitaraman, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry is seen felicitating Ashok Kadakia with CHEMEXCIL's 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in Mumbai.

The Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) setup by Commerce Ministry, Government of India felicitated Ashok M. Kadakia with 'Lifetime Achievement Award'. Nirmala Sitaraman, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India handed over the award to Ashok M. Kadakia on 24th March 2017 in an event held in Mumbai. Ashok M. Kadakia has over 50 years of experience in chemical industry.

Nissan launches new version of Terrano

Japanese auto major Nissan yesterday launched an all new version of its SUV Terrano priced between Rs 9.99 lakh and Rs 13.6 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The company will also launch hybrid version of its top end SUV X-Trail by the end of this year as it looks to enhance portfolio in the fast growing SUV segment in India. Besides, the company is targeting sports hatchback and executive sedans segment as part of its plans to launch eight new vehicles in India by 2021. "We have interesting products lined up for India as per our plans announced earlier. This year apart from the new Terrano we will

have the hybrid X-Trail by the end of 2017," Nissan India Operations President Guillaume Sicard (rpt) Sicard told PTI.

Commerce Min considering separate unit for logistics

The Commerce Ministry is working on a proposal to set up a separate logistics unit to deal with the issues, including rising costs, that are impacting global competitiveness of exporters. There is no single department or ministry at present to look at all the aspects related to logistics covering various modes of shipment such as sea, roads and railways. According to sources, the proposal is under discussion with the ministries concerned. Exporters too have demanded for a specific department to deal with the issues related to logistics. They are undertaking a study to look at issues like shortcomings in logistics and ways to address that.

Godrej Properties adds new housing project in Mumbai

Real estate firm Godrej Properties has entered into an agreement with Shivam Realty to develop a housing project in Mumbai. The 5-acre project will have a saleable area of one million square ft. "Godrej Properties Ltd has entered into a development management agreement with Shivam Realty to develop a residential group housing project off the Akurli cross road at Hanuman Nagar, Kandivali East, Mumbai," the company said in a statement. On adding this new project, Godrej Properties MD & CEO Pirojsha Godrej said this partnership strengthens development portfolio in Mumbai and fits with company strategy of deepening presence in key markets across India's leading cities.

Suryadatta honours eminent personalities with Go Green Awards

On 21st Marh 2017, 11 eminent Puneites were honoured with Go Green Awards by Suryadatta Group of Institutes at the Desino 2017 Expo. Desino was an unique exhibition of Innovation & Recycled World, by Suryadatta Institute of Design, that promoted recycled products and created an awareness about the importance of Recycle, Reuse and Reduce, which was held for 3 days at Balgandharva. The awards were presented at the hands of Pune Mayor, Mukta Tilak and Prof. Dr. Sanjay Chordiya, Chairperson, Suryadatta Group of Institutes.

Taro Kono discusses the future of India-Japan engagement in renewable energy

Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations, Mumbai, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan hosted a meeting with Taro Kono, Member, House of Representatives, Japan. The meeting at Gateway House addressed the topic; "India-Japan: Partnering in Renewable Energy". Over the past decade Japan has undertaken an unprecedented energy transformation from nuclear energy to solar energy. India has also set itself a target to install 100 gigawatts of solar energy by 2022, and is looking towards Japan for some guidance. Japan is already a large funder to India's infrastructure build out, and energy cooperation is next on the agenda.