

Ideally located business hotel



Rahul Pandit

While Hinjawadi was yet to become an IT and educational hub, Lemon Tree group had the foresight to open a five star hotel at a location far away from Pune. Today the area has many brands and quite a few hotels are in the pipeline. “Pune has been a deep and growing market and one of the first cities in India that started developing mini-markets i.e. geographical pockets at a sizeable distance from each other. We were able to assess that Hinjewadi had the potential of becoming a big hub for the IT/ITES industry and that is where it stands today. Lemon Tree was a first mover in this market and was soon followed by other domestic and international brands. We have built a loyal consumer base and have been able to maintain a position of leadership over the years,” said Rahul Pandit, President, The Lemon Tree Hotel Company.

We had an opportunity to visit the property and the hotel arranged a pick up from Mumbai. The drive was pleasant across the express highway with the driver giving inputs on the hotel, its location, the city and traffic woes in the evenings. I admired as it was nice to see informative drivers and one who have been working for over 6 years with the same property.

On arrival, a little late in the night, we checked into a suite that had a spacious living room with two sofas and a dining table with fruits, dry fruits and a bottle of wine to greet us. In the morning we had breakfast which was a lavish spread – though I had my favourite idli and dosa, my wife and daughter relished the other varieties. As with all Lemon Tree Hotels we could feel the signature lemon fragrance across the property.

Lemon Tree Hotel, Hinjawadi, Pune has one of the best locations in Hinjawadi - located in the software heartland at Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park (Hinjewadi Phase I), just off the Mumbai expressway and a short distance away from Infosys (which we could see from our room), Wipro, Tata Technologies, Cognizant, Persistent and Symbiosis Institute.

“Ours was the first branded property to come up in this area and I was fortunate to be here during its inception. Right from the



start it's been a success as its walking distance to many IT companies, thus saving valuable commuting time,” said Ranjan Basu, Hotel General Manager, Lemon

Tree Hotel, Hinjawadi, Pune.

The hotel has 124 rooms and suites, offering a wide array of accommodation options at a reasonable price – the superior room (124 Sq.Ft); deluxe (127 Sq.Ft.); executive (145 Sq.Ft.); studio - combine living room and bedroom into a single room with a mini kitchenette (222 Sq.Ft.) and the executive suite – with a separate living room as well as a bedroom (272 Sq.Ft.). The hotel provides free room WiFi to most of its guests.

“Being in an IT zone I think its need of the hour and we have tried to provide free WiFi 24X7 in most of our packages and is always included if you book on lemontreehotels.com. Many of our patrons have appreciated this offer,” said Ranjan Basu.

The hotel has many long term staying guests also some who have been here for more than a year. “Its convenient location for many International guests especially the Germans who come for project installations, consultancies or head a particular department. For these people we provide a customized package that includes naturally free WiFi 24X7, a set of laundry, chef special menus etc. Infact we have had some guests tell our chef how to



Ranjan Basu

Ajay Shrimali

make a particular dish that's their favourite. They also use our Fitness Centre for an invigorating workout and an outdoor pool to relax,” said Ajay Shrimali, Director of Sales, Lemon Tree Hotels (Pune, Aurangabad and Indore).

The hotel has quite a few dining outlets including an award winning pan-Asian restaurant. The Citrus Café is a multi-cuisine with home-style food local specialities; Republic of Noodles is a

Pan-Asian cuisine restaurant with the best street food from Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia and Myanmar. Slounge is the bar with a pool table and PlayStation.

“Our food is quite popular especially the lunch which is relished by those executives working in IT companies. The desserts are quite popular and many enjoy our Friday meals where we have a chat and a pasta counter,” said Ajay Shrimali.

On the MICE front the hotel offers a total area of 917 square feet of conference area. “We have a lot of residential conference thanks to our location – close to the ICT companies. We have two halls TANGERINE I with a seating capacity of 60 equipped with high speed WiFi, surround sound system, large screen television and DVD player and TANGERINE II with a seating capacity of 16. We provide a single all included package for MICE making it very convenient to the organizers,” said Ranjan Basu.