

THE NEXT  
STEP

Careers  
Newsletter

**Volume 4, 27<sup>th</sup> Edition**

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

**Dear readers,**

We are pleased to present the latest edition of 'The Next Step' careers newsletter: Volume 4, Twenty-fifth Edition. This issue explores various career opportunities in hospitality and offers a guide to CUET preparations.

This edition describes job opportunities in hospitality within India and abroad, while highlighting how the CUET has become a pivotal gateway for students aiming for premier Indian institutes.

As always, your feedback is crucial to us. If you have suggestions for future topics or ideas you'd like us to cover, we encourage you to write to us at [careers@assamvalleyschool.com](mailto:careers@assamvalleyschool.com). Your input ensures we continue to deliver valuable and relevant content for our readers.

Sincerely,  
Japneet Kaur.

# Turning Passion into Profession: Careers in India's Hospitality World



The hospitality landscape in India has transcended its traditional boundaries, evolving into a sophisticated, multibillion-dollar ecosystem that serves as a cornerstone of the nation's economic ambition. In 2026, the sector is no longer defined solely by the "bricks and mortar" of hotel buildings but by a seamless fusion of high-touch human empathy and high-tech digital precision. As the industry marches toward a projected \$500 billion contribution to the GDP by 2034, it has emerged as one of India's most diverse and lucrative career platforms.

## **The Expansion into the "Heartland"**

The most significant driver of growth this year is the aggressive penetration of global and domestic brands into India's Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. With the rise of the "aspirational traveller," cities like Indore, Coimbatore, and Guwahati are becoming hubs for luxury developments. This geographical shift has created a massive vacuum for leadership talent, specifically for General Managers and Operations Heads who can navigate local cultural nuances while maintaining international service standards. Furthermore, the shift toward "Asset-Light" business models—where brands manage properties owned by third-party investors—has birthed a new class of corporate roles in hospitality real estate, contract law, and franchise management.

Forget the outdated image of just "carrying plates" or "making beds." In 2026, hospitality in India is a high-octane, multibillion-dollar engine driving the nation's prestige on the global stage. It has moved far beyond just "hotel management" to include luxury wellness, tech-driven guest experiences, and high-stakes event planning. India's vibrant and diverse culture, rich history, and growing tourism have made the hospitality industry a vital part of the country's economy. The hospitality sector encompasses a wide range of career opportunities, including hotels, restaurants, travel and tourist agencies, event management, and catering services. As India continues to attract both domestic and international tourists, the demand for skilled professionals is on the rise.

## **The Digital Renaissance and Data Mastery**

The modern hospitality professional is now as much a data analyst as they are a host. The integration of AI and the Internet of Things (IoT) has opened non-traditional career paths that are currently among the highest-paying in the sector. Revenue management has become a high-stakes career path, where specialists use AI-driven predictive modeling to fluctuate pricing in real-time based on global demand and local events. Beyond the back office, the guest experience is being redesigned by Digital Experience Managers who oversee contactless journeys and smart-room integration, ensuring that technology enhances, rather than replaces, the human touch.

## **Specialized Niche Verticals: Beyond the Lobby**

India's emergence as a global wedding destination and a hub for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) has created a high demand for specialized Event Architects and Convention Directors. Managing a high-profile Indian wedding is now a logistics feat comparable to a military operation, involving hundreds of vendors and international itineraries. Similarly, the "Cruise Bharat" mission has opened a nautical frontier, with river and coastal cruising creating thousands of roles in shipboard hospitality management. These roles often offer the added benefit of global exposure and tax-efficient compensation packages, making them highly attractive to the new generation of graduates.



## **The Sustainability and Wellness Mandate**

Finally, the industry has embraced a deep-rooted commitment to sustainability and holistic wellness. In 2026, "Green Hospitality" is an operational mandate rather than a marketing gimmick. This has led to the rise of Sustainability Officers who manage circular supply chains and zero-waste initiatives. Complementing this is the boom in Wellness Tourism; with India positioned as the global capital of Ayurveda and Yoga, there is a sustained need for Wellness Centre Directors who can blend clinical hospitality with luxury service. Ultimately, a career in Indian hospitality today offers a rare combination of stability, global mobility, and the opportunity to be at the forefront of India's cultural soft power. Whether architecting a digital guest journey or managing a heritage palace, professionals in this field are the engineers of the modern Indian experience.



# **CAREERS IN HOSPITALITY**

## **ABROAD**

*P*ursuing a hospitality career abroad offers unparalleled global mobility and a direct gateway to high-level leadership in the world's most dynamic service sectors. As the industry is projected to support one in eight jobs globally by 2026, international programs act as a "global passport," equipping graduates with cultural intelligence and advanced business strategy. This educational path prepares professionals for diverse executive roles ranging from luxury brand management to tech-driven travel and sustainable tourism, making it an ideal choice for those seeking a fast-paced, international lifestyle.

### ***Best colleges:***

- EHL Hospitality Business School (Switzerland)
- Les Roches Global Hospitality Education (Switzerland)
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (USA)
- Glion Institute of Higher Education (Switzerland)
- Cornell University (USA)
- Shannon College of Hotel Management
- James Cook University (Singapore)
- Auckland University of Technology (New Zealand)

## **SCOPE:**

Studying hospitality abroad in 2026 offers a "borderless" career path, as the industry is projected to reach a global market value of \$5.8 trillion this year. Beyond traditional hotel roles, an international hospitality degree serves as a gateway into high-end business sectors that value "soft skills" and operational efficiency.

The scope can be categorized into four primary dimensions:

### **1. Global Mobility and the "Global Passport":**

The most significant advantage of studying abroad is the standardization of the industry. A degree from a top school in Switzerland, the USA, or Hong Kong acts as a global license to work anywhere.

- **Management Trainee Programs:** Major chains like Marriott, Hyatt, and Hilton recruit directly from these campuses for fast-track leadership roles that rotate across multiple countries.

- **Post-Study Work Visas:** Countries like Australia, Canada, and the UK offer 2-4 year post-study work permits, allowing graduates to gain high-value international experience before moving into senior management.

To achieve a premier hospitality education, students must navigate a landscape that balances traditional service with modern business strategy. Here are the key takeaways regarding the world's top institutions:

- **Global Benchmark for Luxury:** EHL Hospitality Business School in Switzerland remains the gold standard, blending time-honored Swiss service traditions with high-level operational excellence.

- **Corporate and Analytical Leadership:** American institutions, specifically Cornell University and UNLV, lead the industry in complex fields such as hospitality real estate, financial management, and data-driven research.



- **Technological Innovation:** The Asia-Pacific region, spearheaded by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, is actively redefining the industry's future through digital transformation and high-tech integration.

- **Validated Excellence:** These selections are backed by the QS World University Rankings and superior employer reputation scores, ensuring graduates are prepared for both front of house leadership and corporate boardroom roles.

### **2. Diversification of Career Paths**

Hospitality graduates are no longer restricted to hotels. In 2026, the "Experience Economy" has expanded the scope into:

- **Luxury Brand Management:** Managing VIP client relations for brands like LVMH, Rolex, or private banking firms.

- **Hospitality Real Estate & Finance:** Analyzing hotel assets, REITs, and revenue management strategies.

- **Tech and Digital Hospitality:** Working for travel-tech giants (Expedia, Airbnb) or developing AI-driven guest personalization tools.

- **Wellness and Eco-Tourism:** Leading sustainable resorts and medical wellness retreats, which are among the fastest-growing niches.

## Leadership and Entrepreneurial Opportunities

International hospitality education places a heavy emphasis on Entrepreneurship. Many graduates now launch their own:

- Boutique Hotel Concepts: Focusing on heritage or hyper-local experiences.
- Ghost Kitchens & Food Tech: Leveraging data to manage delivery-only restaurant brands.
- Specialized Consultancy: Advising existing brands on digital transformation and sustainability reporting.



## Emerging High-Growth Sectors

Sector

Scope for 2026

Top Locations

Cruise Line Mgmt.

High demand for guest service & F&B directors.

Miami, Singapore,

Mediterranean

MICE & Events

Massive growth in large-scale corporate conferences

Dubai, Las Vegas, London

Aviation

Hospitality

Luxury ground services and VIP lounge management.

UAE (Emirates), Qatar, Hong Kong

Sustainable

Tourism

Specialists in green certifications and eco-operations

Costa Rica, Scandinavia, Bali



## Key High-Earning Pathways

- Revenue Management: This is currently one of the most lucrative "office-based" hospitality paths. It uses big data and analytics to set room prices, making you indispensable to a hotel's profitability.
- Hospitality Real Estate & Asset Management: Graduates from schools like Cornell often work for investment firms, managing the physical hotel buildings as financial assets rather than just managing the guests.
- Luxury Brand Management: High-end retailers (like LVMH) and private banking firms often hire hospitality graduates to manage their "VIP Experience" departments, offering corporate-level salaries.



# Guide to CUET, Preparations and Opportunities

CUET is a national-level entrance exam conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to undergraduate programs across various central, state, and private universities in India. It aims to streamline the admission process and provide a common platform for students to apply to multiple universities.

## Why is CUET important?

- Streamlined process: One exam for multiple universities.
- Wide opportunities: Access to top universities and diverse courses.
- Fair opportunity: An equal playing field for students of all backgrounds.
- Cost-saving: Less money spent on multiple exams and applications.

CUET opens doors to 280+ universities, including elite central institutions like **DU, BHU** and **JNU**. It provides a single-window gateway to diverse undergraduate programs in arts, science, and commerce. Students gain equal opportunities, regardless of board backgrounds, to pursue career paths in **research, corporate sectors, and civil services**.



# CUET

Central University Entrance Test

## How to prepare:



### Step 1: Know the Exam Pattern & Syllabus

- **Structure:** Usually includes four sections—Language, Domain-Specific Subjects, General Knowledge, and Logical Reasoning.
- **Question Type:** Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs).
- **Duration:** Typically 2 hours.
- **Marking Scheme:** Check official NTA notifications for specific details.

#### Action Point:

Create a mind map of all sections and topics. Use colourful charts to visualise what to focus on.

### Step 2: Make a Study Plan

- **Assess Your Strengths & Weaknesses:** Determine which subjects you find easy or challenging.
- **Set Weekly Goals:** Plan to cover specific topics each week.
- **Balance Your Time:** Dedicate more hours to tough subjects, but don't neglect your strengths.

### Step 3: Gather Quality Study Material

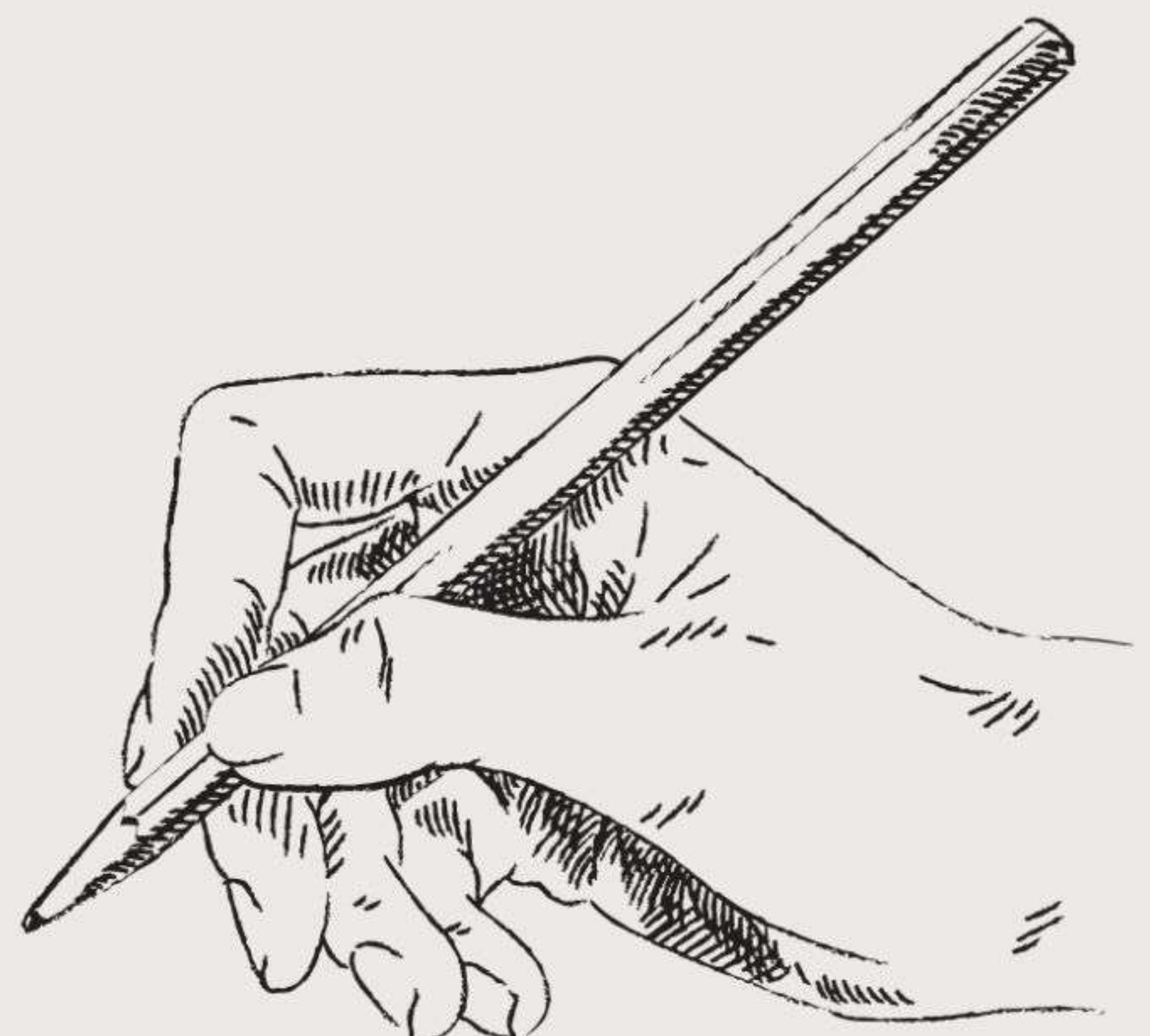
- **Official Resources:** Use NTA sample papers and official mock tests.
- **Books & Guides:** Rely on NCERT textbooks for core concepts; supplement them with reference books.
- **Online Platforms:** Explore Khan Academy, Unacademy, or YouTube for video tutorials.

### Step 4: Practice, Practice, Practice!

- **Mock Tests:** Take at least one full-length mock test weekly.
- **Previous Year Papers:** Solve them to understand question patterns.
- **Time Management:** Practice under timed conditions to develop speed and accuracy.

### Step 5: Focus on Revision & Concept Clarity

- **Short Notes:** Prepare concise notes for quick revision.
- **Regular Revision:** Revisit key topics on a weekly basis.
- **Teach Others:** Explaining concepts to friends or family helps reinforce your learning.





# Opportunities with CUET

- **Access to Prestigious Universities:** Gain entry to institutions such as Delhi University, JNU, BHU, and more.
- **Variety of Courses:** Choose from arts, science, commerce, management, computer science, and other fields.
- **Multiple Attempts & Flexibility:** Take advantage of universities that offer multiple admission cycles.
- **Global Exposure:** Benefit from participating universities that maintain collaborations abroad.

## **Additional Tips for Success**

- **Stay Positive & Confident:** Believe in your preparation and your process.
- **Maintain a Healthy Routine:** Sleep well, eat nutritiously, and take regular breaks.
- **Stay Updated:** Follow official notifications for any last-minute changes.
- **Join Study Groups:** Use collaborative learning to boost your motivation.
- **Seek Help When Needed:** Do not hesitate to ask teachers or mentors for guidance.

## **Bonus: Quick Tips to Excel**

- Focus on conceptual understanding rather than rote memorisation.
- Use mind maps to simplify complex topics.
- Practice mental math and logical reasoning daily.
- Maintain a positive mindset and visualize your success.

-Abigail R. Pudaitee



# CONCLUSION

In summary, hospitality as a career choice has transitioned from traditional service into a high-stakes, technology-driven business discipline known as "experience orchestration." As of 2026, the industry is no longer defined merely by operational efficiency but by the strategic design of guest journeys that blend physical luxury with digital personalization.

For those entering the field, a degree from a top international institution acts as a "global passport," granting access to a diverse array of sectors, including luxury hotel management, travel technology, sustainable tourism, and even corporate real estate. Ultimately, the conclusion for aspiring professionals is that hospitality offers a rare combination of global leadership and significant earning potential.

While the industry continues to value human empathy and emotional intelligence, the successful hospitality leader of 2026 must also be a "digitally fluent" strategist capable of leveraging AI for personalization and navigating the complexities of sustainability. This combination of soft skills and analytical rigor ensures that hospitality graduates remain highly sought after by world-class brands, offering a resilient and rewarding career in an increasingly connected world.

-Rajkumari Anya Devi &  
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