

# N.Y. Hotelier Plans Expansion, Ties Up With Wyndham Group

By A Staff Writer

— NEW YORK

Hotelier Sant Singh Chatwal plans to expand his hotel chain in India in partnership with the Wyndham Hotel Group, giving the latter exclusive rights to franchise and manage some of his boutique hotel brands.

At a March 23 press conference here, the chairman and CEO of Chatwal Hotels & Resorts said the Wyndham group would take the development of his Dream and Night brands “to the next level” by leveraging its global distribution system.

“The relationship with Wyndham will unlock the true potential of our Dream and Night brands, which have proven their success in key markets like New York and Bangkok during the last six years and are prime to further expand globally,” Chatwal said.

Eric Danziger, president and CEO of Wyndham Hotel Group, said the Dream and Night brands will complement his company’s diverse portfolio.

“These design-driven, destination-within-a-destination brands are favored by travelers who crave an avant-garde yet cosmopolitan experience. We are especially proud to work with Sant Singh Chatwal, an innovative hotelier and entrepreneur, to expand and evolve these brands in key business and leisure markets around the globe,” he said.

Chatwal said he plans to set up 50 new hotels in India in five years as part of a major expansion



Chatwal Hotels and Resorts and Wyndham Hotel Group announced their partnership at a March 23 press conference in New York. From left are Jim Alderman, executive vice president of development for Wyndham Hotel Group; Jay Stein, chief operating officer of Chatwal Hotels & Resorts; Jeff Wagoner, president of Wyndham Hotels & Resorts; Eric Danziger, president and CEO of Wyndham Hotel Group; and Sant Singh Chatwal, chairman and CEO of Chatwal Hotels & Resorts.

in South Asia. His company, which runs two hotels in India, has already tied up nine sites in the country for the proposed expansion starting with a 200 room hotel in Jaipur.

Wyndham, which owns brands like Ramada and Days Inn, runs 27 hotels in India.

Chatwal said the Dream hotels will offer innovative and locally popular food and beverages. The goal is to appeal to customers looking to add a little adventure to their time away from home.

The Night brand will be positioned as an “affordably chic” hotel option featuring innovative designs and services such as guest DJs in lounges and gourmet quick-serve food and beverages.

## Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce Hosts Networking Event



The Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce (AICC) hosted a networking dinner at the Ramada Inn in North Brunswick, N.J., March 23. The event featured speakers including Priti-Pandya Patel, CEO and co-founder of International Sleep Network, an Iselin-based business, and Kartiknath Kandakatta, manager of online operations for Moneydart. Seen at right is Dr. Sudhir Parikh, publisher of Desi Talk, addressing the event.

## Holi is Celebrated at Vallabhdham Temple in Connecticut

By A Staff Writer

The Vallabhdham Temple in Newington, Conn., hosted Holi celebrations March 19. More than 1,400 people participated in the festivities, a press release said.

Attendees were dressed in colorful clothes, reflecting the joyful nature of the festival.

Festivities began with a Holi song and included cultural performances by children, Holi darshan, Holika Dahan and sprinkling of colors. A video talk was

presented by spiritual leader Shree Dwarkeshlall.

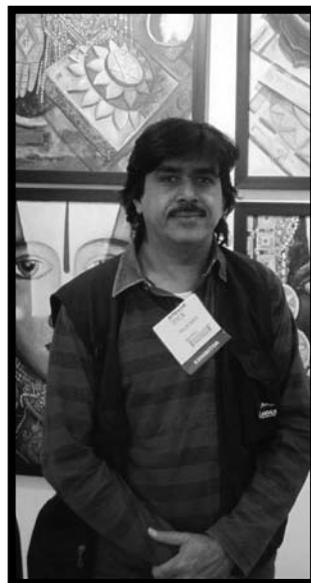
Attendees discussed renovation plans for the temple. The Holi pyre was lit and dinner was served after that, the release said.

“Encouraging children to participate in such events familiarizes them with Indian culture and heritage,” Rajeev Desai, one of the trustees of the temple, was quoted as saying.

A team of volunteers worked round the clock to decorate the temple and ensure the event went off without a hitch, the release said.



## Mumbai-based Artist's Solo Exhibition in NYC



Artist Karan Raj poses with his painting titled “Yantra,” based on Lord Venkateshwara, at his solo exhibition at Artexpo in Manhattan, March 25. According to his bio on the Artexpo website, Raj’s paintings reflect vibrant colors of Indian mysticism and patterns which touch the depths of human spirituality and give feeling of peace and oneness with the universe. Raj operates from his studio in Mumbai.

## Martial Artist From India Wins First Place at N.Y Tournament



Jameel Khan Patan of India, left, receives first place in Kung Fu from Honorary President S. Henry Cho at the 2011 All American Open TaeKwon Do - Karate - Kung Fu Championships at the Long Island University’s Brooklyn Campus, March 19. Patan, who flew in from Hyderabad for the tournament, is a well-known martial artist and a recipient of several prestigious awards including the UNESCO Millennium Best Karate Ratna. He is a Black Belt in 5th Dan Spark in Kung Fu; Black Belt in 1st Dan in Karate and Black Belt in 2nd Dan in TaeKwon Do. He spends the summer months in New York where he conducts classes at the Hindu Temple Society of North America Temple in Flushing.