

IHHR's spa institute to start operations in early 2008

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IHHR Hospitality Pvt. Ltd's 20-crore spa institute is slated to start operations in early 2008 at Gachibowli, Hyderabad. The institute will offer courses in Yoga, Ayurveda, face and body treatments, aroma therapy, reflexology and a range of other therapies for durations ranging from one month to one-and-half years.

Realising the importance of international certification, the institute has got the International Therapy Examination Council (ITEC), Confederation of International Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology (CIBTEC) and Comité International D'esthétique Et De Cosmétique (CIDESCO) to prescribe the curriculum for the courses on international treatments and give the required certification. The curriculum for the Yoga and Ayurveda courses will be framed and certified by the institute itself.

According to Ashok Khanna, MD, IHHR Hospitality Pvt. Ltd, "Unlike in the West where every therapist has to get a certification before practising, very few therapists in India are internationally accredited. However, the certification is important in India, especially because it is now a growing hub for medical tourism." The faculty at the institute will include therapists from India and abroad, and the fees will depend on the courses opted for.

Apart from the upcoming spa institute, the company has several new projects on the anvil. The Ista Hyderabad property will be operational from September 1, 2007; Bangalore will get another 75-room Ista property, boutique hotel, at an investment of Rs 60 crore; another resort-cum-spa under the Ananda brand will come up either in Jaipur or Puri; a property worth Rs 300 crore combining the Ananda and Ista brands in Delhi will be ready by September, 2008. Besides, it plans to set up properties offering 200 to 300 rooms in Pune, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Nagpur, Coimbatore, Kumarakom, Delhi and Navi Mumbai at a total investment of Rs 500 crore.