

## **Vedaaranya Haveli joins Healing Hotels of the World**

*Historic boutique hotel brings healing to Indian heritage town*



*Elisabeth Ixmeir, Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar, and Anne Biging*

*Cologne, Germany, 09 November, 2019* -- The Vedaaranya Haveli in the historical town of Ramgarh Shekhawati in Rajasthan, India, has become the latest hotel to join Healing Hotels of the World. The 10-room boutique hotel has been lovingly renovated by Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar, an entrepreneur, educator and healer who returned to her family's ancestral roots in an effort to bring tourism to this remote, untouched and unspoilt region. A *haveli* is a traditional Indian heritage abode situated around a courtyard, with the structure allowing energy to flow and merge at the heart of the space.

“‘Vedaaranya’ means ‘the Vedic forest,’ and Vedic means ‘the idea of oneness in diversity,’ while a forest is a space where many life forms coexist in harmony,’ says Dr. Poddar. “Thus Vedaaranya Haveli is that magical space which fulfils the senses, calms the mind and body, and gives you a universe of love, healing and fulfilment in a haven of heritage.”

Dr. Poddar has been instrumental in the preservation of the intricate architecture and detailed frescoes that decorate the walls, ceilings and domes of the historical region – most of which were developed in the 1800s, when Ramgarh Shekhawati was an important stop on the Silk Road. Mostly abandoned in the 1930s, the town has been brought back to life thanks to Dr. Poddar's efforts, combined with her work with the government of Rajasthan to bring the area's tourism potential into sharp focus.

This includes the restoration of the Ramgarh Fort, the declaration of Ramgarh Shekhawati as a Heritage Town; the launch of Vedaaranya Retreats focusing on vibrational healing and wellness; the creation of artist residences and creative retreats focusing on local traditions such as bangle making, rug weaving and music; and the launch of the Vedaaranya Heritage and Healing Festival. Dr. Poddar is also developing a large museum on the Shekhawati Seths and their heritage, and has catalogued 2,500 artefacts.

In addition, Dr. Poddar is working on efforts to help local women, an issue close to her heart. She has created a rug making centre made from recycled material, which has helped to empower more than 50 poor women and girls.

“Ramgarh Shekhawati is a special destination for healing, and the beautiful Vedaaranya Haveli is at the heart of that healing experience,” says Anne Biging, Co-Founder of the Healing Hotels of the World. “But beyond that, the work that Shruti has done to help – and heal – the local community make this an outstanding example of the qualities we look for in a Healing Hotel.”

The multi-million dollar Vedaaranya project has taken off and is attracting the haveli owners back to their roots, as well as other investors, conservation architects, cultural stalwarts, celebrated artists and Hollywood professionals to come together to target Ramgarh Shekhawati as a unique heritage habitat.

“Shruti is a healer at heart, and that shows in her work at the Vedaaranya Haveli,” says Elisabeth Ixmeier, Co-Founder of the Healing Hotels of the World. “The impact of her work on the region is enormous, but she also wants to extend that healing environment to the guests visiting the haveli. This is a truly magical place.”

For Dr. Poddar, this is just the beginning. “The local population has woken up to the significance of the great heritage of Shekhawati, particularly the youth and students,” she says. “It is the beginning of a deep cultural awakening, which will be the harbinger of the resurgence of many such microcosmic heritage havens waiting to be revived, with a view to holistic nurturing at the grassroots level.”

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### **About Healing Hotels of the World:**

Healing Hotels of the World is a global brand with more than 100 hotels and resorts worldwide committed to healing. It was founded by Anne Biging and Elisabeth Ixmeier in 2006 to promote the extraordinary potential these hotels and resorts offer to change the lives of their guests for the better. As hubs of a holistic lifestyle, Healing Hotels are comprised of passionate advocates for all facets of this lifelong and enriching endeavor.

### **About Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar:**

Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar (Saundaryaambika) is a vibrational healer, mentor, musician and poet, as well as a teacher and faculty trainer. She is also a hospitality and tourism entrepreneur, a heritage conservationist and grassroots worker. Dr. Poddar shares ways of healing one’s life with wisdom from the Upanishads and other ancient texts. She is a global consultant on culture, heritage conservation, indigenous knowledge systems and integral education. Dr Poddar created the “Nada Vibronics,” a vibrational healing ecosystem used worldwide for meditation and healing human mind-body conditions and specific diseases.

### **For more information, contact:**

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