

ITDC Divests Stakes in Nine Properties, Will Continue to Run Samrat

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New Delhi: State-run ITDC has divested stake in nine properties in the last two years, and while a consultant has been appointed for The Ashok in the national capital, Samrat Hotel will continue to be run by the corporation, said its chairman, Kamala Vardhana Rao.

"As per the disinvestment policy of the government of India, the hotel properties of ITDC are being disinvested, keeping in view that running and managing hotels is not the business of government and its entities," Rao, who is also India Tourism Development Corporation's managing director, told ET.

The ITDC-run hotels where the government has divested stake over the last two years are those in Bhopal, Jaipur, Guwahati, Itanagar and the Lalitha Mahal Palace in Mysore, according to Rao. At



the start of the millennium, the corporation had sold stake in 17 of its 37 hotels and catering units.

"DIPAM has appointed a consultant for exploring the best way forward for The Ashok and Samrat Complex. This process is underway. At this stage, Samrat Hotel is not slated for disinvestment and will continue to be run by ITDC," he said.

Rao said ITDC has signed an MoU with AIIMS for the Delhi hotels, where medical experts will monitor the needs arising from the pandemic in realtime, and advise the corporation on precautionary measures to be taken. Very soon, ITDC will also launch open-air fine dining at The Ashok, he said.

"We would be providing free Wi-Fi, garden music, and a la carte offerings from our legendary restaurant, The Oudh. We are implementing contactless services to the greatest extent possible," Rao said. "For example, all the menu cards shall be contactless in view of safety and hygiene protocols our hotels are adopting. Payments at check-out and dine-in will be contactless."