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Top Hotel Chains in India Key into ESG, Sustainability Goals

Cos cut use of plastic, employ technology to achieve green targets

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New Delhi: From 100% green certified buildings and 50% of energy from renewable sources in the next two years, to the elimination of a quarter million plastic bottles annually at a single property, top hotel chains in India are pushing hard on their sustainability and ESG (environmental, social and governance) goals, and are even racing ahead of their peers in other markets.

"I am very proud of India. Our Ramada hotel in Lucknow was the first hotel in Europe, the Middle East, Eurasia and Africa (EMEA) to get certified at a level which signifies employing all standards of sustainable hospitality," said Dimitris Manikis, president for EMEA at Wyndham Hotels & Resorts. "In most hotel meeting rooms in Europe, you will see plastic bottles all over the place but not in India," he said. "The hospitality sector here is really driving sustain-



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ability in this country," he added. Lemon Tree Hotels has a target of 100% certified green hotels by the end of financial year 2026. By that time, it is also aiming to meet half its energy consumption from renewable sources, said Aradhana Lal, senior vice president for sustainability and ESG at the chain.

"A new technology called capacitive de-ionisation (CDI) has been used for Mumbai, Udaipur and future installations. CDI achieves up to 90% water recovery, reduces total dissolved solids by up to 90% and uses only 30% of the electricity compared to RO systems," she said. A renewable energy captive project planned for Bengaluru by the chain will also supply green power to five

of its hotels in the city within the next few months.

Sachin Mylavarapu, senior area director of operations for South Asia at Marriott International, said India's approach towards sustainability is "aggressive" and "comprehensive" compared to other global markets.

"The government's policies are increasingly aligned with global sustainability goals, creating a robust support framework that drives meaningful progress," he said.

"All our hotels have a water and energy reduction plan that they implement operationally. 60% of our hotels are equipped with EV (electric vehicle) chargers, while 45% of our hotels have water bottling units. More will follow suit," he added.

Nikhil Sharma, managing director and area senior vice president, South Asia at Radisson Hotel Group said over the past year, the chain has made "significant" steps in advancing its sustainability and ESG initiatives in India. "Many of our portfolio hotels in locations like Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Indore, Pune and Bengaluru are leading the way in sustainable operations and are green building certified with LEED," he said.