

#### THE INDIAN HOTELS COMPANY LIMITED

CIN: L74999MH1902PLC000183 **Registered Office:** Mandlik House Mandlik Road Mumbai 400 001 India Tel 91 22 6639 5515 Fax 91 22 2202 7442 Website: www.tajhotels.com E-mail : investorrelations@tajhotels.com

June 7, 2016

BSE Limited Corporate Relationship Department 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, New Trading Ring, Rotunda Building, P. J. Towers, Dalal Street, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001. Stock Code: 500850 National Stock Exchange of India Limited Exchange Plaza Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (E) Mumbai 400 051 Symbol: IndHotel

Dear Sirs,

# Sub: Issuance of Notices for Postal Ballot with E-Voting and Advertisements published by the Company

By way of our letter dated May 18, 2016, we had informed you that the Board of Directors of The Indian Hotels Company Limited ("Company") had, at its meeting held on May 18, 2016, accorded its approval to allow United Overseas Holding Inc (UOH), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company in the United States, to pursue the option of divestment of the Taj Boston hotel by way of sale/ disposal of the LLC interests in IHMS (Boston) LLC (a direct subsidiary of UOH), at a consideration not being lower than US\$ 125 million (US Dollars One hundred and twenty five million), to an independent third party, subject to negotiations and execution of suitable agreements and receipt of approval from its Members (along with other approvals, as would be necessary).

In furtherance of the above, we wish to inform you that the Company has, on June 6, 2016, completed despatch of the notice of postal ballot and e-voting along with the explanatory statement thereto under section 110 of the Companies Act, 2013, to the Members of the Company, seeking their consent to sell the 100% of the issued and outstanding LLC interests in IHMS (Boston) LLC, a limited liability company, owned by United Overseas Holdings Inc. (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company) ("Postal Ballot Notice").



Please find enclosed copies of the following:

- 1. Postal Ballot Notice
- 2. Advertisement in connection with the Postal Ballot Notice and e-voting issued to the Members of the Company, as published on June 7, 2016 in the Financial Express (all editions in English) and Loksatta (Mumbai edition in Marathi) respectively.

You are requested to kindly acknowledge receipt and take the same on record.

Yours sincerely, BEEJAL DESAI Vice President - Legal & Company Secretary Encl.: a/a



### THE INDIAN HOTELS COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Identity Number: L74999MH1902PLC000183 Registered Office: Mandlik House, Mandlik Road, Mumbai 400001. Tel No.: 022-66395515 • Fax No.: 022-22027442 E-mail: investorrelations@tajhotels.com • Website: www.tajhotels.com

### **POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE**

Dear Member,

# Notice pursuant to Section 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 110 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act"), read together with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 ("Rules"), including any statutory modifications thereof for the time being in force, that The Indian Hotels Company Limited (the "Company") is seeking the approval of the Members by way of a special resolution, for the matter as considered in the resolution appended below, through postal ballot i.e., voting by post or voting by electronic means, as the case may be.

The Explanatory Statement setting out the material facts concerning this resolution and the rationale thereof is annexed hereto along with a Postal Ballot Form for your consideration.

The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed Mr. S. M. Korde, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. 563) as the Scrutinizer for conducting the postal ballot and e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

In compliance with Section 108 and other applicable provisions of the Act read with the related Rules (including any statutory modification thereof, for the time being in force), the Company is pleased to provide e-voting facility to all its Members to enable them to cast their votes electronically, instead of dispatching the Postal Ballot Form by post. E-voting is optional and all Members (whether holding shares in demat form or in physical form) may vote either by completing and dispatching the Postal Ballot Form by post, or by e-voting. The Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) for the purpose of providing e-voting facility to all its Members.

Members desiring to exercise their vote by Postal Ballot are requested to carefully read the instructions printed in the enclosed Postal Ballot Form and return the same duly completed in the attached self-addressed, postage pre-paid envelope, so as to reach the Scrutinizer not later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2016. If any postal ballot is received after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, it will be considered that no reply from such Member has been received and such postal ballot would not be considered.

Members desiring to exercise their vote by using e-voting facility are requested to carefully follow the instructions in the Notes under the Section 'Voting through electronic means' in this Notice.

The Scrutinizer will submit his report to the Chairman of the Company, on or before July 7, 2016 and the result of the Postal Ballot will be announced on Thursday, July 7, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. at the Company's Registered Office. The result of the Postal Ballot will also be displayed at the said address and posted on the Company's corporate website <u>www.tajhotels.com</u> at the following url <u>https://www.tajhotels.com/en-in/about-taj-group/investors/investor-sevices/postal-ballot/</u>, besides communicating to the Stock Exchanges viz. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Depositories.

### To sell the 100% of the issued and outstanding LLC interests in IHMS (Boston) LLC, a limited liability company, owned by United Overseas Holdings Inc. (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company)

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass with or without modification, the following resolution as a special resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT in accordance with Regulation 24 and other applicable provisions of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and further pursuant to Section 110 and any other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, the Rules thereunder, including any statutory modifications and amendments to each of the foregoing, and applicable notifications, clarifications, circulars, rules and regulations issued by the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India or other governmental or statutory authorities, and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, the requisite approvals, if any, of any relevant statutory, regulatory or governmental authorities, and further subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by any of the aforesaid authorities while granting such approvals, the consent, approval and authority of the Company be and is hereby granted for divestment by United Overseas Holdings Inc., an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company incorporated in the State of Delaware in the United States of America, to a third party, by way of sale, transfer, assignment or disposal of, upto, the entire issued and outstanding LLC interests in IHMS (Boston) LLC ("LLC Interest"), a limited liability company, held by United Overseas Holdings Inc., for an aggregate consideration of not less than US\$ 125 million (US Dollars One Hundred and Twenty Five million), and thereby ceasing to exercise any ownership or control over IHMS (Boston) LLC on such sale, transfer, assignment or disposal, on such terms and conditions and with such modifications as may be required as the Board of Directors of the Company (hereinafter referred to as the "Board", which term shall include any committee of directors constituted by the Board), may deem fit and appropriate in the interests of the Company;

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the Board be and is hereby authorised to do or cause to be done all such acts, deeds and things, including actions which may have been taken, as may be necessary, or deemed necessary or incidental thereto, from time to time for giving effect to the above resolution, including finalizing, varying and settling the terms and conditions of the proposed divestment; to settle and finalize all issues that may arise in this regard, without further referring to the Members of the Company; to negotiate and finalize the LLC Interest Purchase Agreement, Management Services Agreement, and/ or any other transaction documents (including providing such representations, warranties, indemnities and covenants as may be required) and to execute, deliver and perform such agreements, other contracts, deeds, undertakings and other documents and subsequent modifications thereto; to file applications and make representations in respect thereof and seek the requisite approvals from the relevant authorities and third parties, including governmental authorities and lenders; to suitably inform and apply to all the concerned authorities, to settle any questions, difficulty or doubt that may arise in this regard, and to take all necessary steps in the matter as it may in its absolute discretion and in the best interests of the Company deem necessary, desirable or expedient, to give effect to the above resolution."

By Order of the Board of Directors For The Indian Hotels Company Limited

BEEJAL DESAI Vice President – Legal & Company Secretary

May 18, 2016 Mumbai

#### **Registered Office:**

Mandlik House Mandlik Road Mumbai – 400001

#### Notes:

- In compliance with provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, and other applicable laws, the Company is pleased to offer e-voting facility to its Members holding equity shares as on May 31, 2016 being the cut off date, to exercise their right to vote electronically on the above resolutions.
- 2. The Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) for the purpose of providing e-voting facility to all its Members. Members desiring to exercise their vote by using e-voting facility are requested to carefully follow the instructions in the Notes under the Section 'Voting through electronic means' in this Notice.
- 3. The explanatory statement pursuant to Section 102 of the Companies Act, 2013, in respect of the said resolution is annexed herewith.
- 4. All documents referred to in the accompanying Explanatory Statement are open for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on all working days upto July 5, 2016. The Registered Office of the Company is situated at Mandlik House, Mandlik Road, Mumbai 400 001, India.
- 5. The Notice, together with the documents accompanying the same, is being sent to all the Members by permitted mode (and electronically by e-mail to those Members who have registered their e-mail ids with the Company/ Registrar and Share Transfer Agents/ NDSL/ CDSL), whose names appear in the Register of Members/list of Beneficial Owners as received from NSDL/CDSL as on May 31, 2016. Any person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a Member of the Company after the dispatch of the Notice and holding shares as on the cutoff date may cast their vote by e-voting. The Notice will be displayed on the website of the Company (<u>https://www.tajhotels.com/en-in/about-taj-group/investors/investor-sevices/postal-ballot/</u>) and on the website of NSDL (<u>https://www.evoting.nsdl.com/</u>).
- 6. The date of dispatch of the Notice and the Explanatory Statement will be announced through advertisement in the following newspapers: (i) Financial Express in English language; and (ii) Loksatta (Mumbai edition) in Marathi language, having wide circulation in the district where the registered office of Company is situated.
- 7. The Company has appointed Mr. Shreepad M. Korde, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. 563) as the Scrutinizer to conduct e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
- 8. A postal ballot form along with self-addressed postage business reply envelope is also enclosed. Members voting in physical form are requested to carefully read the instructions printed in the attached postal ballot form. Members who have received the postal ballot notice by e-mail and who wish to vote through the postal ballot form, can download the postal ballot form from the following url on the Company's corporate website <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com/about-taj/investor-relations/ballot.html">http://www.tajhotels.com/about-taj/investor-relations/ballot.html</a> or seek a duplicate postal ballot form the Company. Members shall fill in the requisite details and send the duly completed and signed postal ballot form in the enclosed self-addressed postage pre-paid envelope to the Scrutinizer so as to reach the Scrutinizer before 5:00 p.m. on or before July 6, 2016. Any postal ballot form received after the said date and time period shall be treated as if the reply from the Member has not been received.
- 9. Incomplete, unsigned, improperly or incorrectly tick marked postal ballot forms will be rejected. There will be only 1 (one) postal ballot form for every registered folio/client ID irrespective of the number of joint Members.
- 10. The postal ballot form should be completed and signed by the Member as per specimen signature registered with the Company and/or furnished by the Depositories. In case, shares are jointly held, this form should be completed and signed by the first named Member and, in his/her absence, by the next named Member. Holder(s) of Power of Attorney ("PoA") on behalf of a Member may vote on the postal ballot mentioning the registration number of the PoA with the Company or enclosing a copy of the PoA authenticated by a notary. In case of shares held by companies, societies etc., the duly completed postal ballot form should be accompanied by a certified copy of the board resolution/ authorisation giving the

requisite authority to the person voting on the postal ballot form. The Scrutinizer will submit his report to the Chairman after completion of the scrutiny of the postal ballots including e-votes submitted. The Scrutinizer's decision on the validity of the votes (including e-votes) shall be final. The results of the postal ballot including e-voting will be announced on July 7, 2016 at the registered office of the Company situated at Mandlik House, Mandlik Road, Mumbai 400001, India. The results, together with the Scrutinizer's Report, will be displayed at the registered office of the Company and on the website of Company (https://www.tajhotels.com/en-in/about-taj-group/investors/investor-sevices/postal-ballot/), besides being communicated to BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited.

- 11. Kindly note that the Members can opt only one mode for voting i.e. either by physical ballot or e-voting. If you are opting for e-voting, then do not vote by physical ballot and vice versa. However, in case Member(s) cast their vote both via physical ballot and e-voting, then voting validly done through e-voting shall prevail and voting done by physical ballot shall be treated as invalid.
- 12. The vote on postal ballot cannot be exercised through proxy.
- 13. The e-voting period commences on June 7, 2016 (9:00 a.m. IST) and ends on July 5, 2016 (5:00 p.m. IST). During this period, Members of the Company holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the relevant date, i.e., May 31, 2016, may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting on July 5, 2016 at 5.00 p.m. IST. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by a Member, he or she will not be allowed to change it subsequently.

#### 14. Voting through Electronic Means

The instructions for Members for voting electronically are as under:-

#### (a) In case of Shareholders' receiving e-mail from NSDL

- i. Open the e-mail and access the attached PDF file viz; "remote e-Voting.pdf" with your Client ID or Folio No. as password. The said PDF file contains your user ID and password for e-voting. Please note that the password is an initial password.
- ii. Launch internet browser by typing the following URL: https://www.evoting.nsdl.com/
- iii. Click on Shareholder Login
- iv. Put user ID and password as initial password noted in step (i) above. Click Login.
- v. Password change menu appears. Change the password with new password of your choice with minimum 8 digits/characters or combination thereof. Note new password. It is strongly recommended not to share your password with any other person and take utmost care to keep your password confidential.
- vi. Home page of e-Voting opens. Click on e-Voting: Active Voting Cycles.
- vii. Select "EVEN" of The Indian Hotels Company Limited
- viii. Now you are ready for e-Voting as Cast Vote page opens
- ix. Cast your vote by selecting appropriate option and click on "Submit" and also "Confirm" when prompted.
- x. Upon confirmation, the message "Vote cast successfully" will be displayed
- xi. Once you have voted on the resolution, you will not be allowed to modify your vote

xii. Institutional shareholders (i.e. other than individuals, HUF, NRI etc.) are required to send scanned copy (PDF/JPG Format) of the relevant Board Resolution/ Authority letter etc. together with attested specimen signature of the duly authorized signatory(ies) who are authorized to vote, to the Scrutinizer through e-mail fraternitygroup2010@gmail.com with a copy marked to evoting@nsdl.co.in.

#### (b) In case of Shareholders' receiving Postal Ballot Form by Post:

i. Initial password is provided as below/at the bottom of the Postal Ballot Form.

EVEN (E-Voting Event Number)	USER ID	PASSWORD/PIN
104001		

- ii. Please follow all steps from Sl. No. (ii) to Sl. No. (xii) above, to cast vote.
- (c) In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the Downloads section of www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- (d) If you are already registered with NSDL for e-voting then you can use your existing user ID and password for casting your vote.

#### ANNEXURE TO NOTICE

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 102 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 IN RESPECT OF SPECIAL BUSINESS SET OUT IN THE NOTICE

The following Explanatory Statement pursuant to Section 102 of the Act sets out the material facts relating to the special business mentioned in the accompanying Notice dated May 18, 2016.

## To sell the 100% of the issued and outstanding LLC Interests in IHMS (Boston) LLC, a limited liability company, owned by United Overseas Holdings Inc. (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company)

#### A. BACKGROUND

The Company through its wholly owned subsidiary had acquired the Taj Boston hotel in 2006 as part of the Company's long term strategy to expand its footprint in key markets, globally. A presence in the United States of America ("US") is important to the Company as the US is the largest feeder market for the Company, from amongst all its overseas source markets.

Pursuant to the onset of the global economic recession, which has impacted the fortunes of the hospitality sector around the world and thus, the Company's profitability, the Company is relooking at all options for a course correction in strategy, focusing on growth in high margin markets and undertaking a relook at its existing portfolio of assets.

Previously, International Hotel Management Services LLC ("IHMS LLC") [formerly known as International Hotel Management Services Inc.], a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, directly held all the investments of the Company in the US, including entities that housed the assets and operations of the hotels owned/operated by the Company in the US. Pursuant to the approval granted by the Board of Directors ("Board") and the Reserve Bank of India, the Company has concluded a comprehensive restructuring of the holding structure of its international investments ("IR Plan"). As a part of the IR Plan, all the entities and investments along with other assets and liabilities held by IHMS LLC earlier, have now been transferred to United Overseas Holding Inc ("UOH Inc"), a newly incorporated indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company in the US.

#### **B. PROPOSED TRANSACTION**

UOH Inc, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, presently owns the entire issued and outstanding LLC interests in IHMS (Boston) LLC ("LLC Interest"), a limited liability company. IHMS (Boston) LLC is the asset owning company of Taj Boston, Massachusetts ("Boston Hotel").

In a meeting of the Board held on May 18, 2016, the Board authorised UOH Inc to divest the Boston Hotel by way of sale, transfer, assignment or disposal of the LLC Interests in IHMS (Boston) LLC to a willing third party ("**Purchaser**") and to execute such agreements and other documents as may be required for the purpose of or in relation to, the divestment ("**Transaction**"), subject to requisite approvals.

The recent historical performance of the Boston Hotel is profiled below:

			US\$ million
Particulars	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
Total Revenue	34.1	34.5	32.9
EBITDA	(0.6)	(0.3)	(1.3)
Profit/(Loss) before tax	(7.3)	(6.7)	(7.8)

In line with the above, the Company proposes to approach appropriate Purchasers, such as real estate investment firms or real estate focused private equity firms or any other such suitable independent third parties, interested in leveraging upon the "Taj" brand by retaining the Company as the manager for the Boston Hotel by way of a management services agreement, or such other agreement as may be required ("**Management Services Agreement**").

Thus, upon change of ownership of IHMS (Boston) LLC, the Boston Hotel is intended to continue to be marketed as a part of the 'Taj Group of Hotels' pursuant to the Management Services Agreement to be executed with the Purchaser, which shall set out customary terms and conditions of the arrangement of this nature, including the fee structure, lock in period, rights and responsibilities of each party and options for future extensions. The other definitive documents that would need to be executed in relation to the Transaction shall also include terms and conditions, as is customary in transactions of such nature, including representations, warranties, indemnities, guarantees and escrow retentions.

Accordingly, under the desired Transaction structure, it is proposed that the Company shall continue to manage and retain its brand presence at the Boston Hotel. This approach will thus enable the Company to unlock value whilst retaining the Company's brand presence.

Taking into consideration the valuations of recent transactions in the US market for comparable hotels, the Company's requirement to modernize its hotels in its core domestic market, the desire to reduce debt and other business needs, the Board of Directors of the Company has approved the transfer of the LLC Interest in IHMS (Boston) LLC at a consideration not being lower than US\$ 125 million (US Dollars One Hundred and Twenty Five million).

The sale proceeds from the Transaction shall be partially utilised to retire foreign currency debt presently outstanding in UOH Inc and the balance, net of transaction costs, shall be ultimately repatriated to India, to be utilised towards, reduction of rupee debt availed by the Company, and/or towards other corporate purposes by the Company.

Accordingly, the Board has authorised the management to do such acts and to execute such deeds, contracts agreements as may be required to accomplish the Transaction, subject to the requisite approvals from the shareholders and other approvals, as may be required.

#### C. SALE OF LLC INTEREST OF A MATERIAL SUBSIDIARY BY A MATERIAL SUBSIDIARY

Regulation 24(5) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, inter alia, provides that no company shall dispose of shares in its material subsidiary which would reduce its shareholding (either on its own or together with other subsidiaries) to less than 50% or cease the exercise of control over the subsidiary without passing a special resolution in its General Meeting, except in cases where such divestment is made under a scheme of arrangement duly approved by a Court/National Company Law Tribunal. Further, Regulation 24(6) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, inter alia, provides that selling of assets amounting to more than twenty percent of the assets of the material subsidiary on an aggregate basis during a financial year shall require prior approval of shareholders by way of special resolution, unless the sale is made under a scheme of arrangement duly approved by a Court/National.

UOH Inc's net worth exceeds 20% (twenty percent) of the consolidated net worth of the Company and its subsidiaries in the immediately preceding accounting year. Pursuant to aforementioned Regulation 24(6), UOH Inc will be classified as a material subsidiary of the Company and the LLC Interest proposed to be sold to the Purchaser and currently held by UOH Inc constitutes more than 20% of the assets of UOH Inc. Accordingly, the sale of the LLC Interest by UOH Inc, requires approval of the shareholders of the Company through a special resolution. Additionally, as IHMS (Boston) LLC's net worth exceeds 20% (twenty percent) of the consolidated net worth of the Company and its subsidiaries in the immediately preceding accounting year, the approval of the Members is also being sought in accordance with aforementioned Regulation 24(5).

#### D. BOARD APPROVAL

The Board on May 18, 2016, has approved the Transaction.

The Board is of the opinion that the proposed divestment is in the overall best interest of the Company and recommends the passing of the resolution as set out in the accompanying notice as a special resolution. The proposed special resolution provides adequate flexibility and discretion to the Board to finalise the terms of the sale in consultation with advisors, experts or other authorities as may be required.

None of the Directors, the Key Managerial Personnel (as defined under the Companies Act, 2013 and rules formed thereunder) of the Company and their respective relatives (as defined under the Companies Act, 2013 and rules formed thereunder) have any interest in the passing of the said resolution except to the extent of equity shares held by them in the Company. The shareholding of the said Directors and Key Managerial Personnel and their relatives, is less than 2% of the paid-up share capital of the Company. The effect of the said resolution on the interests of the Directors and Key Managerial Personnel and their relatives, is not any different from the effect of the said resolution on other shareholders of the Company. The details of the shareholding of the Directors, Key Managerial Personnel and their relatives as on March 31, 2016 is as follows:

S. No	Name	No. of shares held in the Company	No. of shares held in UOH Inc
1	Cyrus Pallonji Mistry	128625	Nil
2	Mehernosh Sorab Kapadia	24180	Nil
3	Villu Mehernosh Kapadia (Relative of Mr. M S Kapadia)	39300	Nil
4	Khushnoo Mehernosh Kapadia (Relative of Mr. M S Kapadia)	140	Nil
5	Harsha Shantilal Parekh (Relative of Mr. Deepak Parekh)	2561	Nil

#### By Order of the Board of Directors For The Indian Hotels Company Limited

BEEJAL DESAI Vice President – Legal & Company Secretary

May 18, 2016 Mumbai

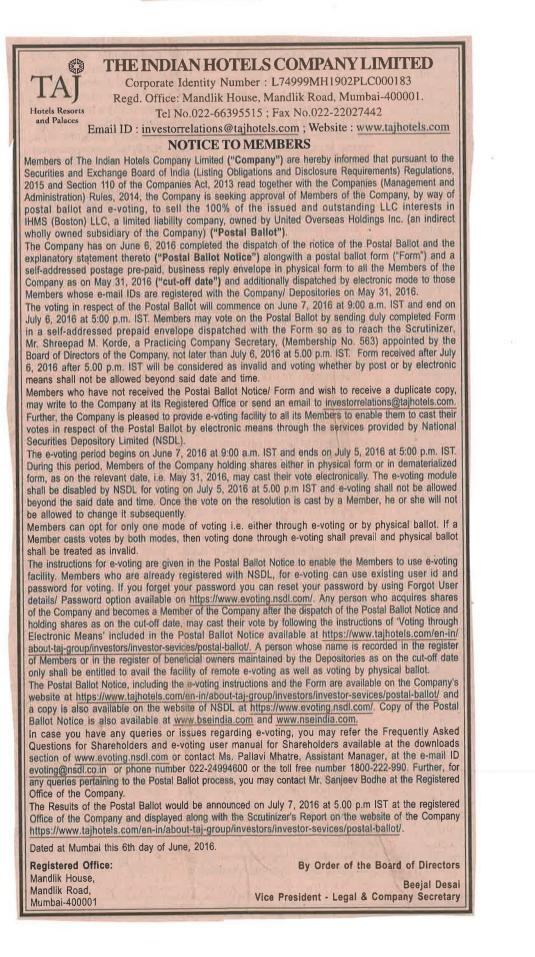
#### **Registered Office:**

Mandlik House Mandlik Road Mumbai – 400001

#### THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

TUESDAY | JUNE 7 | 2016

Thesday June 7. 2016





Tuesday 7th June 2016.

★ मुंबई, मंगळवार, ७ जून २०१६

