

# DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION POLICY - THE INDIAN HOTELS COMPANY LIMITED

## **1. Objective and Philosophy**

The Dividend Distribution Policy (“the policy”) establishes the principles to ascertain amounts that can be distributed to equity shareholders as dividend by the Company as well as enable the Company strike balance between pay-out and retained earnings, in order to address future needs of the Company.

The objective of this Policy is to reward its shareholders by returning a portion of its profits after retaining sufficient funds for growth of the Company thus maximizing shareholders’ value.

The Policy set forth’s the broad principles for guiding the Board and the Management in matters concerning declaration and distribution of dividend, with a view to ensure fairness, transparency, sustainability and consistency in the decision for distributing profits to shareholders.

The Company believes that driving growth creates maximum shareholder value. Thus, the Company would first utilise its profits inter- alia for working capital requirements, capital expenditure to meet expansion needs, reducing debt from its books of accounts, earmarking reserves for growth opportunities and thereafter distributing the surplus profits in the form of dividend to the shareholders.

The Policy shall broadly specify the external and internal factors including financial parameters that shall be considered while declaring dividend and the circumstances under which the shareholders of the Company may or may not expect dividend and how the retained earnings shall be utilized, etc.

## **2. Regulatory Framework**

The Securities Exchange Board of India on July 8, 2016 inserted Regulation 43A in SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, which requires top five hundred listed companies (based on market capitalization of every financial year) to formulate a Dividend Distribution Policy.

The Indian Hotels Company Limited being one of the top five hundred listed companies as per the market capitalization as on the last day of the immediately preceding financial year, has framed this policy to comply with the aforesaid requirements which has been approved by their Board of Directors.

This Policy shall be effective and applicable for dividend, if any, declared for the Financial Year 2016-17 and onwards.

### **3. Parameters for declaration of Dividend**

Dividends will generally be recommended by the Board once a year, after the announcement of the full year results and before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the shareholders, as may be permitted by the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act). The Board may also declare interim dividends as may be permitted by the Act.

As in the past, subject to the provisions of the applicable law, the Company's dividend pay-out will be determined based on available financial resources, business requirements and taking into account optimal shareholder return.

Dividend pay-out would also be subject to profitability under Standalone Financial Statements and while determining the nature and quantum of the dividend pay-out, the Board would take into account the following factors:

#### **Financial parameters and Internal Factors:**

- Operating cash flow of the Company
- Profit after Tax during the year and Earnings Per Share (EPS)
- Working capital requirements
- Capital expenditure requirement
- Business expansion and growth
- Likelihood of crystalization of contingent liabilities, if any
- Additional investment in subsidiaries and associates of the company
- Up gradation of technology and physical infrastructure
- Debt levels and cost of borrowings
- Past dividend pay-out ratio / trends

#### **External Factors:**

- Industry Outlook and Economic environment
- Capital markets
- Global conditions
- Statutory provisions and guidelines
- Dividend pay-out ratio of competitors

### **4. Circumstances under which the shareholders of the Company may or may not expect dividend**

The shareholders of the Company may not expect dividend in the following circumstances, subject to discretion of the Board of Directors:

- Proposed expansion plans, renovations and up-gradations requiring higher capital allocation
- Decision to undertake any acquisitions, amalgamation, merger, joint ventures, new product launches etc. which requires significant capital outflow
- Requirement of higher working capital for the purpose of business of the Company
- Debt obligations
- Proposal for buy-back of securities
- In the event of loss or inadequacy of profit

## **5. Utilization of Retained Earnings**

The Board may retain its earnings in order to make better use of the available funds and increase the value of the stakeholders in the long run. The decision of utilization of the retained earnings of the Company shall be based on the following factors:

- Market expansion plans
- Declaration of dividend,
- Diversification of business
- Long term strategic plans for growth
- Replacement of capital assets
- Such other criteria's as the Board may deem fit from time to time.

## **6. Parameters to be adopted with regard to various classes of shares**

Since the Company has issued only one class of equity shares with equal voting rights, all the members of the Company are entitled to receive the same amount of dividend per share. The Policy shall be suitably revisited at the time of issue of any new class of shares depending upon the nature and guidelines thereof.

## **7. Disclosures**

The Dividend Distribution Policy shall be disclosed in the Annual Report and on the website of the Company i.e. at [www.tajhotels.com](http://www.tajhotels.com)

## **8. Policy review and amendments**

The Board may review, amend, abrogate, modify or revise any or all provisions of this Policy from time to time. However, amendments in the Act or in the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 shall be deemed to be incorporated in this Policy and shall be binding.