

BENARES HOTELS LIMITED

POLICY FOR DETERMINING MATERIALITY FOR DISCLOSURES OF EVENTS OR INFORMATION

I. BACKGROUND

Benares Hotels Limited (the Company) is committed to being open and transparent with all stakeholders and in disseminating information in a fair and timely manner. The Company's securities are listed on the BSE Limited (BSE), and it must comply with the continuous disclosure obligations imposed by the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations 2015 (Listing Regulations). The Listing Regulations mandate listed entities to formulate a Policy for determining materiality of events or information that warrant disclosure to investors and which assists the relevant employees of the listed entity in identifying any potential material event or information and reporting the same to the authorized Key Managerial Personnel, for determining the materiality of the said event or information and for making the necessary disclosures to the stock exchange(s). It is in this context that the Policy on Determination of Materiality for disclosures ("Policy") is being framed and implemented.

The Company endeavours to adhere to the reporting/ disclosure requirements, arising out of the provisions of the Listing Regulations, namely, mandatory disclosures and disclosures upon application of guidelines for materiality, as specified therein.

II. DEFINITIONS

In this Policy, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a. "Board of Directors" shall mean the Board of Directors of Benares Hotels Limited.
- b. "Chief Financial Officer" or "Head of Finance", by whatever name called, shall mean the person heading and discharging the finance function of the listed entity as disclosed by it to the recognised stock exchange(s) in its filing under the Listing regulations;
- c. "Key Managerial Personnel" means CEO, CFO and the Company Secretary of Benares Hotels Limited.
- d. "Relevant Employees" shall encompass the functional heads of the departments of the Company and one level below such functional heads head of departments and shall include employees of the Company who deals with or comes into possession of potential material event or information in the course of the performance of his/her duties.

All other words and expressions used but not defined in this Policy, but defined in the SEBI Act, 1992, Listing Regulations, Companies Act, 2013, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, the Depositories Act, 1996 and/or the rules and regulations made thereunder shall have the same meaning as respectively assigned to them in such Acts or rules or regulations or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereto, as the case may be.

III. OBJECTIVE

The Policy sets out the guidelines for identification of events or information emanating within or outside the Company and determining their materiality in the context of disclosures required to be made to the Stock Exchanges where the securities of the Company are listed. This policy lays down principles to ensure timely and adequate disclosure of material events pursuant to the Listing Regulations in order to enable investors to make well-informed decisions. The Policy ensures uniformity in the Company's approach towards making disclosures of materiality of events/information. Lastly, the Policy is aimed at assisting relevant employees of the Company in identifying any potential material event or information and reporting the same to the authorized Key Managerial Personnel, for determining the materiality of the said event or information and for making the necessary disclosures to the stock exchange(s).

IV. AUTHORIZED PERSONS FOR DISCLOSURE:

The Board of Directors of the Company have authorized the Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) as defined under Clause II(c) ("Authorized Persons") to determine the materiality of an event or information and to make appropriate disclosure on a timely basis.

The Authorized Persons are also empowered to:

- seek appropriate counsel or guidance, as and when necessary, from other internal or external stakeholders as they may deem fit.
- call for information from all its internal stakeholders.

The Authorized Person(s) shall have the following powers and responsibilities for determining the material events or information:

- To review and assess an event or information that may qualify as 'material' and may require disclosure, on the basis of facts and circumstances prevailing at a given point in time.
- To determine the appropriate time at which the disclosures are to be made to the stock exchanges based on an assessment of actual time of occurrence of an event or information.
- To disclose developments that are material in nature on a regular basis, till such time the event or information is resolved / closed, with relevant explanations.
- To consider such other events or information that may require disclosure to be made to the stock exchanges which are not explicitly defined in the Listing Regulations and determine the materiality, appropriate time and contents of disclosure for such event or information.

Any decision taken by the Authorized Persons jointly shall be valid and binding on the Company. Their contact details shall be disclosed to the stock exchange and be placed on the Company's website.

However, wherever required, and considering any specific/ significant circumstances including business exigency/ calamities which may arise, either simultaneously or subsequently, approval of the Board / Executive Committee or Chairperson of the Board may be taken for disclosing any such event or information.

The above Authorized Persons are also empowered to seek appropriate counsel or guidance as and when deemed necessary. Further, they shall provide specific and adequate reply to all queries raised by Stock Exchanges with respect to any event/information.

V. TYPE OF INFORMATION

Events or information specified in Para A of Part A of Schedule III of the Listing Regulations are required to be disclosed irrespective of application of any quantitative or qualitative materiality thresholds as these are “deemed” to be material and are given as Annexure I to this Policy. Events or information that are to be disclosed based on materiality principle are specified in Annexure II to this Policy.

VI. GUIDELINES FOR MATERIALITY ASSESSMENT

Materiality will be determined on a case to case basis depending on the facts and the circumstances pertaining to the event or information. The following criteria will be applicable for determination of materiality of event or information:

1. All events/information stated in Para A of Part A of Schedule III to the SEBI Regulations (as listed in Annexure I to this Policy) are deemed to be material.
2. In respect of events/information stated in Table A below the Authorized Persons shall consider the following criteria for determination of materiality of events/information:
 - a. the omission of an event or information, which is likely to result in discontinuity or alteration of event or information already available publicly; or
 - b. the omission of an event or information is likely to result in significant market reaction if the said omission came to light at a later date; or
 - c. the omission of an event or information, whose value or the expected impact in terms of value, exceeds the lower of the following:
 - i. two percent of turnover, as per the last audited consolidated financial statements of the listed entity;
 - ii. two percent of net worth, as per the last audited consolidated financial statements of the listed entity, except in case the arithmetic value of the net worth is negative;
 - iii. five percent of the average of absolute value of profit or loss after tax, as per the last three audited consolidated financial statements of the listed entity.
 - d. In case where the criteria specified in sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) above is not applicable, an event or information may be treated as being material if in the opinion of the Board of Directors of the listed entity, the event or information is considered material.
3. In addition to above criteria, the following qualitative factors shall also be considered while determination of materiality of event/ information:
 - a. Any event/ information which directly or indirectly may materially affect the reputation of the Company; or
 - b. Any event/ information, which if not disclosed promptly may lead to creation of false market in the securities of the Company; or
 - c. Any other factor which is pertinent in the opinion of the Authorized Persons of the Company.

Explanation: If there is any inconsistency in Clause 2 & Clause 3 above for determining materiality, Clause 2 (quantitative criteria) will prevail.

Table A

Event or information related to	Events / Information enlisted in	Parameters to be applied for determining materiality
Benares Hotels Limited	Para A of Schedule III (Annexure I)	Deemed material
Benares Hotels Limited	Para B of Schedule III (Annexure II)	Factors prescribed in Clause 2 and Clause 3.
Benares Hotels Limited	Items other than Para A & Para B	Factors prescribed in Clause 2c and Clause 3.

VII. GUIDANCE ON TIMING OF AN EVENT OR INFORMATION

The Company may be confronted with the question as to when an event / information can be said to have occurred.

In certain instances, the answer to above question would depend upon the stage of discussion, negotiation or approval and in other instances where there is no such discussion, negotiation or approval required viz. in case of natural calamities, disruptions etc, the answer to the above question would depend upon the timing when the Company became aware of the event/information

- In the former, the events / information can be said to have occurred upon receipt of approval of the Board of Directors. However, considering the price sensitivity involved, for certain events e.g. decision on declaration of dividends etc., disclosure shall be made on receipt of approval of the event by the Board of Directors, pending Shareholder's approval.
- In the latter, the events/information can be said to have occurred when the Company becomes aware of the events/information, or as soon as, an officer of the Company has, or ought to have reasonably come into possession of the information in the course of the performance of his duties.

Here, the term 'officer' shall have the same meaning as defined under the Companies Act, 2013 and shall also include promoter of the listed entity.

VIII. Mechanism to be adopted for identifying and reporting potential material event/information by Relevant Employees.

1. During performance of one's role, the Relevant Employee/(s) shall be responsible for identifying pertinent events/information which has potential to be classified as material events/information as per Clause VI of this policy.
2. Upon identification of potential material events/information, the relevant employee shall promptly report the details of such potential material events/information to the Authorized Persons.
3. Any other event, even if not covered under the Listing Regulations but is potentially of price sensitive nature, must also be informed for further evaluation, to the Authorized Persons.

4. After evaluation, the Authorized Persons shall if required issue a suitable disclosure to the Stock Exchanges.

Mode of Communication: The aforesaid details can be submitted to the Authorized Persons by the Relevant Employee using written communication methods such as emails, internal memos, or any other appropriate means.

The details so submitted shall be authentic and comprehensive to enable the Authorised Persons to make informed decision/ take appropriate actions. The Relevant Employees should exercise necessary diligence to ensure confidentiality of the details being submitted/so submitted to the Authorised Persons.

The Relevant Employees may approach the Authorised Persons for seeking guidance/clarity to ensure effective implementation of this policy.

The Company Secretary/ Compliance Officer of the Company may conduct periodic trainings/sensitization programmes and/or release FAQs, referendum, framework to further assist relevant employees for effective implementation of this policy

IX. DISCLOSURES

1. The Company shall disclose all events or information which are material in accordance with the Policy as soon as reasonably possible and in any case not later than the following:
 - (i) thirty minutes from the closure of the meeting of the board of directors in which the decision pertaining to the event or information has been taken;
 - (ii) twelve hours from the occurrence of the event or information, in case the event or information is emanating from within the listed entity;
 - (iii) twenty four hours from the occurrence of the event or information, in case the event or information is not emanating from within the listed entity:

Provided that disclosure with respect to events for which timelines have been specified in Part A of Schedule III shall be made within such timelines:

2. Provided further that in case the disclosure is made after the timelines specified above of the occurrence of such event/ information, the Company shall, along with such disclosure(s) provide an explanation for the delay.
3. The Company shall disclose to the stock exchange(s) material updates on the events/ information disclosed under this Policy till such time the event is resolved/ closed, with relevant explanations.

X. POLICY REVIEW

The Authorized Persons may review the Policy and make the requisite changes as deemed necessary from time to time. Material Changes to the Policy will need the approval of the Board of Directors.

Should there be any inconsistency between the terms of the Policy and the Listing Regulations, the provisions of the Listing Regulations shall prevail. Any amendments to the Listing Regulations shall mutatis mutandis be deemed to have been incorporated in this Policy.

XI. WEBSITE

As per the provisions of the Listing Regulations, the Policy shall be disclosed on the website of the Company. Further, the Company shall disclose on its website all such events or information which has been disclosed to stock exchange(s) under the Listing Regulations and such disclosures shall be made available on the website of the Company for a period of five years and thereafter as per the archival policy of the Company.

XII. CONTACT DETAILS

Any questions or clarifications about the policy or disclosures made by the Company should be referred to the Company Secretary at the undermentioned address:

Company Secretary
Taj Palace, Sardar Patel Marg,
New Delhi - 1100021
Tel: 011 6650 6549 / Email: vanika.mahajan@ihcltata.com

In respect of queries from the media kindly contact the Executive Vice President Hotel Operations and Corporate Communications, IHCL on 022-61371907 or deepika.rao@ihcltata.com.

Annexure I

Material events/ information to be mandatorily disclosed to the stock exchange(s)

Following is the List of events/information as specified under Para A of Part A of Schedule III of the Listing Regulations. Any amendments, from time to time, to Para A of Part A of Schedule III of the Listing Regulations shall mutatis mutandis be deemed to have been incorporated in this Annexure:

1. Acquisition(s) (including agreement to acquire), Scheme of Arrangement (amalgamation, merger, demerger or restructuring), sale or disposal of any unit(s), division(s), whole or substantially the whole of the undertaking(s) or subsidiary of the listed entity, sale of stake in associate company of the listed entity or any other restructuring.

Explanation

(1) - For the purpose of this sub-paragraph, the word 'acquisition' shall mean-

(i) acquiring control, whether directly or indirectly; or

(ii) acquiring or agreement to acquire shares or voting rights in a company, whether existing or to be incorporated, whether directly or indirectly, such that –

(a) the listed entity holds shares or voting rights aggregating to five per cent or more of the shares or voting rights in the said company; or

(b) there has been a change in holding from the last disclosure made under sub-clause (a) of clause (ii) of the Explanation to this sub-paragraph and such change exceeds two per cent of the total shareholding or voting rights in the said company; or

(c) the cost of acquisition or the price at which the shares are acquired exceeds the threshold specified in sub-clause (c) of clause (i) of sub-regulation (4) of regulation 30.

Explanation (2) - For the purpose of this sub-paragraph, “sale or disposal of subsidiary” and “sale of stake in associate company” shall include-

(i) an agreement to sell or sale of shares or voting rights in a company such that the company ceases to be a wholly owned subsidiary, a subsidiary or an associate company of the listed entity; or

(ii) an agreement to sell or sale of shares or voting rights in a subsidiary or associate company such that the amount of the sale exceeds the threshold specified in sub-clause (c) of clause (i) of sub-regulation (4) of regulation 30.

Explanation (3)- For the purpose of this sub-paragraph, “undertaking” and “substantially the whole of the undertaking” shall have the same meaning as given under section 180 of the Companies Act, 2013.

2. Issuance or forfeiture of securities, split or consolidation of shares, buyback of securities, any restriction on transferability of securities or alteration in terms or structure of existing securities including forfeiture, reissue of forfeited securities, alteration of calls, redemption of securities etc.

3. New Rating(s) or Revision in Rating (s).

4. Outcome of Meetings of the board of directors: The Company shall disclose to the Exchange(s), within 30 minutes of the closure of the meeting, held to consider the following:
- a) dividends and/or cash bonuses recommended or declared or the decision to pass any dividend and the date on which dividend shall be paid/dispatched;
 - b) any cancellation of dividend with reasons thereof;
 - c) the decision on buyback of securities;
 - d) the decision with respect to fund raising proposed to be undertaken;
 - e) increase in capital by issue of bonus shares through capitalization including the date on which such bonus shares shall be credited/dispatched;
 - f) reissue of forfeited shares or securities, or the issue of shares or securities held in reserve for future issue or the creation in any form or manner of new shares or securities or any other rights, privileges or benefits to subscribe to;
 - g) short particulars of any other alterations of capital, including calls;
 - h) financial results;
 - i) decision on voluntary delisting by the Company from stock exchange(s).

Provided that in case of board meetings being held for more than one day, the financial results shall be disclosed within thirty minutes of end of the meeting for the day on which it has been considered.

5. Agreements (viz. shareholder agreement(s), joint venture agreement(s), family settlement agreement(s) (to the extent that it impacts management and control of the Company), agreement(s)/treaty (ies)/contract(s) with media companies) which are binding and not in normal course of business, revision(s) or amendment(s) and termination(s) thereof.

- 5A. Agreements entered into by the shareholders, promoters, promoter group entities, related parties, directors, key managerial personnel, employees of the listed entity or of its holding, subsidiary or associate company, among themselves or with the listed entity or with a third party, solely or jointly, which, either directly or indirectly or potentially or whose purpose and effect is to, impact the management or control of the listed entity or impose any restriction or create any liability upon the listed entity, shall be disclosed to the Stock Exchanges, including disclosure of any rescission, amendment or alteration of such agreements thereto, whether or not the listed entity is a party to such agreements:

Provided that such agreements entered into by a listed entity in the normal course of business shall not be required to be disclosed unless they, either directly or indirectly or potentially or whose purpose and effect is to, impact the management or control of the listed entity or they are required to be disclosed in terms of any other provisions of these regulations.

Explanation (1): For the purpose of this clause, the term “directly or indirectly” includes agreements creating obligation on the parties to such agreements to ensure that listed entity shall or shall not act in a particular manner.

Note (1): Giving guarantees, security, letter of credit or any other thing, by whatever name called, to any entity other than wholly owned subsidiary/ Subsidiary/ associate/ Joint Venture company would not be considered as a normal course of Business.

Note (2): Entering into any non-compete arrangement which could disallow the listed entity to perform any business, would not be considered as normal course of business.

6. Fraud or defaults by a listed entity, its promoter, director, key managerial personnel, senior management or subsidiary or arrest of key managerial personnel, senior management, promoter or director of the listed entity, whether occurred within India or abroad:
7. Change in directors, key managerial personnel (Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Company Secretary etc.), senior management, Auditor and Compliance Officer.
- 7A. In case of resignation of the auditor of the listed entity, detailed reasons for resignation of auditor, as given by the said auditor, shall be disclosed by the listed entities to the stock exchanges as soon as possible but not later than twenty four hours of receipt of such reasons from the auditor.
- 7B. Resignation of independent Director including reasons for resignation: In case of resignation of an independent director of the listed entity, within seven days from the date of resignation, the following disclosures shall be made to the stock exchanges by the listed entities:
 - a) Detailed reasons for the resignation of independent directors as given by the said director shall be disclosed by the listed entities to the stock exchanges.
 - b) The independent director shall, along with the detailed reasons, also provide a confirmation that there is no other material reasons other than those provided.
 - c) The confirmation as provided by the independent director above shall also be disclosed by the listed entities to the stock exchanges along with the detailed reasons as specified in sub-clause a. above
- 7C. In case of resignation of key managerial personnel, senior management, Compliance Officer or director other than an independent director; the letter of resignation along with detailed reasons for the resignation as given by the key managerial personnel, senior management, Compliance Officer or director shall be disclosed to the stock exchanges by the listed entities within seven days from the date that such resignation comes into effect.
- 7D. In case the Managing Director or Chief Executive Officer of the listed entity was indisposed or unavailable to fulfil the requirements of the role in a regular manner for more than forty-five days in any rolling period of ninety days, the same along with the reasons for such indisposition or unavailability, shall be disclosed to the stock exchange(s).
8. Appointment or discontinuation of share transfer agent.
9. Resolution plan/ Restructuring in relation to loans/borrowings from banks/financial institutions including the following details:
 - (i) Decision to initiate resolution of loans/borrowings;
 - (ii) Signing of Inter-Creditors Agreement (ICA) by lenders;
 - (iii) Finalization of Resolution Plan;
 - (iv) Implementation of Resolution Plan;
 - (v) Salient features, not involving commercial secrets, of the resolution/ restructuring plan as decided by lenders.

10. One time settlement with a bank
11. Winding-up petition filed by any party / creditors.
12. Issuance of Notices, call letters, resolutions and circulars sent to shareholders, debenture holders or creditors or any class of them or advertised in the media by the Company.
13. Proceedings of Annual and extraordinary general meetings of the Company.
14. Amendments to memorandum and articles of association of Company, in brief.
15. Schedule of Analyst or institutional investor meet [at least two working days in advance (excluding the date of the intimation and the date of the meet)] and presentations on financial results made by the Company to analysts or institutional investors.
16. Events in relation to the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) of a listed corporate debtor under the Insolvency Code
17. Initiation of Forensic audit.
18. Announcement or communication through social media intermediaries or mainstream media by directors, promoters, key managerial personnel or senior management of a listed entity, in relation to any event or information which is material for the listed entity in terms of regulation 30 of these regulations and is not already made available in the public domain by the listed entity.

Explanation – “social media intermediaries” shall have the same meaning as defined under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

19. Action(s) initiated or orders passed by any regulatory, statutory, enforcement authority or judicial body against the listed entity or its directors, key managerial personnel, senior management, promoter or subsidiary, in relation to the listed entity, in respect of the following:
 - (a) search or seizure; or
 - (b) re-opening of accounts under section 130 of the Companies Act, 2013; or
 - (c) investigation under the provisions of Chapter XIV of the Companies Act, 2013;

along with the following details pertaining to the actions(s) initiated, taken or orders passed:

- i. name of the authority;
 - ii. nature and details of the action(s) taken, initiated or order(s) passed;
 - iii. date of receipt of direction or order, including any ad-interim or interim orders, or any other communication from the authority;
 - iv. details of the violation(s)/contravention(s) committed or alleged to be committed;
 - v. impact on financial, operation or other activities of the listed entity, quantifiable in monetary terms to the extent possible.
20. Action(s) taken or orders passed by any regulatory, statutory, enforcement authority or judicial body against the listed entity or its directors, key managerial personnel, senior management, promoter or subsidiary, in relation to the listed entity, in respect of the following:

- (a) suspension;
- (b) imposition of fine or penalty;
- (c) settlement of proceedings;
- (d) debarment;
- (e) disqualification;
- (f) closure of operations;
- (g) sanctions imposed;
- (h) warning or caution; or
- (i) any other similar action(s) by whatever name called;

along with the following details pertaining to the actions(s) initiated, taken or orders passed:

- i. name of the authority;
- ii. nature and details of the action(s) taken, initiated or order(s) passed;
- iii. date of receipt of direction or order, including any ad-interim or interim orders, or any other communication from the authority;
- iv. details of the violation(s)/contravention(s) committed or alleged to be committed;
- v. impact on financial, operation or other activities of the listed entity, quantifiable in monetary terms to the extent possible.

21. Voluntary revision of financial statements or the report of the board of directors of the listed entity under section 131 of the Companies Act, 2013.]

Annexure II

Following is the List of events / information to be disclosed to the stock exchange(s) based on Materiality guidelines. Any amendments, from time to time, to Para B of Part A of Schedule III of the Listing Regulations shall mutatis mutandis be deemed to have been incorporated in this Annexure:

1. Commencement or any postponement in the date of commencement of commercial production or commercial operations of any unit/division.
2. Any of the following events pertaining to the listed entity:
 - a) arrangements for strategic, technical, manufacturing, or marketing tie-up; or
 - b) adoption of new line(s) of business; or
 - c) closure of operation of any unit, division or subsidiary (in entirety or in piecemeal).
3. Capacity addition or product launch.
4. Awarding, bagging/ receiving, amendment or termination of awarded/ bagged orders/ contracts not in the normal course of business.
5. Agreements (viz. loan agreement(s) or any other agreement(s) which are binding and not in normal course of business) and revision(s) or amendment(s) or termination(s) thereof.

Note: Giving guarantees, security, letter of credit or any other thing, by whatever name called, to any entity other than wholly owned subsidiary/Subsidiary/associate/ Joint Venture company would not be considered as a normal course of Business.

6. Disruption of operations of any one or more units or division of the Company due to natural calamity (earthquake, flood, fire etc.), force majeure or events such as strikes, lockouts etc.
7. Effect(s) arising out of change in the regulatory framework applicable to the Company
8. Pendency of any litigation(s) or dispute(s) or the outcome thereof which may have an impact on the listed entity.
9. Frauds or defaults by employees of the listed entity which has or may have an impact on the Listed entity.
10. Options to purchase securities including any ESOP/ ESPS Scheme.
11. Giving of guarantees or indemnity or becoming a surety by whatever named called for any third party.
12. Granting, withdrawal, surrender, cancellation or suspension of key licenses or regulatory approvals.
13. Delay or default in the payment of fines, penalties, dues, etc. to any regulatory, statutory, enforcement or judicial authority.”

Explanation: For the purpose of determination of material events/ information, the value or expected impact in terms of value for each event or transaction shall be compared with the quantitative threshold specified in this policy.