

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

1. Term of Appointment:

The appointment of Independent Directors are for a period of 5 (five) years from the date of their respective appointment. The Independent Directors are not liable to retire by rotation. Re-appointment at the end of their tenure shall be considered by the Board of Directors (“the Board”) based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and the performance evaluation process, subject to the Directors continuing to meet the independence criteria.

The Independent Directors may be nominated to be a Member or Chairman of any one or more Committees of the Board.

2. Declaration of Independence:

To satisfy all the criteria of being ‘Independent’ throughout the tenure on Board of the Company both as per the requirements of the Companies Act, 2013, the Listing Agreement (as amended from time to time) and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. In this regard, a declaration at the first meeting of Board in every financial year has to be submitted by the Independent Directors to the Board of the Company confirming that the requirements of Independence are being met. If at any point of time there is any change in the circumstances which may affect the status of the Independent Directors, the same has to be brought to the notice of the Board immediately.

3. Role, Functions and Duties:

The roles and duties of the Independent Directors will be those normally required of a Non-Executive Independent Director under the Companies Act, 2013. There are certain duties prescribed for all Directors, both Executive and Non-Executive, which are fiduciary in nature and are as under:

- i) To act in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association as may be amended from time to time.
- ii) To act in good faith in order to promote the objects of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in the best interest of the Company, its employees, the shareholders, the community and for the protection of environment.
- iii) To discharge their duties with due and reasonable care, skill and diligence.
- iv) They shall not involve themselves in a situation in which they may have a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interest of the Company.
- v) They shall not achieve or attempt to achieve any undue gain or advantage either to themselves or to their relatives, partners or associates and if any such director is found guilty of making any undue gain, he/she shall be liable to pay an amount equal to that gain to the Company.
- vi) They shall not assign their office as Director and any assignments so made shall be void.

There are certain roles, functions duties prescribed for all Independent Directors, which are listed in the 'Code for Independent Directors' as outlined in Schedule IV to the Companies Act, 2013 (enclosed as **Annexure-A**) and also placed at the website of the Company. The Independent Directors shall abide by the said 'Code of Conduct for Independent Directors as amended from time to time to the extent relevant and applicable to their role.

4. Code of Business Ethics:

The Company has in place a Code of Conduct for its Board of Directors and Senior Management Personnel and is placed on the website of the Company. The Independent Directors shall adhere to the Code of Conduct. The principles prescribed in this Code lays down broad standards of compliance and ethics. The purpose of this code is to enhance ethical and transparent process in managing the affairs of the Company.

5. Remuneration:

The remuneration of the Independent Directors shall be governed by the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 as amended from time to time. Sitting fees will be paid as approved by the Board of Directors from time to time. Presently, the sitting fees paid to the Independent Directors for Board and Committee(s) of the Board is Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 25,000 per Meeting respectively.

Further, the Company shall also bear the expenses of travel, stay and conveyance in relation to attending the Meetings of the Board and Committee(s) thereof, by the Independent Directors.

6. Disclosures:

During the tenure of their directorship, the Independent Directors shall notify promptly the Company of any change in their directorships and shall provide all disclosures and information as may be required under the applicable laws. They shall promptly disclose their material interest in any transaction or arrangement that the Company has entered into. Such interest shall be disclosed no later than when the transaction or arrangement comes up at a Board meeting so that the minutes may record their interest appropriately and records of the Company are updated.

7. Training and Development:

The Company would provide necessary support to the Independent Directors in updating their skills and knowledge with respect to the publishing industry and to improve their familiarity with the Company and its business. The Company may, if required, will conduct formal training program for its Independent Directors.

8. Performance Appraisal / Evaluation Process:

As members of the Board, the performance of the Independent Directors as well as the performance of the entire Board and its Committees will be evaluated annually. Evaluation of each Director shall be done by all the other Directors. The criteria for evaluation shall be disclosed in the Annual Report of the Company. The actual evaluation process shall remain confidential and shall be a constructive mechanism to improve the effectiveness of the Board and its Committees.

All the terms and conditions of the Independent Directors including their appointment, remuneration, professional code of conduct, roles, functions, duties and obligations shall be subject to the requirements as specified under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Rules made thereunder (including any statutory modification(s) re re-enactment thereof for the time being in force) and as per the requirements of the Corporate Governance requirements of the Listing Agreement as amended from time to time and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Schedule IV

[See section 149(8)]

CODE FOR INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

The Code is a guide to professional conduct for independent directors. Adherence to these standards by independent directors and fulfilment of their responsibilities in a professional and faithful manner will promote confidence of the investment community, particularly minority shareholders, regulators and companies in the institution of independent directors.

I. Guidelines of professional conduct:

An independent director shall:

- (1) uphold ethical standards of integrity and probity;
- (2) act objectively and constructively while exercising his duties;
- (3) exercise his responsibilities in a *bona fide* manner in the interest of the company;
- (4) devote sufficient time and attention to his professional obligations for informed and balanced decision making;
- (5) not allow any extraneous considerations that will vitiate his exercise of objective independent judgment in the paramount interest of the company as a whole, while concurring in or dissenting from the collective judgment of the Board in its decision making;
- (6) not abuse his position to the detriment of the company or its shareholders or for the purpose of gaining direct or indirect personal advantage or advantage for any associated person;
- (7) refrain from any action that would lead to loss of his independence;
- (8) where circumstances arise which make an independent director lose his independence, the independent director must immediately inform the Board accordingly;
- (9) assist the company in implementing the best corporate governance practices.

II. Role and functions:

The independent directors shall:

- (1) help in bringing an independent judgment to bear on the Board's deliberations especially on issues of strategy, performance, risk management, resources, key appointments and standards of conduct;
- (2) bring an objective view in the evaluation of the performance of board and management;
- (3) scrutinise the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and

objectives

and monitor the reporting of performance;

(4) satisfy themselves on the integrity of financial information and that financial controls and the systems of risk management are robust and defensible;

(5) safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, particularly the minority shareholders;

(6) balance the conflicting interest of the stakeholders;

(7) determine appropriate levels of remuneration of executive directors, key managerial personnel and senior management and have a prime role in appointing and where necessary recommend removal of executive directors, key managerial personnel and senior management;

(8) moderate and arbitrate in the interest of the company as a whole, in situations of conflict between management and shareholder's interest.

III. Duties :

The independent directors shall—

(1) undertake appropriate induction and regularly update and refresh their skills, knowledge and familiarity with the company;

(2) seek appropriate clarification or amplification of information and, where necessary,

take and follow appropriate professional advice and opinion of outside experts at the expense of the company;

(3) strive to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Board committees

of which he is a member;

(4) participate constructively and actively in the committees of the Board in which they are chairpersons or members;

(5) strive to attend the general meetings of the company;

(6) where they have concerns about the running of the company or a proposed action, ensure that these are addressed by the Board and, to the extent that they are not resolved, insist that their concerns are recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting;

(7) keep themselves well informed about the company and the external environment

in which it operates;

(8) not to unfairly obstruct the functioning of an otherwise proper Board or committee of the Board;

(9) pay sufficient attention and ensure that adequate deliberations are held before approving related party transactions and assure themselves that the same are in the interest of the company;

(10) ascertain and ensure that the company has an adequate and functional vigil mechanism and to ensure that the interests of a person who uses such mechanism are not prejudicially affected on account of such use;

- (11) report concerns about unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct or ethics policy;
- (12) acting within his authority, assist in protecting the legitimate interests of the company, shareholders and its employees;
- (13) not disclose confidential information, including commercial secrets, technologies, advertising and sales promotion plans, unpublished price sensitive information, unless such disclosure is expressly approved by the Board or required by law.

IV. Manner of appointment:

- (1) Appointment process of independent directors shall be independent of the company management; while selecting independent directors the Board shall ensure that there is appropriate balance of skills, experience and knowledge in the Board so as to enable the Board to discharge its functions and duties effectively.
- (2) The appointment of independent director(s) of the company shall be approved at the meeting of the shareholders.
- (3) The explanatory statement attached to the notice of the meeting for approving the appointment of independent director shall include a statement that in the opinion of the Board, the independent director proposed to be appointed fulfils the conditions specified in the Act and the rules made thereunder and that the proposed director is independent of the management.
- (4) The appointment of independent directors shall be formalised through a letter of appointment, which shall set out :
 - (a) the term of appointment;
 - (b) the expectation of the Board from the appointed director; the Board-level committee(s) in which the director is expected to serve and its tasks;
 - (c) the fiduciary duties that come with such an appointment along with accompanying liabilities;
 - (d) provision for Directors and Officers (D and O) insurance, if any;
 - (e) the Code of Business Ethics that the company expects its directors and employees to follow;
 - (f) the list of actions that a director should not do while functioning as such in the company; and
 - (g) the remuneration, mentioning periodic fees, reimbursement of expenses for participation in the Boards and other meetings and profit related commission, if any.
- (5) The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall be open for inspection at the registered office of the company by any member during normal business hours.
- (6) The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall also be posted on the company's website.

V. Re-appointment:

The re-appointment of independent director shall be on the basis of report of performance evaluation.

VI. Resignation or removal:

- (1) The resignation or removal of an independent director shall be in the same manner as is provided in sections 168 and 169 of the Act.
- (2) An independent director who resigns or is removed from the Board of the company shall be replaced by a new independent director within a period of not more than one hundred and eighty days from the date of such resignation or removal, as the case may be.
- (3) Where the company fulfils the requirement of independent directors in its Board even without filling the vacancy created by such resignation or removal, as the case may be, the requirement of replacement by a new independent director shall not apply.

VII. Separate meetings:

- (1) The independent directors of the company shall hold at least one meeting in a year, without the attendance of non-independent directors and members of management;
- (2) All the independent directors of the company shall strive to be present at such meeting;
- (3) The meeting shall:
 - (a) review the performance of non-independent directors and the Board as a whole;
 - (b) review the performance of the Chairperson of the company, taking into account the views of executive directors and non-executive directors;
 - (c) assess the quality, quantity and timeliness of flow of information between the company management and the Board that is necessary for the Board to effectively and reasonably perform their duties.

VIII. Evaluation mechanism:

- (1) The performance evaluation of independent directors shall be done by the entire Board of Directors, excluding the director being evaluated.
- (2) On the basis of the report of performance evaluation, it shall be determined whether to extend or continue the term of appointment of the independent director.