

News monitored for: JM Financial

OPERATOR OF HYATT REGENCY MUMBAI AIRPORT
**Asian Hotels (West)
to Undergo Insolvency**

**NCLT Delhi bench
admits hotel operator
on a petition by
JM Financial ARC**

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Mumbai: The dedicated bankruptcy court admitted Asian Hotels (West), which operates the Hyatt Regency near Mumbai airport, for insolvency proceedings last week.

JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) filed a petition to admit it after acquiring loans from Yes Bank.

The Delhi bench of the National Company Law Tribunal admitted the company on September 16 and appointed Sapan Mohan Garg as an interim resolution professional, according to an order posted on its website.

Yes Bank, the sole banker to the hotel, sold its entire ₹282 crore debt to the ARC at an uncontested Swiss auction held on June 20, said a person aware of the transaction.

Asian Hotels (West) has a subsidiary, Aria Hotels and Consultancy Services which runs the JW Marriott Hotel at Aerocity in New Delhi.

In June 2021, Asian Hotels (West) stated that it shut down the Hyatt Regency in Mumbai because Yes Bank, which maintains an account, has blocked it and held back all funds. The private bank blocked the account after the company defaulted on payments. Subsequently, last November Yes Bank took possession of the Hyatt Regen-

cy property. On September 13, 2021, SR Batliboi & Co LLP, the statutory auditors of Asian Hotels (West) resigned, stating that they failed to receive relevant information despite multiple communications. They were appointed in 2017 for five years.

“In light of all the above facts (including failure to provide the requested information for concluding the audit, non-functional audit committee and misrepresentation to BSE and NSE on the status of the audit), and in the absence of any visibility or when we expect to

CHANGING HANDS



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ARC on June 20**

receive the information and the restoration of the appropriate composition of the board of directors, you would appreciate that it is not possible for us to conclude the statutory audit or the Company for FY2020-21,” the auditor said in a communication to the company as disclosed to the stock exchange.

Asian Hotels was incorporated as Chillwinds Hotels on January 8, 2007. Subsequently, it entered into a scheme of arrangement which resulted in a demerging of the Asian Hotels group into three listed companies — Asian Hotels (North), Asian Hotels (East) and Asian Hotels (West).