

## **IHCL to connect Taj Lands End and Sea Rock Hotel with bridge**

A skywalk over the Arabian Sea is sure to make heads turn - and that is what Indian Hotels Co is proposing to build, connecting Taj Lands End and the soon-to-be constructed Bandra's Sea Rock Hotel. Indian Hotels (IHCL), a Tata group company which runs the Taj chain of hotels, might just be redefining Mumbai's skyline one more time with this planned bridge.

The bridge, which is intended as an exclusive skywalk for clients, will cover a distance of less than 2 km and stretch over the Arabian Sea. The Sea Rock Hotel — located opposite Taj Lands End hotel, another Indian Hotels' property — has been shut since 1993 after the serial bomb blasts in Mumbai, and was ultimately razed in 2010.

Indian Hotels recently got its reconstruction plans approved by the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA). The bridge connecting the two hotels will be one of its kind in India. Tata Group's historic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel overlooking the Arabian Sea in Apollo Bunder has long defined the city's skyline.

Rebuilding of Sea Rock Hotel will increase the hotel chain's footprint in North Mumbai. Indian Hotels raised Rs 1,500 crore through rights issue last year to fund its growth, reduce its leverage ratio, and for capital expenditure, including funding the expansion of its Sea Rock and Taj Lands End properties.