

Rajani Associates Advocates & Solicitors



NARASIMHA FINDS A SIMPLE SOLUTION

Lord Vishnu, appearing as Varaha, vanquished the malevolent demon Hiranyaksha. Seeking retribution, Hiranyakashipu, Hiranyaksha's brother and a demon king, undertook rigorous penance. Impressed, Lord Brahma granted him a boon: Hiranyakashipu could not be killed by day or night, indoors or outdoors, in the sky or on the ground, by any weapon, human, or beast. Empowered by this boon, Hiranyakashipu unleashed terror upon Lord Vishnu's followers. To counter this, Lord Vishnu, aware of the boon's limitations, manifested as Narasimha, a form neither fully human nor animal, to end Hiranyakashipu's tyranny. Prahlada, Hiranyakashipu's son and a devout Vishnu devotee, played a crucial role. Believing Vishnu to be omnipresent, Prahlada's refusal to acknowledge his father's supremacy led to Narasimha's emergence. Utilizing the twilight hour, Narasimha slew Hiranyakashipu, placing him on his lap, neither indoors nor outdoors, using his claws, bypassing the boon's conditions set by Lord Brahma. Thus, Lord Vishnu, in the Narasimha avatar, thwarted Hiranyakashipu's invincibility.

Established in 1999, we are a full-service Law Firm based in Mumbai, India with a team of highly skilled lawyers. Our ability to provide high quality service coupled with resources capable of responding to specific business needs of each client sets us apart in the marketplace and allows us to build long standing, value-driven relations with our clients. We hand-hold our clients at every stage and take a long-term view, working towards safeguarding our clients' commercial and strategic interests. We take pride in understanding specific issues that a client may have, the priorities and concerns of each client in light of commercial realities and providing simple and direct solutions to what may be complex problems. We closely work alongside firms in the US, Europe, Middle East, South East Asia and Australia to meet the needs of our global clients. Over the years, we have developed expertise in various areas of practice that enables us to provide to our clients a tailored set of services across a wide range of legal disciplines and varied sectors.

WE TAKE PRIDE TO PROVIDE OUR CLIENTS SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

CONTENTS

01.

ANTI BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

The Egyptian Dynasty

02.

BANKING AND FINANCE

The Temples Of Assyria

O3. CAPITAL MARKETS

An Ancient Institution

04.

DEBT RESTRUCTURING AND INSOLVENCY

Lord Balaji & Lord Vishnu

05. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Merchant Of Venice

D6 INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECTS

The Ming Dynasty Legacy

O7 MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Alexander The Great

08.

PRIVATE EQUITY

The Parable Of The Loaves And Fishes

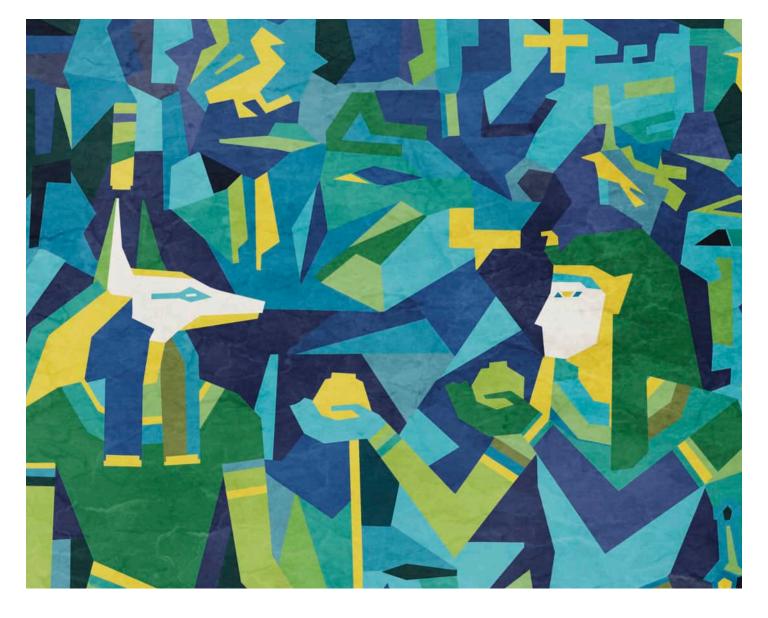
O9. REAL ESTATE

Urban Planning In The Ancient Indus Valley

10. STRUCTURING Noah's Ark

SUCCESSION AND TRUST

The Royal Family



ANTI BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

THE EGYPTIAN DYNASTY

The Egyptian Dynasty is known for its pharaoh rulers, majestic pyramids, rich culture and mystical Gods. At the same time, Egyptian Dynasty was also plagued with corruption, the unlawful diversion of assets taken from ordinary people by corrupt officials, the misappropriation of wealth by priests or tax collectors, and the bribery of judges to wrongfully convict the innocent. In ancient Egypt, there was an absence of currency and banking systems. The wealth of the pharaohs was primarily stored in reserves of gold, grain, and various other commodities. Regrettably, these stores proved to be vulnerable and alluring targets, leading to instances where some of the advisors succumbed to temptation and embezzled from their rulers. In response to this pressing issue, the pharaohs devised a solution by enlisting specially trained scribes to combat corruption. King Horemheb during his reign displayed a keen interest in fostering connections with both the common people and the ruling elite. He instituted laws and regulations aimed at eradicating the internal abuse of authority and privileges that officials had enjoyed during Akhenaten's rule. Horemheb also worked to reestablish the government's administrative structure, appointed judges, and established local religious authorities.

OUR PRACTICE

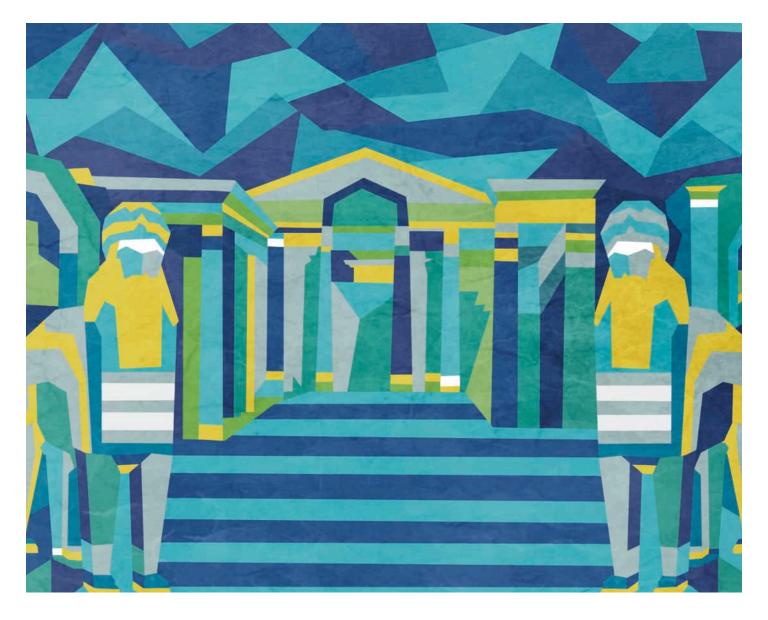
While "blue collar crimes" affect an individual and peace & harmony in the society, it does not materially affect the economy. However, "white collar crimes" directly and adversely affect the economy.

In modern society, Criminal Laws (Indian Penal Code 1860 soon to be replaced with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 soon to be replaced with Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023), Police Act, Gaming Act, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and such other statutes, regulate "blue collar" crimes.

A good governance necessarily requires separate set of statutes to tackle "white collar" crime. India has, amongst other statutes, various laws that directly deal with (or chapters that deal with) abuse of power, bribery, corruption, fraud, money laundering. Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002 were introduced to safeguard economic growth and stability in the country. Likewise, dedicated chapters of Companies Act (SFIO), Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (fraudulent transactions, etc.), SEBI FUTP Regulations,

SEBI PIT Regulations and various chapters of other statutes (including, certain chapters of Income Tax Act, GST Act – dealing with evasion of tax) have been formulated and undergone constant updation.

Besides assisting and advising clients in relation to the Indian laws, our Firm works in association with trusted international consultants to provide a single point solution to clients looking at ensuring compliances of relevant anti-money laundering laws in the USA, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and such other jurisdictions.



BANKING AND FINANCE

THE TEMPLES OF ASSYRIA

The Assyrian Empire was a collection of united city-states most which forms part of modern day Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria and Turkey. The Empire existed till 7th Century BC. The Temples and Royal Palaces in the Empire provided a secured storage to the merchants and farmers for their grains and other commodities. The temples were seen to be secure, given the presence of priests and temple workers and the general inhibition of conducting theft in a religious place. Overtime the temples became the financial centers of their cities. The practice of physical receipts was implemented which served as proof of the grains or other commodities being transferred to the bank and later on, to third parties. Temples and palaces even began disbursing loans at a high interest rate. Cuneiform tablets were used to record the details of the loan provided, including the recording of repayment of loans. During wars, temples being the financial centers became hubs for amassing loot and ample treasury. Over time, temples stopped being the financial centers and kingdoms developed various different hubs to cater to various financial services like safe-keeping of money, lending money, minting currency etc. With each hub exclusively undertaking a specified task.

OUR PRACTICE

India's financial services sector has generally seen strong growth over the years, driven by rising personal incomes, corporate restructuring, financial sector liberalization and growth of a more consumer-oriented, credit-oriented culture. This has led to an increased demand for financial products such as retail loans, insurance and pension products. Our team is well-aware of the ever-changing requirements and norms and challenges posed by this sector and can handle each assignment with detailed precision and expertise.

On the other hand, while financial requirements undergo constant change, debt instruments remain an important way of funding enterprises. Our team consists of lawyers focusing on all aspects of law relating to banking and finance, syndicated and structured finance, including asset finance and debt finance (Rupee as well as foreign currency denominated). Our team understands the technicalities and sensitivities involved in such assignments, whether acting for the borrower or the lender.

Our gamut of services in this area of practice includes preparing, reviewing and negotiating loan and facility agreements (Rupee as well as foreign currency denominated), common loan agreements, guarantee facility agreements, inter-creditor agreements, security agreements, security trustee agreements, trust and retention account agreements and escrow agreements.



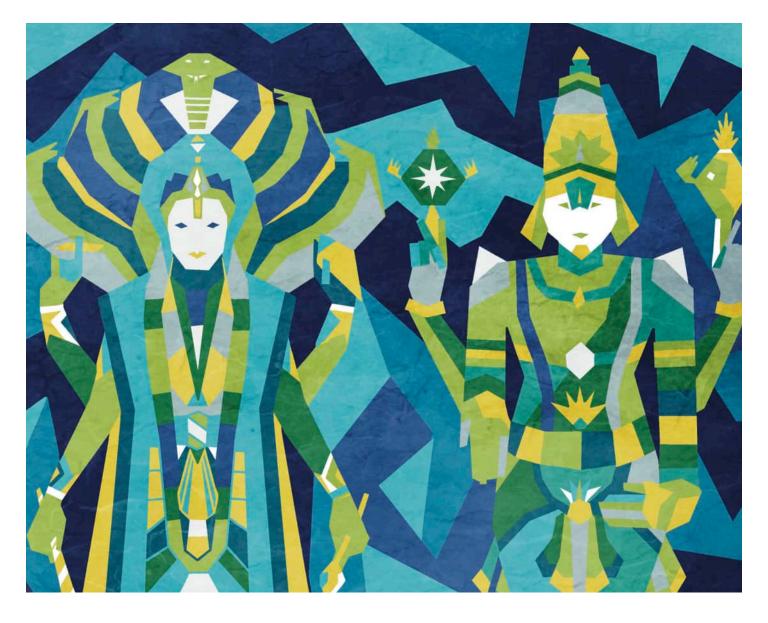
CAPITAL MARKETS

AN ANCIENT INSTITUTION

Centuries ago, back in the 14th century, before our time, banking institutions were non-existent. Instead, trading relied on the barter system. The origins of bartering can be traced back to Mesopotamian tribes around 6000 BC. These ancient societies exchanged goods like food, weapons, and spices through barter. India, in the 12th century, developed its own form of currency known as "hundi," which has a rich history dating back at least to that period. Hundi, a financial instrument, was crafted in Medieval India for facilitating trade and credit transactions. As time progressed, there arose a demand for coin conversion and money exchange, leading to the establishment of the first capital markets in the early 14th and 15th centuries, notably in Antwerp, Belgium, a hub of international trade. This initial marketplace primarily dealt in promissory notes and bonds. The earliest known bank, the Bank of State George in Italy, was founded in 1407. India, boasting a capital market history of nearly two centuries, stands as one of Asia's oldest. The American Civil War of 1861–1865 catalyzed the organization of the capital market, with a group of brokers congregating in Bombay's Dalal Street in 1874 to commence securities trading, spurred by opportunities resulting from the ban on American cotton imports. So, what exactly is a capital market? It's a platform where investors deploy surplus funds in potentially lucrative ventures, expecting substantial returns, and where financial securities are traded between buyers and sellers. Though still fundamentally a form of trade, the modern capital market operates in a more sophisticated manner compared to its counterparts in the 12th and 14th centuries.

OUR PRACTICE

The capital market is the barometer of any country's economy and provides a mechanism for capital formation. Across the world, there was a transformation in financial intermediation from a credit based financial system to a capital market based system, which was partly due to a shift in financial policies from financial repression (credit controls and other modes of primary sector promotion) to financial liberalization. This led to an increasing significance of capital markets in the allocation of financial resources. Our Firm has positioned itself as a leading advisor in the Asian Markets. Our Capital Market team advises on matters relating to IPO (Initial Public Offerings), SME IPOs, FPO (Follow-on Public Issues), QIPs (Qualified Institutional Placements), OFS (Offer for Sale) with listing on Indian courses such as NSE, BSE and MCX. Takeover of listed companies, Buyback of Shares, Delisting and Domestic Debt/Bond Issues such as Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) for companies spread across various sectors. Our Firm has the experience and expertise to undertake legal diligence and prepare offer documents for public offers in compliance with Indian regulations. Our Firm has represented issuer companies, promoters, merchant bankers and underwriters in various public offerings. Our Firm assists issuers and merchant bankers in dealing with queries raised by the regulators, to enable smooth completion of the public issue and listing of shares on the courses. Our Firm also liaises with nomads and overseas stock exchanges for international offerings. In addition to the above, our Firm offers advice on investigations and proceedings initiated by SEBI for violation of securities market regulations and non-compliances and represents clients before SEBI officials and SAT.



DEBT RESTRUCTURING AND INSOLVENCY & BANKRUPTCY CODE

LORD BALAJI AND THE DEBT

Lord Vishnu took birth on Earth as Srinivasa. Srinivasa once went into the forests near the hills, chasing a wild elephant. He eventually ended up being drawn towards princess Padmavathi (who was none other than Goddess Lakshmi) and wanted to marry her. King Akasa (father of princess Padmavathi) stated that Srinivasa should bear the expenses of the marriage and in turn pay a dowry to marry his daughter. This left Srinivasa helpless. Srinivasa sought a loan from Kubera (God of Wealth). Kubera gave mountains of gold as loan to Srinivasa. Kubera agreed to the loan on one condition that Srinivasa cannot return to Vaikunta (heavenly abode) without paying off the debt. However, Srinivasa could never pay back the debt he took from Kubera. Hence, it is known that the devotees of Lord Balaji often offer huge amounts to help their God to repay the loan and return to Vaikuntha. The Tirupathi temple has been the residence of Lord Balaji since then.

OUR PRACTICE

Just like the repayment of Lord Vishnu's debt to Kubera, modern day repayment of debt also has its own challenges, especially under stressed circumstances.

Our Debt Restructuring team advises clients on various aspects of indebtedness (including, refinance, rescheduling and settlement), debt recovery, debt restructuring as well as insolvency law. Our team provides practical and customized legal solutions as per the requirements of our clients. In this process, our team advises companies, bankers, funds, AIFs, investment bankers, merchant bankers, lenders, insolvency professionals, investors, resolution applicants and promoters. With the advantage of having represented lenders and borrowers over the years, our Firm has been successfully able to balance the requirements of the lender with those of the borrower. In relation to enforcement of securities or recovery mechanism, our Firm advises clients (lenders) on remedies available to them under applicable recovery laws. Our Firm also advises clients in filing/defending suits and arbitration (both domestic as well as international) for recovery of any claims or adjudication of any disputes.

In the insolvency realm, our insolvency team has advised a wide plethora of stakeholders, be it resolution professionals, committee of creditors, home buyers, operational creditors, resolution applicants and promoters thereby addressing their various legal issues and providing bespoke solutions by understanding their perspectives.



DISPUTE RESOLUTION

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

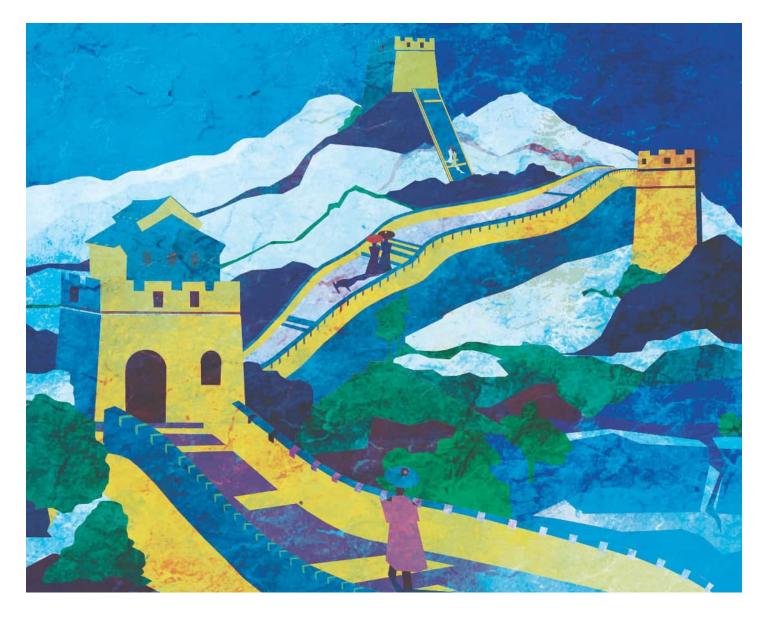
In Shakespeare's play "The Merchant of Venice", the young Bassanio needed funds to woo the wealthy Portia. Antonio a merchant, who had previously funded his friend Bassanio's endeavors, had no money to spare. Antonio asked Bassanio to borrow money from Shylock, a money lender and asked Antonio to stand as guarantor on the security of Antonios expected shipments. Shylock resented Antonio for lending money without charging interest, a gesture which had lowered Venice's interest rates. Shylock nonetheless lent the money interest free, but insisted on a pound of Antonio's flesh, if Bassanio failed to repay the debt. The bond was agreed whereby Antonios would be required to give a pound of his flesh in the event they fail to repay the debt. Antonio's ships were reported lost at sea rendering him unable to honor the debt. Bassanio had by then succeeded in wooing Portia and was a man of means. Bassanio offered twice the principal sum, but Shylock refused and demanded his gory prize. Enter Portia in disguise. She used her knowledge of the law to confound Shylock that he can have the flesh but not a single drop of blood and, in doing so, saved Antonio's life.

OUR PRACTICE

Just as in the Merchant of Venice, the role of Portia played a vital role to save Antonio's life, there is often a solution to a seemingly inextricable situation. When cases become contentious, our Firm's litigation experts provide a wide spectrum of civil and corporate services. Clear interpretation and attention to detail often results in effective resolution of matters.

Our Dispute Resolution team has significant experience in handling various types of disputes which include domestic and international commercial arbitrations, mediation, and conciliation proceedings and litigations across all major Courts, Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals in India. Our team is enthusiastic in formulating innovative and comprehensive strategies so as to ensure that the commercial objectives of the client are met while taking into account ground realities and the complexities of different legislations. Our team appears before Honorable Supreme Court of India, High Courts of various States, NCLT, NCLAT, Securities Appellate Tribunal and other courts. Tribunals and dispute resolution forums. Our team also appears before various statutory authorities and government bodies such as Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Department of Enforcement (ED), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Competition Commission of India (CCI).

On several occasions, a dispute between parties may entail complex questions relating to law and practice within a particular field. For example, SEBI, FEMA, RERA (including, DCR), CCI and such other special statutes. On such matters, our Dispute Resolution team works in synergy with the other practice areas within our Firm that helps providing domain specific legal services to clients.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECTS

THE MING DYNASTY LEGACY

The Great Wall of China is not a single structure. It is a series of fortifications built and extended over time to protect China's northern borders from attack. Following several invasions in the 14th century, the Ming Dynasty started building a wall to keep out marauding nomadic tribes. In addition to acting as a defense, the Great Wall provided an important transportation corridor. It also allowed the Ming Dynasty to charge duty on goods transported along the Silk Route and regulate trade and immigration. Although, the Manchu invasions beginning around 1600 eventually brought an end to the Ming Dynasty, the Great Wall remains as an enduring legacy of the era. The Great Wall is the largest construction project in history, taking more than 1,700 years to complete. Even today, infrastructure projects remain an underlying foundation of any economy.

OUR PRACTICE

The Government of India has opened up opportunities for development of ports, roadways, highways and social infrastructure, including healthcare projects. In addition to these, keeping in mind the global vision of ways to mitigate impact of global warming, there has been an increased thrust on renewable energy projects. In addition, the development of new technologies for waste and water management is a critical sector comprising rural and urban irrigation or management projects such as interlinking rivers, construction of dams, canals, laying down of pipelines, wastewater treatment and rain water harvesting. Aligning the interests of all participants is the key to the success of any project. Our team provides comprehensive services, helping project developers right from the nascent bidding stage all the way to achieving financial closure. Our Infrastructure & Projects team drafts and negotiates financing agreements and other ancillary contractual arrangements necessary for these projects. Our team also advises clients on applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.



MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS AND COMPETITION LAW

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

In ancient Greece, an oracle declared that the future ruler of Phrygia would enter the land riding an ox cart. When Gordius, a peasant, arrived in this fashion, he was immediately made king. Gordius expressed his gratitude by dedicating his ox cart to Zeus and tied it with an extremely intricate Gordian Knot. The oracle went on to proclaim that the person who unraveled this knot would rule Asia. Years later, in his quest for world victory, Alexander the Great came across the Gordian Knot. Employing some ingenuity and the services of his trusted sword, Alexander merely cut through the challenging knot instead of trying to untie it. A simple solution. He went on to conquer the rest of Asia in what could be considered the most ambitious M&A in history.

OUR PRACTICE

With a plethora of M&A deals handled by our Firm till date, our Firm has, over the years, had an opportunity to represent acquirers as well as target companies across various sectors, which has resulted in providing us with an understanding of not just various sectors but also a keen understanding of the needs of both parties to any transaction, including commercial issues that they may face.

Our services in the M&A space include providing structuring advice, advice on regulatory aspects comprising the Companies Act, the SEBI Takeover Code and other corporate compliances, conducting legal due diligence of the target (where applicable), preparing, reviewing and negotiating various transaction documents.

In addition, our M&A team also handles various schemes of amalgamation, demerger, restructuring, reconstruction (including usual or "reverse merger" under usual 230 to 232 of Companies Act) and acquisition schemes formulated under IBC, whether during the process of insolvency or liquidation). Our Firm advises clients right from conceptualization, drafting scheme (or information memorandum), seeking approvals from SEBI, Exchanges, NCLT and other governmental authorities till issue and listing (if required) of new securities.

Our team works closely with the clients at every stage and assists in safeguarding clients' commercial and strategic interests. Our team specializing in M&A transactions not only addresses legal issues (which are expected from a lawyer) but also assimilates and provides commercial solutions wherever there is an impasse or if the transaction requires specialized structuring, keeping in mind the ultimate objective of the client.

In M&A transactions, Competition laws also assume relevance. Our Firm also advises clients to ensure compliance with the Competition laws.



PRIVATE EQUITY

THE PARABLE OF THE LOAVES AND FISHES

The Bible tells us that when John, the Baptist was killed, Jesus withdrew to a secluded place to mourn his death. A large crowd followed him. Rather than focusing on his own loss, Jesus showed compassion for those who had gathered and began to heal the sick. At the mark of dusk, Jesus' disciples told him to send the people away to buy food. Jesus, however, instructed his disciples to feed all 5,000 people who had gathered. When he learned that the only provisions available were five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus took the food in his hands, looked heavenwards and giving thanks, broke the bread. The food was distributed. When all had eaten, there was still food to spare.

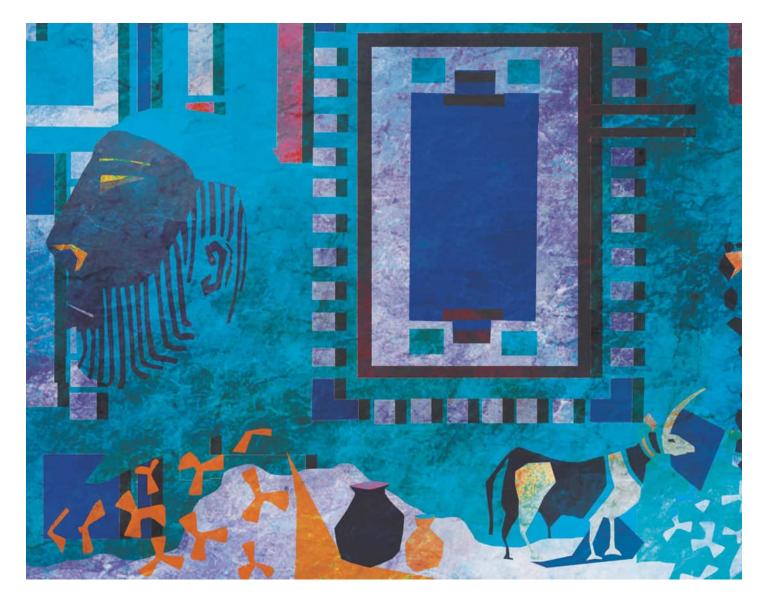
OUR PRACTICE

No private equity investor will fail to see the extraordinary returns witnessed in the story of the loaves and fishes. The potential for a generous return on investment is always attractive to investors; while companies often need investment to fuel their growth. The economic boom has resulted in migration from the family owned/controlled to broad based ownership by funds, foreign investors and public. Our private equity practice, whether the investment is in the form of equity or debt, in private companies and public enterprises, has walked along with growth.

Since the beginning, our Firm has had the opportunity to represent both investors and target companies across various sectors for funding at all levels, whether seed, mezzanine or matured, thus allowing our teams to, in turn, understand the pulse of each transaction as a whole. Our Firm has, as counsels to investors or target companies, handled a wide gamut of transactions each having their own set of distinctive characteristics and challenges. This has helped our Private Equity team to draw on experiences and assess each transaction in its entirety and at its every stratum. Our team visualises each investment as a blend of interests and we pride ourselves to be experts who work towards making this amalgamation of interests beneficial for both parties involved. Our motto has always been to achieve results for the transaction by successfully aligning the interests of both parties to the transaction. Our team works towards understanding the purpose of the investment, the complexities of the transaction and the goals and objectives of the investor on one hand and the company on the other.

Our services in this area of practice include conceptualizing and structuring the investment transaction, conducting legal due diligence of the company and sometimes (when representing the company) conducting a housekeeping diligence for the company, participating in negotiations from the term sheet stage till the closing stage of various transaction documents.

Our Firm has been accredited by various rating agencies as one of the most active legal advisors in the private equity space.



REAL ESTATE

URBAN PLANNING IN THE ANCIENT INDUS VALLEY

The Bronze Age city of Harappa emerged around 2600BC. Part of the Indus Valley Civilization was located in the Sindh and Punjab provinces (then part of undivided India). At the height of it's prominence in the Mature Harappan era from 2600 BC to 1900 BC, the city was home to some 23,500 residents spread over 250 acres of land. The Harappans built a civilization like no other. Their flat-roofed brick houses with separated living quarters, fortified administrative and religious centers were both organized and marvelous. Harappa is one of the finest examples of ancient town planning the world has ever witnessed. Although urban planning and construction techniques have evolved over time, real estate projects are still complex and challenging endeavors.

OUR PRACTICE

Today, India's real estate law encompasses a wide range of issues, including property ownership, land use, land acquisition, tenancy, and development regulations. The legal framework continues to adapt to the complex and evolving demands of India's burgeoning real estate sector, aiming to strike a balance between protecting property rights and fostering economic growth.

In recent times, the Real Estate Regulation and Development Act (RERA) of 2016 is introduced to bring in the required transparency and accountability in the real estate sector, streamline complexities of constructing buildings in a time efficient manner.

Our Real Estate team is well equipped with the knowledge and have an expertise in the area of real estate practice which includes advising, strategizing, facilitating transactions including drafting of various transactional documents including leave and license agreements, complex lease agreements (for both individual and corporate clients), conveyancing, tenancy agreements, hotel management and school management contracts that are integrated with using, occupying and possessing the immovable properties.

Our team assist in carrying out diligence of the properties, advising and preparing all such relevant and required documents for effective sale, purchase, long term lease, development (including, redevelopment), township and consummation of the transaction.

Our team has expertise in drafting and facilitating developers to enter into joint development, of privately-owned properties, redevelopment, multiple societies, federations, as also other integrated projects under the applicable laws including the latest Development Control Regulations, 2034. Our team also represents the clients in the disputes emanating from real estate transactions before various courts and tribunals, including, Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and other civil courts.



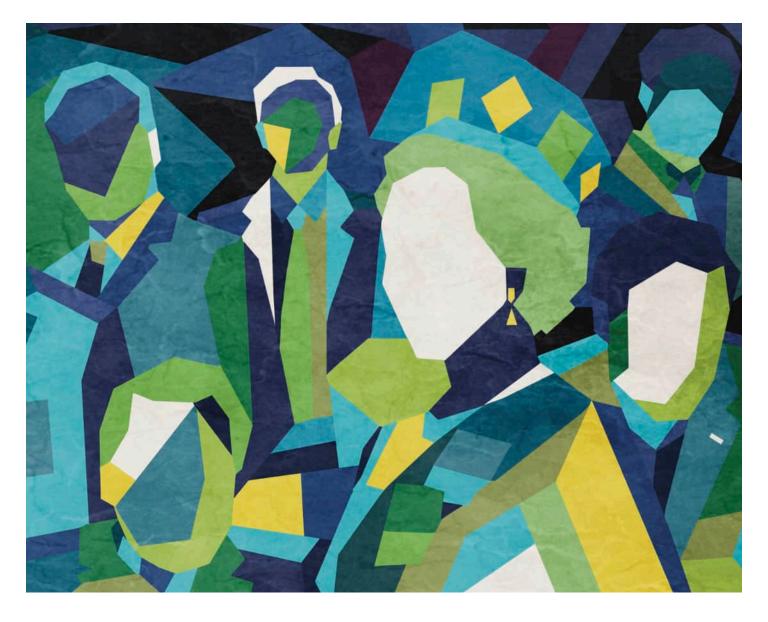
STRUCTURING

NOAH'S ARK

In ancient times, when God predicted the Great Flood, he forewarned the noble and righteous Noah to protect himself and his family and each species of the animal kingdom. Noah structured an Ark which had three decks, divided into rooms and a door on the side. After constructing the Ark, Noah found one male and one female of every kind of animal and bird and took them into the Ark along with food and water supplies. Even though the structuring of this Ark took Noah 120 years to structure and build, it led to the survival of all present in the Ark to survive future peril. As such, the way Noah chose the Ark as a vessel for protection from the Great Flood, choosing the right vehicle for business or personal investment is a complex decision requiring specialist support.

OUR PRACTICE

Structuring is the cornerstone of any transaction (be in investment, acquisition, structured debt, sale-and-lease back and such other critical contracts) and involves consideration of various nuances covering commercial exigencies and compliance with various laws. Our Firm has developed considerable practical experience in advising clients on structuring transactions. We advise our corporate clients on structuring of inbound as well as outbound investments, mergers & acquisitions or divestments transactions. Our Firm also advises individual clients on their estate planning or succession planning objectives. Our services in this area range from advising on the optimal modes of investment to the instruments of investment, including the constitution of the investment vehicle/ target entity, factoring in, the client's requirements in light of applicable Indian laws; and for cross-border transactions, engaging with our associate overseas law firms, tax advisers and other experts. Our Firm works in association with national and international tax consultants and other professionals. Our Firm ensures that the structuring process results in a solution which strikes the right balance amongst laws, commerce and the client's requirements or objectives.



SUCCESSION AND TRUST PRACTICE

THE ROYAL FAMILY

Inheritance and succession traditionally stemmed from family and kinship structures, often designating the eldest son or male family member as the heir responsible for upholding family traditions and duties. Some hereditary monarchies employed unique selection processes, especially during transitions between dynasties. An example is the shift in monarchy during William IV's lengthy reign, succeeded by Victoria. Victoria, being a woman, couldn't rule Hanover due to its male-only succession policy, terminating the personal union of the United Kingdom and Hanover. The Victorian era marked significant cultural shifts. This succession pattern continued in the British Royal lineage, with King George V reigning, succeeded by his eldest son, King Edward VIII, who abdicated to marry a divorcee, leading to the unexpected ascension of his younger brother, King George VI. King George VI faced the challenges of World War II and earned widespread respect. Upon his death in 1952, his elder daughter, Queen Elizabeth II, ascended to the throne, becoming one of Britain's longest-reigning monarchs. In 2022, she was succeeded by her eldest son, Charles III.

OUR PRACTICE

Succession planning means a vehicle (or vehicles) used to secure the interests of the family members who will succeed after one's demise. It focuses on certain areas so as to rule out eventualities or glitches, legal or otherwise catering to the requirements of members of the family or in general, plan for devolution by balancing and safeguarding the interests of the family members.

One mechanism is by way of creating a (private) trust for the benefit of the beneficiaries. The concept of trust finds its origins in Roman law, specifically from the term 'Fiducia'. In ancient Rome, wealthy individuals entrusted friends to manage their property for the benefit of their wives and heirs due to legal restrictions on inheritance. Independently from Roman legal principles, it became the platform where the modern concept of trusts took shape. This development led to the use of "Uses" in land rights, a term derived from the Latin phrase "ad opus," meaning acting "on behalf of". This practice established a lasting framework where land was permanently held on behalf of others, forming the foundation of trusts. The common practice adopted for succession planning is writing a Will. Our Firm advises our clients in writing a Will and, wherever necessary, assists clients in obtaining probate or letter of administration. If the Will is contested, our Firm advises and represents the clients before appropriate forum. The other is creation of (private) trust. Family trusts are very effective and convenient, and if used prudently can be a great tool not only for succession planning, but also for managing assets, finances and investing in securities and utilizing the returns earned by the trust for the benefit of the beneficiaries.

Writing Will and/or creating a Trust needs personalized involvement with the clients. Our Success and Trust Practice team directly interacts with the clients to understand their wishes and mode of distribution, and personalize their Will and/or Trust, including, ascertaining classes of beneficiaries.

Address: 204-207, Krishna Chambers 59, New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400020, India Tel: +91 (22) 4096 1000 • Email: info@rajaniassociates.net