



**KHAITAN
&CO**
Advocates since 1911

News for, and of, Khaitan Alumni **#KConnect**

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2020: Embracing the New Normal

While the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world in an unprecedented manner, like most organisations, the Firm too was forced to adapt to a 'Work from Home' model. Although we had introduced the WFH option over a year ago, circumstances conspired such that we had the opportunity to test it in a widespread manner only with the outbreak of the pandemic. Thankfully, the Firm was able to transition seamlessly to the new paradigm due to the combined, tireless efforts of our IT, HR and administrative support, so much so that we ended the financial year with our first ever 'virtual' Town Hall, which was attended by over 800 members of the Firm!

COVID-19 is a testament to human resolve and grit – our medical community as well as those in the essential services sector have admirably risen to the challenge even in the face of this unprecedented crisis. Our wishes and prayers are with these frontline soldiers. In these testing times, and with our continued efforts towards building a global community, we hope to come out stronger than ever!

On a separate note and in tune with the social media age, we are excited to announce our Instagram page – '[KhaitanCo](#)'.

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We would love to hear your feedback and views on the Alumni Newsletter or the larger KConnect alumni programme. Please let us know by sending an email to alumni@khaitanco.com. For more information on the KConnect alumni programme visit our [website](#).

Learning and Development

While the ramifications of COVID-19 are still unfolding across the global economy and businesses, it has decisively re-defined our workplace and the way we operate. The sudden shift to remote working and learning has certainly been overwhelming. Our members have been extremely productive not only on billable matters but have also invested time and effort in their own learning and development.

Just before the lockdown, it was a pleasure to have Dr Josh Lange (CEO, The Advance Language Institute) conduct a workshop on Legal Writing and Drafting for our associates in Mumbai. Workshops such as these help our lawyers hone their legal writing, drafting and editing skills.



Our members with Dr Josh Lange

Virtual Learning Table

“In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn.” – Phil Collins

We were fortunate to have some of the most respected Senior Counsels from the Bombay and Calcutta High Courts, such as SN Mookherjee (Gopal), Snehal Shah, Ratnanko Banerjee, Darius Khambatta, KV Vishwanathan, Gaurav Joshi and Siddharth Luthra, join us at our ‘Virtual Learning Table’ sessions to talk to our lawyers on company law, insolvency and bankruptcy law, criminal law, international commercial arbitration and a host of other key topics. These sessions offered invaluable perspectives and insights from a practitioner’s viewpoint.

Diversity & Inclusion Initiative

We launched **arise**, our D&I initiative in December 2019, with the initial focus on empowering women to advance not only within the profession but as the Firm’s leadership and management. We hosted our 2nd session in January this year, with a fire-side chat between Tejal Patil (Ex General Counsel, GE – South Asia) and our Partner, Vanita Bhargava. During the session, Tejal shared valuable insights on the pressures faced by working women and the need for inclusivity champions, irrespective of gender.



Fire-side chat between Vanita Bhargava and Tejal Patil

As we increasingly strive towards a more inclusive and non-discriminatory workplace, D&I initiatives are a good way to acquaint ourselves of and acknowledge our blind spots. In this regard, we invited Annemarie Shrouder, a D&I Speaker and Facilitator based out of Toronto, Canada, to speak to our leadership (*via zoom*) on inclusion and why it is the ‘Key to Diversity’.

We are also proud to announce that the Firm celebrated Pride Month for the very first time. We ran campaigns on all our social media profiles through the month of June and also demonstrated our support and solidarity by adopting the Pride colours as part of our logo.



The Firm’s new logo in support of Pride Month

Life outside the Firm

At Khaitan, we have always believed in physical and mental well-being and continue to encourage our members to participate in sports and physical activities to stay fit and keep themselves rejuvenated. The Firm hosted the 2nd edition of the Investors' Cricket Cup for 15 private equity firms – Aion Capital, Apax, Avendus, Bain Capital, Blackstone, Brookfield, Carlyle, GIC, KKR, Macquarie Group, NIIF, Piramal Capital, Softbank, Temasek and TPG. After 52 intense matches spanning a period of 3 days, GIC emerged as deserved winners, beating Carlyle in a gruelling final! Matches were streamed live on YouTube and the tournament was well received in the PE industry.



GIC - Winners of the Investors' Cricket Cup 2020

In football, a sport where we continue to maintain a hot streak, our team emerged as runners up in the 9th Bombay Gymkhana Lawyer's Football Championship (*popularly known as the Chagla tournament*).



Runners up of the Bombay Gymkhana Lawyer's Football Championship

Key Client Engagements

Along with day to day functioning, COVID-19 has also reshaped our client interactions and relationships. We remain committed towards building new client relationships, and more importantly deepening existing relationships. Since the lockdown was imposed, the Firm conducted over 50 webinars, a majority of which were organised in collaboration with external organisations such as IFCCI, IGCC, ICC, SCCA, ASSOCHAM, and involved distinguished external speakers. Several webinars also featured distinguished panelists including Justice Rajiv Endlaw (Judge, Delhi High Court), Justice KV Vishwanathan (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India), Janak Dwarkadas and Amit Desai (Senior Advocates, Bombay High Court). The webinars covered pertinent topics including:

- Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Business
- Start-ups and the COVID-19 Crisis: Navigating Employment, Contractual and Cybersecurity Issues
- COVID-19: Understanding Force Majeure and Assessing Legal Strategies
- Approval Route for Chinese FDI in India
- Virtual Courts in India: Way Forward in the Wake of COVID-19
- FDI in Indian Insurance Companies
- Overview of Indian Union Budget 2020 and New Corporate Income Tax Regime
- New Corporate Tax Regime in India
- Safe Harbours under Competition Law: Competition Compliance during COVID-19.

We have also launched a '[COVID-19 Corner](#)' on our website for easy access to all legal and regulatory notifications issued in light of the pandemic.

Khaitan Events

The Firm recently co-hosted the 9th edition of IVCA Conclave in collaboration with the Indian Venture Capital Association (IVCA) which was widely attended by prominent figures in the PE & VC industry in Delhi. Our Executive Director Sudhir Bassi and Partner Abhimanyu Bhattacharya spoke on 'Development for InvITs' at the India Capital Markets Forum (2020) organised by IFLR.

Benchmark Litigation – Asia Pacific



Tier I

Commercial and Transaction, Competition and Anti-trust, Construction, Government and Regulatory, Insolvency, International Arbitration

Highly Recommended

White Collar Crime

In House Firm of the Year



Banking and Finance, Capital Markets, Compliance and Regulatory, Corporate and M&A, Insurance, Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Honourable Mention

Alternate Investment Funds (including Private Equity), Employment and Intellectual Property

Asian Legal Business



Dispute Resolution Firm of the Year

M&A Deal of the Year (Midsize) – Reliance Capital's stake sale to Nippon Life

Legal 500

Tier I



Anti-trust and Competition, Arbitration, Banking and Finance, Capital Markets, Corporate and M&A, Dispute Resolution, Investment Funds, Labour and Employment, Projects and Energy, Real Estate and Construction, Tax, White Collar Crime

Other Recognised Practices

Intellectual Property, Restructuring and Insolvency and TMT

India Business Law Journal



Best Overall Law Firm

Arbitration & ADR, Capital Markets, Competition & Anti-trust, Environment, Insurance & Reinsurance, Internet & E-commerce, Mergers & Acquisitions, Policy & Regulation, Private Equity & Venture Capital, and Real Estate



India Business Law Journal – Deals of the Year

Acquisition of Usha Martin's steel division by Tata Steel, JV between Mahindra & Mahindra and Ford Motor Company, Brookfield's acquisition of East West Pipeline from Reliance

Awards and Recognitions

As a recognition towards our continued efforts, we were recognised as the '*Firm of the Year*' and the '*Most Responsive Firm of the Year*' at the In-House Awards (2020). The gloom of the pandemic was punctuated by a series of small joys and awards received by our Partners, as well – **Manisha Shroff** was named in IFLR '*1000 Women Leaders*' List, **Adheesh Nargolkar** was recognised as the '*Patent Star in India*' and **Smriti Yadav** was recognised as '*Trade Mark Star*' by Managing IP, **Anisha Chand** bagged a coveted spot in the '*40 under 40*' Global Competition Review, **Sanjeev Kapoor**, **Ajay Bhargava** and **Sudip Mullick** were recognised as '*Litigation Stars*' by Benchmark Litigation, **Anshul Prakash** and **Siddharth Shrivastav** were awarded the '*Client Service Excellence 2020*' Award (Asialaw Profiles), **Shivanshu Thaplyal** was recognised as '*Commended External Counsel*' by Asia Mena In-House Community and **Vineet Shingal** bagged the '*Young Lawyer of the Year*' (Asian Legal Business). As many as 14 Partners and 1 Senior Associate were recognised as '*Recommended Lawyers*' by RSG India (2019).

Academia: The Executive Education Centre

We are delighted to announce the launch of our very own executive education centre – Academia. The purpose of Academia is to make our extensive body of knowledge and expertise (across practice areas) available to clients. It is our very own 'Centre of Excellence' that prides itself in its thought leadership and outcome-based learning programmes containing insights from our transaction experiences and are designed to be practical and relevant to our clients. The training sessions are aimed at updating clients and their in-house legal teams on recent developments and market practices and are available on our [website](#).



Introducing Academia: The Executive Education Centre

Alumni in Focus

Malek Shipchandler, a former associate in our Corporate practice, took a sabbatical in mid-2018 to pursue entrepreneurial aspirations in design innovation. Backed by a co-founder (his mother, Rashida) with experience in the swiss watch manufacturing industry and with an understanding of design fundamentals from IIT-Bombay, he founded **kinstrukto** – a venture that designs and retails premium self-customisable wristwatches made of Lego-like bricks. Inspired by the Japanese Harajuku culture that celebrates non-conformity through its colour, theatricality and versatility, Malek’s creation has already won him recognition from the Lexus Design Awards 2020 which shortlisted his **kinstrukto** design as a nominee in the “lifestyle accessory design” category as well as a coveted feature in a Fortune-Next500 (March 2020). Malek continues to keep in touch with law by consulting as an of-counsel on mandates involving the shaping of public opinion with India’s largest reputation management firm – Adfactors.



Malek Shipchandler, Co-Founder, Kinstrukto

Marquee Transactions

We are pleased to report that the Firm continued to be at the forefront of several marquee transactions in the first half of 2020. We are indeed grateful to our clients for continuing to repose faith in us.

In the M&A space, the Firm advised **TVS Motor** in relation to its acquisition of Norton Motorcycles (UK), **Shapoorji Pallonji Group** on sale of solar energy assets to KKR, **Sunrise Foods and its promoters** in relation to their complete stake sale to ITC, **Nuvoco Vistas’** acquisition of Emami Cement, **Promoters of Emami** in relation to the 100% sale of Emami Power to Brookfield and **Mitsui’s** acquisition of majority stake in Bharat Insecticides. The Firm is currently advising **Reliance Industries** on its joint venture with BP Plc as well as **Vedanta Limited** on its proposed delisting.

The Firm also advised on **Blackstone’s** acquisition of Allcargo Group’s warehousing business, **TVS Capital, Faering Capital** and **A91 Partners’** investment in Go Digit General Insurance Company, **IIFL’s** fund raise from Northern Arc, **Lightbox’s** investment in Waycool Foods and **Temasek’s** investment in Curefit Healthcare.

Despite the recessionary trends and downbeat markets, the Firm represented a consortium of 14 managers in **Reliance Industries’** recently concluded USD 7 billion rights issue – India’s largest capital markets transaction in deal value and Asia’s largest rights issue offering. The Firm also represented **Bajaj Electricals** and **Spencer’s Retail** in their recent rights issue offerings, and the **managers of JM Financial** in its recently concluded USD 102 million QIP.

The Firm also advised **Vedanta Limited** in its distressed acquisition of Ferro Alloys Corporation and continues to advise **Rakesh Gangwal** (co-promoter, InterGlobe Aviation Limited) in relation to corporate governance matters at InterGlobe Aviation Limited.

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