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Gravitas Legal Promotes Rahul Gaikwad to Equity Partnership & Priyanka Bharti to Partnership; Distributes Bonus for Two Fiscal Years

As Gravitas Legal nears completion of its fifth year of operations, the firm has promoted **Rahul Gaikwad** as an **Equity Partner** and **Priyanka Bharti** as a **Partner**. The firm has also distributed bonus for two Fiscal Years 2020-21 and 2019-20 in recognition of the professional commitment and focus demonstrated by team members towards work in times where value for life attained an altogether new meaning.

Rahul Gaikwad, who leads the litigation practice at the Mumbai Office of the firm, is well-regarded in the Mumbai litigation circle for his expertise in handling both civil and criminal litigation matters, with a focus on insolvency and banking related litigation. He regularly appears in a wide range of matters before the NCLT, NCLAT, Supreme Court of India and various High Courts. An alumnus of the Dr. D.Y. Patil College of Law, Mumbai, Rahul completed his 5-year integrated law degree (B.L.S. LL.B) in 2011; and has been associated with the firm for over three plus years.

Priyanka Bharti will be taking charge of further strengthening the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practice of the firm, in addition to supporting the Insolvency & Restructuring and General Corporate practices at the Firm. The core areas of Priyanka's expertise cover domestic and international arbitration, disputes and contentious matters and white-collar crime. She also advises various stakeholders in relation to formulation and implementation of strategies related to insolvency, restructuring, employment and labour laws, due diligence and commercial/contractual laws. She completed her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from Faculty of Law, University of Delhi in the year 2010 and holds a degree in Master of Law (LL.M.) in International & Comparative Law from National University of Law, Singapore. Priyanka had joined Gravitas Legal in 2019.

The firm has also promoted **Ajay Kumar** as a **Principal Associate**. Ajay has been associated with the firm almost since its inception and has actively been working with the Partners in the areas of Project Finance, Insolvency & Bankruptcy and Dispute Resolution.

Tanuj Sud, Founder and Partner, commented on the promotions with the following quote, *"I have always envisioned Gravitas Legal as a team of young achievers. We have made conscious efforts to broad base and strengthen our leadership team. The promotions have been announced after duly factoring in the domain expertise and ability towards client building, client retention, mentoring of team members, knowledge management, institutionalisation of the practice, and most importantly – servicepreneurship."*

Varij Sharma, Founder and Partner, added, *"Expansion on all counts – bandwidth, leadership, practice area expertise and professionalization of business support, is on the horizon and the firm is headed towards significant new announcements in the coming few weeks. As a strategic priority we will continue to expand our service capabilities by way of hiring and promoting best legal talent to build a team of thought leaders who can lead the firm to continuous growth and success. It has always been our endeavour to hire, retain and promote people who*



can convert words into actions and we are extremely proud of our team which has helped us retain such an ambition.”

Speaking about the distribution of bonuses, he added, “As a Firm, we had to forgo bonus distribution for the Financial Year 2019-20 with a view to orient ourselves to cope with the (then) completely uncertain scenario that faced us due to COVID-19. But as the economy shows signs of revival, it is only appropriate and fair on our part to have rewarded our team that has truly raised the bar in terms of performance and professionalism.”

Despite the unusual circumstances brought down by the global spread of the pandemic in 2020, the firm has continued to grow and expand gradually. In the last one year, the firm has on-boarded six members in both legal and non-legal roles at various levels of hierarchy from leading law firms and law practices. This includes the hiring of **Ashni Gupta**, who has taken charge of knowledge resources and corporate communication initiatives at the firm. The firm is also working closely with **Nipun Bhatia**, President Strategic Legal Management at **Legal League Consulting** (founded by **Bithika Anand**), who is assisting the Partners as a **Strategic Advisor**.