Best Overall Law Firms in India.
India Business Law Journal (IBLJ)

Ranked as one of the top 10 most innovative firms in APAC.
FT - Asia-Pacific Innovative Lawyers

Ranked as one of the top 5 law firms in India.
RSG India Report

National Law Firm of the Year and India Client Service Law Firm of the Year.
Chambers Asia-Pacific Awards
“An ‘outstanding firm with a corresponding international reach and reputation’ sums up this highly regarded law firm.”

The Indian Lawyer 250

“Their standards are very high and they pay a lot of attention to detail.”

Chambers Asia-Pacific

“They’re able to understand a relatively new area of law. They compare things with other jurisdictions in order to find precedents and give us a clear view as to what direction we should take.”

Chambers Asia-Pacific
ABOUT TRILEGAL

Trilegal is one of India’s leading law firms with offices in four of India’s major cities - Mumbai, New Delhi, Gurgoan and Bangalore. We represent clients on a large number of the most complex and high value transactions in India, leading to our key practices winning top industry awards and accolades.

We believe that the combination of our firm’s culture, depth of transactional experience, wide range of expertise and the quality and energy of our lawyers, allows us to offer a level of client service that is unique to the Indian legal market. Our lawyers are trained to take a commercial perspective of the issues our clients face with a solution-oriented approach and give high quality practical advice.

Our areas of expertise include mergers and acquisitions; strategic alliances and joint ventures; private equity and venture capital; energy and infrastructure; banking and finance; restructuring; capital markets; telecoms, media and technology; dispute resolution; regulatory; competition law; labour and employment; real estate; and taxation.

Our client roster includes many of the world’s leading corporations, funds, banks and financial institutions. We provide seamless, efficient and integrated service across a broad spectrum of practice areas.
‘They know our history, ethics and values and our specific cases,’ says a client. The firm has an ‘ability to work intensively and raise required resources.’

India Business Law Journal

“It’s very important to us that we are able to pick up the phone at any time and contact them; we have a healthy relationship.”

Chambers Asia-Pacific
OUR COMPETITION LAW PRACTICE

Trilegal has one of the India’s largest competition law practices, comprising 15 dedicated competition lawyers with multi-jurisdictional experience located across 3 cities. The dedicated competition team is headed by Nisha Kaur Uberoi and comprises 15 lawyers, that work seamlessly across three offices in India – Mumbai, New Delhi and Bangalore.

The team works exclusively on competition law, handling complex competition law matters involving innovative solution-oriented structuring, interacting with the Competition Commission of India (“CCI”) and the Office of the Director General (“DG”) and undertakes a multidisciplinary approach in advising on a full range of competition matters, including enforcement (cartels and abuse of dominance), merger control and competition law audits and compliance. The team frequently represents clients on appeal at various fora, including the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (“NCLAT”), High Courts in India and the Supreme Court.

The team has strong domain expertise across a range of industries, such as, cement, auto-parts, retail, financial services, telecommunications, e-commerce, automobiles, natural resources, alcoholic beverages, etc., in successfully navigating the rapidly evolving competition law landscape in India.

Some of the seminal cases that the lawyers from the Team have worked on include:

• Designated as the lead counsel and acting for Ambuja Cements Ltd., a Lafarge Holcim group company, in the appeal against the CCI’s alleged cement cartel decision before the NCLAT, defending cement manufacturing companies against the highest penalty imposed by the CCI of approximately USD 1.6 billion
• Successfully represented taxi aggregator, ANI Technologies Pvt. Ltd (“Ola”) against abuse of dominance allegations in various geographical markets in India, involving the first-ever predatory pricing claim in multi-sided platforms;
• Successfully represented the Board of Control for Cricket in India, in obtaining the first-ever remand and overturning of a CCI order on procedural grounds, before India’s (erstwhile) appellate competition authority, the Competition Appellate Tribunal (“COMPAT”);
• Represented Idea Cellular Limited at the CCI for the merger and amalgamation of the telecommunications businesses of Idea and Vodafone India Limited valued at approximately USD 23 billion. The merger notification was unconditionally approved by the CCI in its Phase I review itself.
• Represented Holcim Limited & Lafarge S.A. in precedent-setting divestitures in the EUR 41 billion merger of cement giants in Holcim/Lafarge.;
• Advised on Sun Pharmaceutical’s USD 4 billion acquisition of drug-rival Ranbaxy Laboratories, involving India’s first divestitures under merger control.
• Represented Etihad Airways in relation to its acquisition of a 24% equity stake in Jet Airways (India) Limited. This was the CCI’s first in-depth analysis of the aviation sector and was approved by the CCI in its Phase I review itself.
• Represented Kotak Mahindra in relation to merger with ING Vysya valued at USD 2.4 billion.
WHY CHOOSE OUR COMPETITION LAW GROUP

The Trilegal competition law team regularly advises on a full spectrum of competition law matters including:

- Representing companies before the DG, CCI the NCLAT, High Court(s) and the Supreme Court of India, for their alleged involvement in cartels and anti-competitive conduct;
- Representing companies being investigated by the DG and CCI against allegations of abuse of dominant position;
- Representing clients in filing leniency applications with the CCI and obtaining a priority status. We also represent companies that are party to leniency proceedings in investigations before the DG and inquiries before the CCI;
- Advising on horizontal agreements, including issues arising out of joint ventures;
- Advising on vertical agreements, including issues arising from exclusivity arrangements and resale price maintenance;
- Merger control: structuring, advisory, filing merger notifications and obtaining merger approval from the CCI; structuring and negotiating commitments between clients and the CCI; and
- Dawn-raid preparedness plans and training; and Conducting competition compliance training and competition law audits for companies.

The team is led by Nisha Kaur Uberoi, who is internationally recognized as one of India’s leading competition lawyers, including being recognized in the 2017 edition of Who’s Who Legal: Competition and featuring in the inaugural ALB Asia’s 40 under 40.

She has received multiple accolades, including being one of the first Indians to be featured in 100 Women in Antitrust by Global Competition Review and featuring in the A-List of India’s Top 100 lawyers by India Business Law Journal and Indian Corporate Counsel Association. She has been recognized for her professional achievements in Chambers & Partners, Who’s Who Legal, Asia Law Leading Lawyers and IFLR 1000. She has also been profiled as a competition law expert by Competition & Antitrust Expert Guides – India and Euromoney Women in Business.

Nisha currently serves as India’s Non-Governmental Advisor for the International Competition Network (“ICN”). She is a member of the Unilateral Conduct Working Group for the International Bar Association, 2017, as well as the ICN Merger Working Group.

As a practitioner since the early days of the enforcement of competition law in India, Nisha is “described as a subject matter expert in competition law”, who “delivers ‘outstanding client service’” (by RSG India Report 2015) and is noted for “her ability to advise clearly as to how the CCI will interpret and respond to proposals is one of her key strengths” (by Chambers Asia Pacific 2016). The RSG India Report (2013) details her as “one of the most excellent Competition lawyers in India” for her work in this field.

She has significantly contributed to the evolution and development of competition law jurisprudence in India and has worked closely with the CCI in drafting and finalizing the Indian merger control regime. She has been recognized for her key role on contentious matters and merger approvals, and is recommended for being a “very dynamic lawyer” with “an impressive client roster” (by Chambers Asia Pacific 2016). Nisha frequently speaks on competition law matters across various fora in India and globally.
Nominated by Global Competition Review ("GCR"), the world’s leading competition rankings, for three categories:

- **Regional firm of the year – Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa.**
- **Behavioural matter of the year – Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa: Ola abuse of dominance in India.**
- **Merger control matter of the year – Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa: Vodafone India / Idea Cellular.**
COMPETITION LAW WORK HIGHLIGHTS

Our lawyers have acted on the following matters:

**CARTELS**
Currently the designated lead counsel and acting for **Ambuja Cements Ltd.**, a Lafarge Holcim group company, in the appeal against the CCI’s alleged cement cartel decision before the NCLAT, defending cement manufacturing companies against the highest penalty imposed by the CCI of approximately USD 1.6 billion.

—
Successfully represented **Prestige Limited** in an alleged cartel in the real estate industry in India.

—
Currently advising leniency applicants.

**ABUSE OF DOMINANCE**
Currently representing taxi aggregator, **Ola**, against predatory pricing allegations in various geographical markets in India before the CCI.

—
Successfully represented taxi aggregator **Ola**, against the allegations of predatory pricing in Bengaluru, where Ola had market share over 60%. This was the first ever case pertaining to abuse of dominance in multi-sided platforms, and although Ola’s market share was more than 60%, the CCI concluded that Ola was not dominant in the relevant market and held that there was no need to intervene in a nascent and evolving market. The matter is currently on appeal before the NCLAT.

—
Currently advising **International Spirits and Wines Association of India** against abuse of dominance allegations by Government companies in the State of Uttarakhand.

—
Successfully represented **Gujarat Gas Co. Ltd.** against an alleged abuse of dominance claim filed by Saint Gobain.

—
Represented **Adani Gas Limited** in relation to an alleged abuse of dominance proceeding filed by an industrial association before the CCI.

—
Successfully represented the Board of Control for Cricket in India, in obtaining the first-ever remand and overturning of a CCI order on procedural grounds, before India’s (erstwhile) appellate competition authority, the COMPAT;

**MERGER CONTROL**
10 of the 17 Form II (long form) merger notifications in India, including complex ones such as:

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Represented **Idea Cellular Limited** in obtaining unconditional clearance of its USD 22 billion merger with Vodafone India Limited and Vodafone Mobile Services Limited, to create India’s largest telecom operator.
UltraTech Cement Limited on its USD 3.3 billion acquisition of cement assets of Jaiprakash Associates across India.

GSPC Distribution Networks Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GSPC Gas Company Limited, in filing and successfully obtaining CCI approval within 26 days (excluding clock stops) for India’s first Form II for the proposed acquisition of a stake of 65.12% in Gujarat Gas Company Limited from BG Asia Pacific Holdings Pte Limited.

United Spirits Limited, in relation to the merger notification in Form II for the proposed acquisition of a stake of up to 53.4% in United Spirits Limited by Diageo plc, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Relay B.V. The CCI granted unconditional approval within a record period of 19 days (excluding clock stops).

Represented LafargeHolcim Ltd. in a Phase II investigation in relation to its Euro 41 billion global merger, which involved an alternative divestment structural remedy (i.e. 100% sale of shares of Lafarge India Limited to an approved purchaser).

Represented Ranbaxy Laboratories in its merger with Sun Pharmaceuticals (USD 4 billion merger) which was the first Phase II investigation in India that involved divestments of 7 brands to address competition law concerns.

Numerous Form I (short form) and long form (Form II) merger notifications, including:

Alibaba.com Singapore E-commerce Private Limited in relation to their investment in Supermarket Grocery Supplies Private Limited, a company operating a chain of groceries retail store under the brand name of BigBasket. The transaction was unconditionally approved by the CCI in phase I within 35 calendar days.

Wilmar Sugar Holdings Pte. Ltd. in relation to their acquisition of additional stake in Shree Renuka Sugars Limited, a publicly listed company engaged in the sugar sector.

Ibibo Group and Naspers in relation to the merger between Ibibo India and Makemytrip Limited, to create India’s largest online travel portal.

Alibaba.com Singapore E-Commerce Private Limited in relation to the acquisition of shares of Jasper Infotech Private Limited (which operates Snapdeal.com).

Telenor in relation to its joint venture with an Indian partner for an investment in Telewings Communications Services Private Limited for telecom operations in India.

Airbus & Singapore Airlines in a multi-jurisdictional merger control filing (for India) to set up a joint venture for pilot training.

Standard Chartered Bank, India Branch in relation to the acquisition of the credit card business of Barclays India, and the acquisition of the retail loan portfolio of Barclays India.

Morgan Stanley in relation to the acquisition of shares of Janalakshmi Financial Services Private Limited.

Tesco in relation to its joint venture with Trent Hypermarket Limited.

Heineken / Scottish and Newcastle India Private Limited in relation to its merger with United Breweries Limited.

DBS Bank, India Branch in relation to the acquisition of certain loan assets of RBS Bank, India Branch.

Daido Steel Co. Ltd. in relation to acquisition of shares of Sunflag Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.

Black River Food 2 Pte. Ltd in relation to the subscription of
compulsorily convertible debentures and equity shares of Future Consume Enterprise Limited.

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Exide Industries Limited in relation to the acquisition of the remaining stake in ING Vysya Life Insurance Company Limited.

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Shriram Group in relation to the acquisition of shares by Sanlam Group.

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Wipro GE Healthcare for a joint venture and restructuring of its distribution vertical.

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TAQA India, India Infrastructure Fund-II (an IDFC fund), and Indo-Infra Inc. (subsidiary of Public Sector Pension Investment Board, Canada) in relation to acquisition of certain power assets of Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited.

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SABIC Research and Technology Private Limited in relation to acquisition of assets of GE India Technology Centre Private Limited.

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Etihad Airways in relation to its acquisition of a 24% equity stake in Jet Airways (India) Limited.

——

Kotak Mahindra in relation to its USD 2.4 billion merger with ING Vysya.

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Bain Capital Partners on their proposed purchase of a stake of approximately 30% of the share capital of Genpact Limited, a company listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

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Koch Industries Inc. (“KII”) / Guardian Industries Corp. (Guardian”) with respect to KII’s acquisition of sole ownership over Guardian.

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Future Retail Limited on its acquisition of the retail business division of Heritage Foods Limited, consisting of retail, fresh produce and bakery stores.

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NYLIM Jacob Ballas (“NYLIM”) on its acquisition of certain shares in Centrum Direct Limited (“Centrum”), leading to control by NYLIM in Centrum.

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Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company Limited for the acquisition of a 26% equity interest in Max New York Life Insurance Company Limited.

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Warburg Pincus in relation to the sale of its stake in Alliance Tire Group B.V.

——

Denki Kagaku Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha (“Denka”) and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. (“Mitsu”) in relation to the acquisition of the chloroprene rubber business of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company by Denka Performance Elastomer LLC, a joint venture company incorporated by Denka and Mitsui, notified in a Form II merger notification and cleared within the Phase I review period.

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Komatsu Limited in relation to the termination of the joint venture of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Komatsu Asia & Pacific Pte. Ltd, with Larsen & Toubro Limited, in L&T-Komatsu Limited through a sale of its 50% shareholding in L&T-Komatsu Limited to Larsen & Toubro Limited.

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Reliance Capital Asset Management Limited in relation to the 26% equity investment by Nippon Life Insurance Company.

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NHK Spring Co., Limited, for its proposed acquisition of a springs manufacturing division from the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Limited.

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JSW Group in relation to the proposed merger of JSW Ispat Limited into JSW Steel and JSW Ispat Limited.

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Isuzu Motors Limited for its acquisition of an equity interest in SML Isuzu Limited.

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Reliance Capital Limited for its proposed intra-group re-organization by way of a merger of Viscount Management Services (Alpha) Limited into Reliance Capital Limited.
Schroder Investment Management (Singapore) Limited, Singapore an asset management company in relation to the acquisition of a stake of 25% and one share in Axis Asset Management Company Limited and Axis Mutual Fund Trustee Limited.


Aditya Birla Nuvo Limited in its acquisition of the Pantaloons Format Business from Pantaloons Retail (India) Limited by way of demerger.

Punjab National Bank in its acquisition of a stake of 30% in MetLife India Insurance Company Limited.

Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals in relation to the acquisition of its active pharmaceutical ingredients division by Hospira Healthcare India Private Limited.

Marico Limited in relation to the acquisition of the personal care business of Paras Pharmaceuticals Limited from the Reckitt Benckiser Group.

IVRCL Group for its proposed intra-group re-organization by way of merger of IVRCL Limited and IVRCL Assets and Holdings Limited.
KEY CONTACTS

NISHA KAUR UBEROI
Partner and Head of the Competition Law Practice
M +91 91671 27599
nishakaur.uberoi@trilegal.com

SOUMYA HARIHARAN
Partner
M +91 91673 60806
soumya.hariharan@trilegal.com
Nisha’s ability to advise clearly as to how the CCI will interpret and respond to proposals is one of her key strengths.

Chambers Asia-Pacific

Nisha the star among very accomplished antitrust lawyers in India.

She is the one lawyer you want to have on your team when dealing with a challenging transaction or competition law case. Has one of the biggest and best teams of competition lawyers in India.

India Business Law Journal, Indian Law Firm Awards

They are highly client-oriented and go out of their way to accommodate challenging timelines and to ensure the client’s interest is adequately protected.

Chambers Asia-Pacific
MUMBAI
Peninsula Business Park
17th Floor, Tower B
Ganpat Rao Kadam Marg
Lower Parel (West)
Mumbai 400 013 India
T +91 22 4079 1000

DELHI
311 B, DLF South Court
Saket, New Delhi 110017 India
T +91 11 4163 9393

GURGAON
5th Floor, Tower 4B
DLF Corporate Park
DLF City Phase-3
MG Road, Gurgaon 122 002 India
T +91 124 625 3200

BANGALORE
The Residency
7th Floor, 133/1, Residency Road
Bangalore 560 025 India
T +91 80 4343 4646