# WIRC of ICAI





## OVER VIEW OF RERA, PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & LANDMARK CASE LAWS

#### BY CA. BHAVNA RADHESHWAR & CA. RAMESH S. PRABHU CHAIRMAN, MAHASEWA, VICE PRESIDENT, BAR ASSN OF MAHARERA & MAHAREAT ON 23/02/2023,

Latest updates, important provisions under RERA, latest case laws

#### AGENDA

- Status on implementation
- Overview of RERA and Allied Laws
- Constitutional Validity of RERA by SC & HC
- RERA Registration & Exemption of Projects
- Applicability of RERA on lease & Industrial
- Accountability of Professionals
- Complaints of Un-regd Projects to be heard.
- Display of Plans at site By SC
- Int & Refund on Delayed Possession
- RERA to supersede of one side Agreement



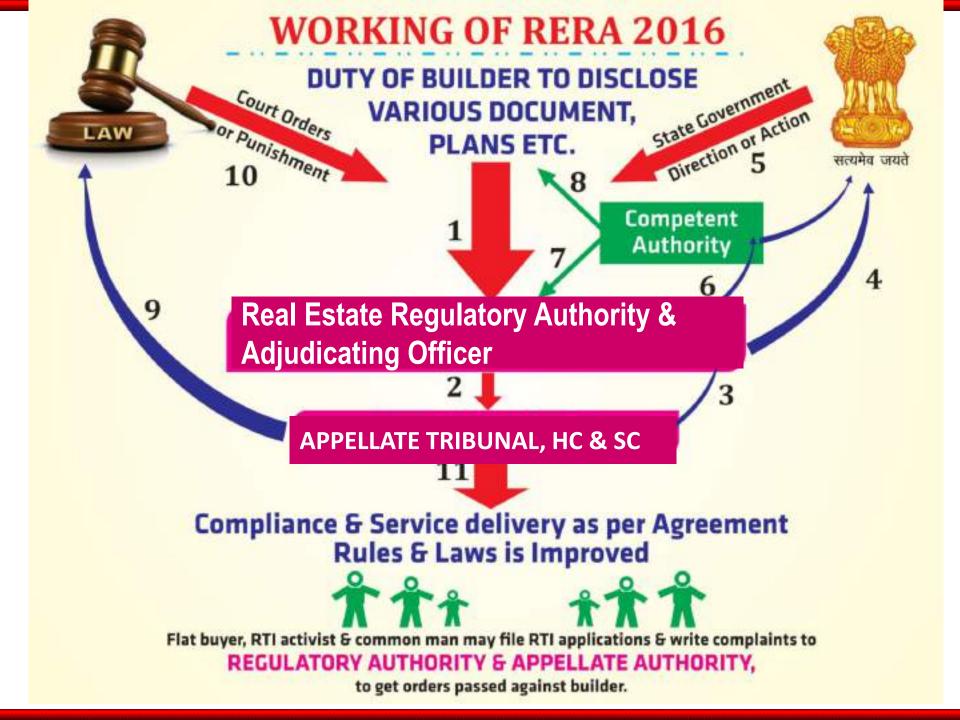




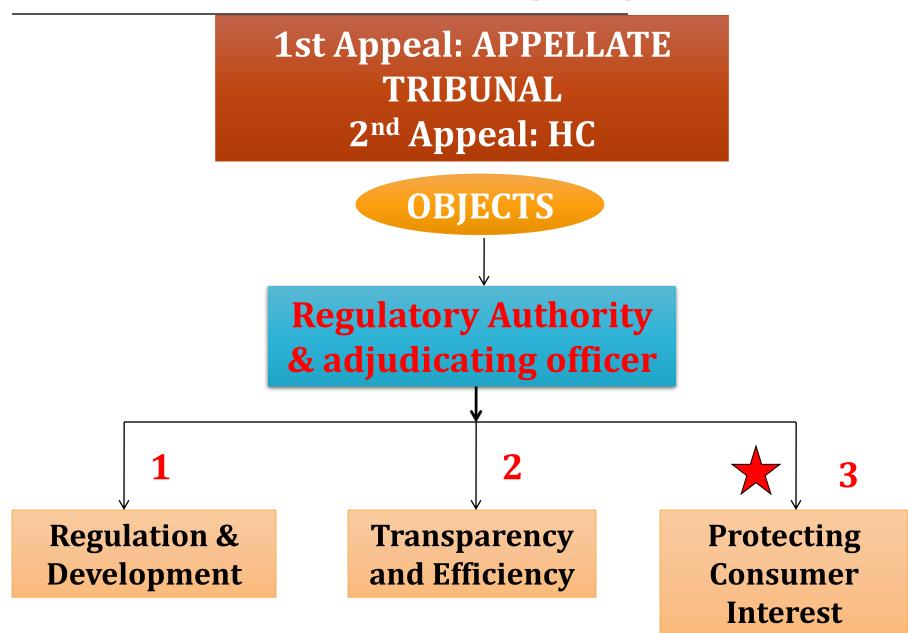


#### **Real Estate Sector Challenges** :GOVT INTERVENTION, MARKET SENTIMENTS AND NATURAL CALAMITIES

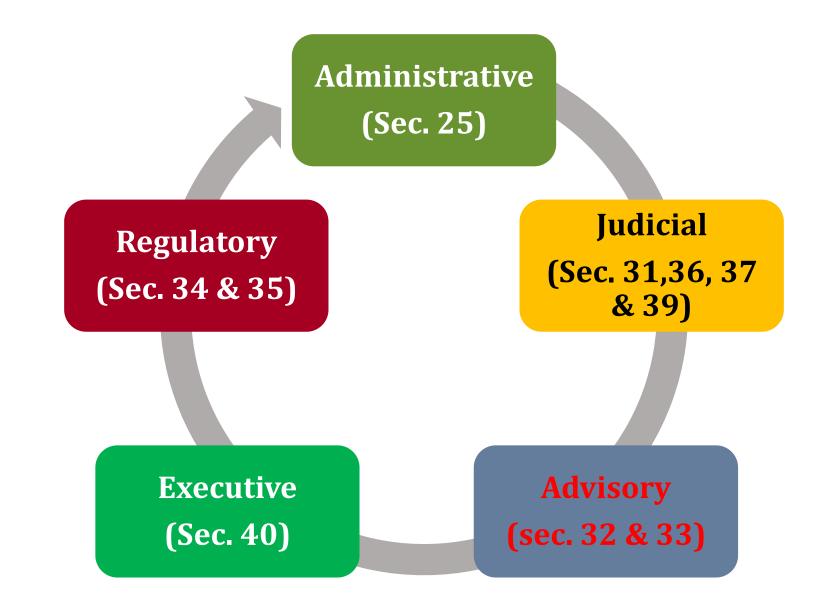
- DEMONITIZATION IN 2016
- RERA 2016
- IBC 2016
- GST, 2017
- FINANCE ACT
- NBFC CRISES
- LIQUIDITY CRISES
- INVESTORS LEFT THE SECTOR
- COVID 19.... FOLLOWED BY LOCKDOWN.



#### **OBJECTS OF THE REAL ESTATE(R &D) ACT, 2016**



#### **FUNCTIONS OF RERA**



#### **SALIENT FEATURES OF THE ACT**

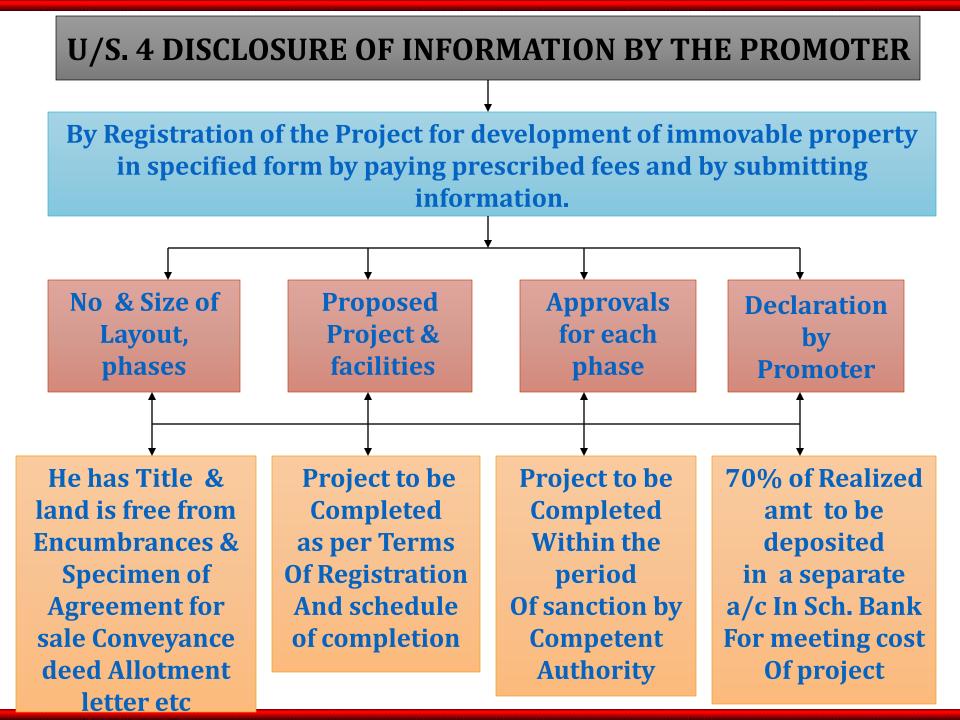


#### U/S. 3 COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF REAL ESTATE PROJECT

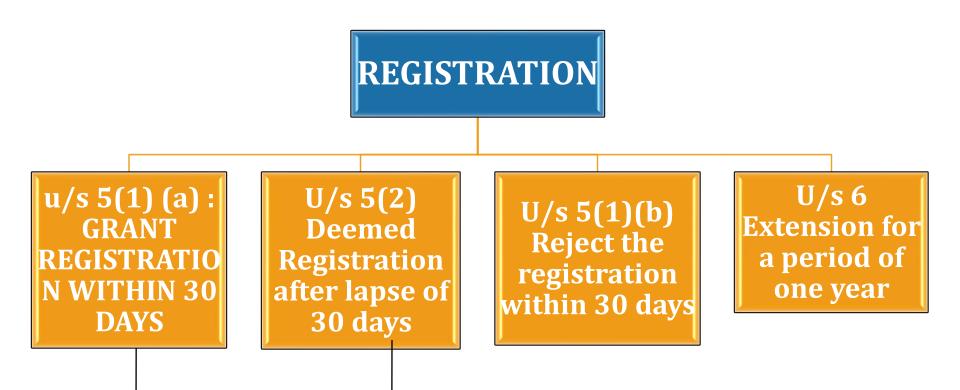
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ANY IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN PHASES OR OTHERWISE And All Pending Projects where OC is not received within 3 months And New Project before offer for sale.



AREA DOES NOT EXCEED 500 SQ.METERS OR Less than 8 Units All Completed Projects Where OC is Granted. RENOVATION OR REPAIRS WHICH DOES NOT INVOLVE REALLOTMENT & MARKETING



### U/s 5 GRANT AND U/s 6 EXTENSION OF REGRN



 (1)provide a Registration number,
 (2)Login Id and password for accessing the website
 (3)Period of Registration: As provided by the promoter

#### U/S. 7 RECOVACTION OF REGISTRATION OF REAL ESTATE PROJEC

On complaint by any Stakeholders

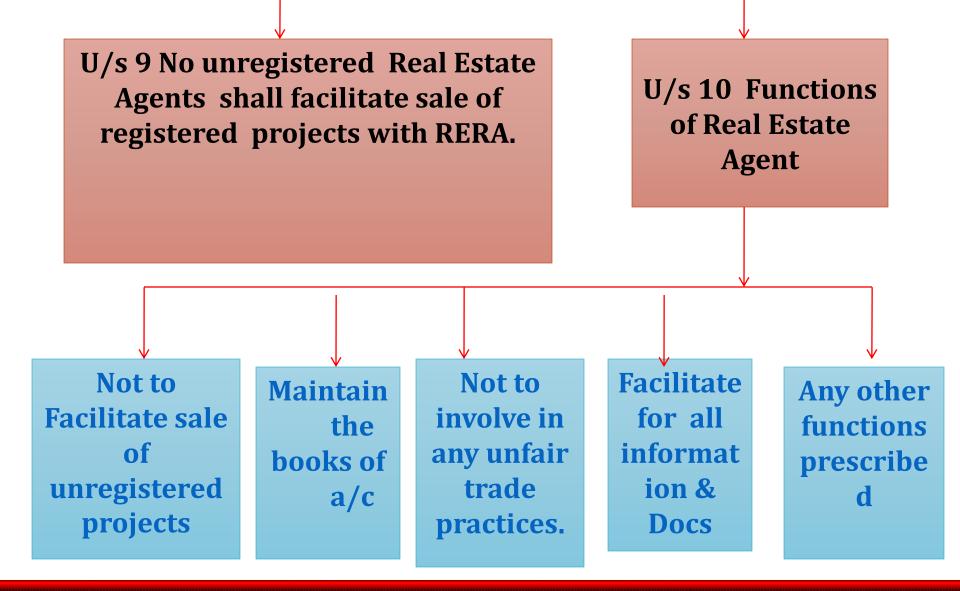
Suo moto based on any information, Audit Report etc

U/s8 :Consequence of Revocation or Lapse

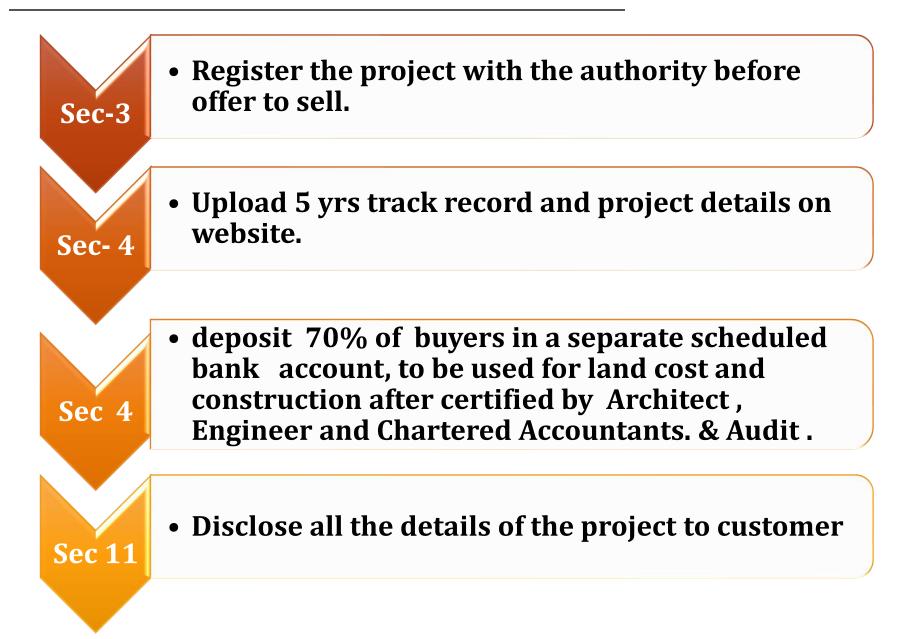
Debar the promoters From Execution & Accessing Website

Complete the Project by the association of allottees or in any other manner. Declare as Defaulter And Display Photographs In All States Website. Freeze the Dedicated account and Transfer the balance To complete the project

#### U/S. 9 COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF REAL ESTATE AGENT & U/s 10 Functions.



#### **OBLIGATIONS OF PROMOTERS :**



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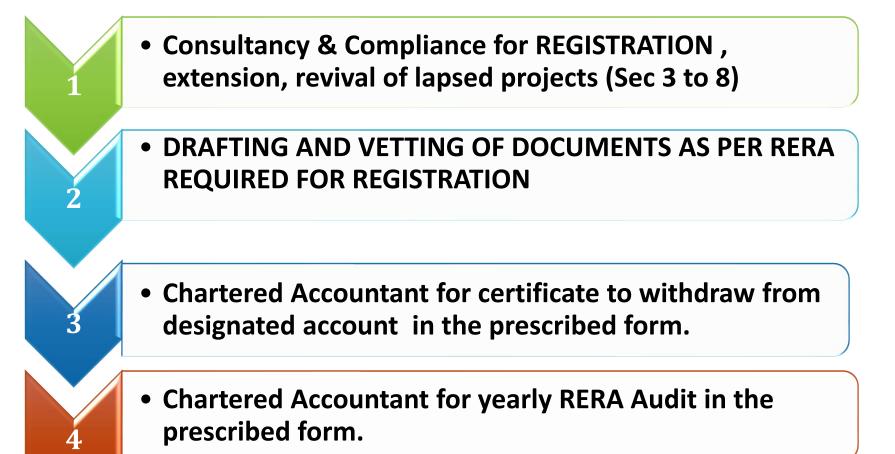
#### **RERA Implementation Status Report**

(As on 15-10-2022)

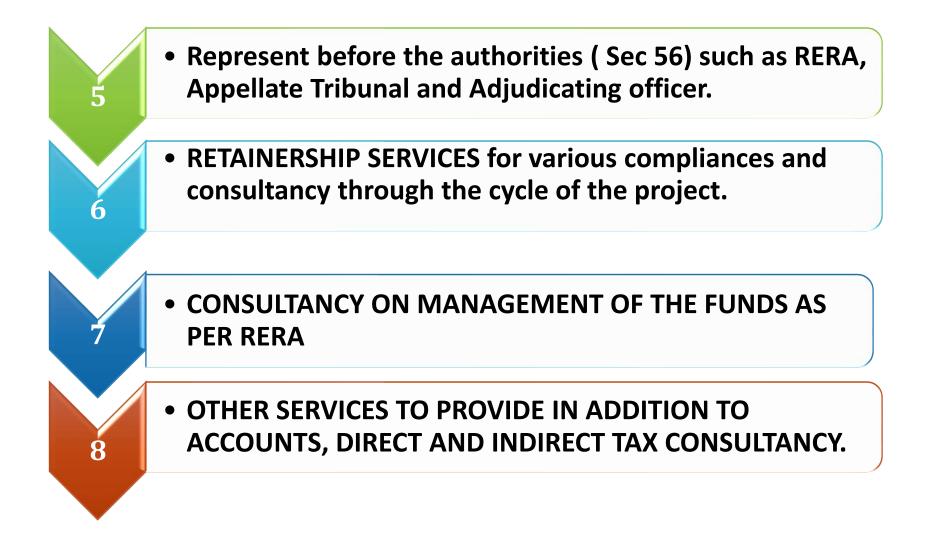


https://mohua.gov.in/cms/implementation-status.php

#### **PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAs :**



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Section	Offence	Penalty
59(1)	Contravention of S-3 i.e. failure to obtain registration.	Upto 10% of cost of project as per RERA.
59(2)	Contravention of any other provision of (other than S-3) or of rules made there under.	Punishable with a term extended upto 3 yrs. Or with fine which may extend upto further 10% of the cost of project or with both.

Section	Offence	Penalty	
60	Provides false information or contravenes the provisions of sec.4 – Application for registration with RERA	Penalty upto 5% of cost of project.	
61	Contravention of any other provisions of the Act.	Penalty upto 5% of cost of project.	

Section	Offence	Penalty
62	Non Registration by Estate Agents or contraventions of section 9 and 10 regarding registration of estate agents with RERA	Rs.10,000/- during which such default continues which may cummulatively extend upto 5% of cost of plot/flat/ Apt for which sale and purchase has been facilitated as per RERA.
63	Failure to comply with the orders of Authority by the Promoter	Penalty for every day during which the default continues, which may be cummulatively upto 5% of cost of project.

Section	Offence	Penalty
64	Failure to Comply with the Orders of Appellate Tribunal by Promoter	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend upto 3 years or with fine for every day during which such default continues, which cumulatively extend upto 10% of the estimated cost of project.
65	Failure to comply with the orders of Authority by the Real Estate Agent.	Penalty for every day during which the default continues, which may be cummulatively upto 5% of cost of plot/flat as the case may be for which sale /purchase done.

Section	Offence	Penalty
66	Failure to Comply with the Orders of Appellate Tribunal by real estate agent	<ul> <li>Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend upto</li> <li>1 year or with fine for every day</li> <li>during which such default</li> <li>continues, which cumulatively</li> <li>extend upto 10% of the estimated</li> <li>cost of flat/Apt as the case may be</li> <li>done.</li> </ul>
67	Failure to comply with the orders of Authority by the Allottee.	Penalty for every day during which the default continues, which may be cummulatively upto 5% of cost of plot/flat as the case may be for which sale /purchase done.

Section	Offence	Penalty
68	Failure to Comply with the Orders of Appellate Tribunal by the allottee.	Punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend upto 1 year or with fine for every day during which such default continues, which cumulatively extend upto 10% of the estimated cost of flat/Apt as the case may be.
69	Offence committed by Company- Every officer at the relevant time and also the company shall be liable to pay the penalty.	Every Director officer or manager who is liable to discharge the duties shall be considered as committed the offence and shall be accordingly committed.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA on Constitutional Validity of RERA

Nearly 40 petitions in different High Courts challenging the constitutional validity of RERA.

To avoid multiple and conflicting orders :Union Govt filed a Transfer Petition (Civil) Nos. 1448- 1456 of 2017

Held :

(1) The Bombay High Court to hear all the petitions

(2) Decide the petitions within 2 months

BOMBAY HIGH COURT WP 2737 of 2017 on Constitutional Validity of RERA

 Neelkamal Realtors Suburban Pvt. Ltd. Vs.

Union of India and ors.

- Held on : DECEMBER 06, 2017 Challenged :
- (1) RERA violative of the provisions of Articles 14, 19(1)(g), 20 and 300-A of the Constitution of India.
  (2)Most of the sections of RERA

### BOMBAY HIGH COURT WP 2737 of 2017 on Constitutional Validity of RERA

- Held :
- All the provisions of RERA constitutionally valid and directed to register the on going projects and comply with RERA.
- Section 6 regarding extension of the registration as against one year, the RERA to decide on case to case basis.
- Appellate Tribunal U/s 43 to have two judicial members as against earlier one.

SC: Directed Union Govt to prescribe Uniform Agreement and uniform state Rules across India as per RERA.

- Hearing a PIL by Ashwini Upadhyay Hon'ble SC directed that Based upon the responses from state Govts, the Central Government along with the amicus curiae would prepare a model agreement for sale containing –
- <u>Part A: 'Core' clauses</u> in consonance with the mandatory provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016, for the protection of the home buyers. These clauses cannot be altered by any State/UT and must necessarily be a part of every agreement for sale."

**Part B: Additional clauses** based on individual needs and exigencies of each State/UT as permissible within the scheme of the 2016 Act. However, these clauses must not be contrary to or dilute in any manner the clauses in Part 'A'," it said.

**Held:** The bench noted that after considering the response from 11 states on the model agreement for sale, union govt would submitted the same for consideration and for its approval. "The states/UTs shall then incorporate in the agreement for sale.

SC: WP 116 of 2019 in Forum for peoples Collective Efforts & Anr v. The State of West Bengal & Anr – Set Aside West Bengal Housing Industry Regulation Act, 2017 considerting it to be unconstitutional.

- The overlap between provisions of WB-HIRA and RERA was significant, leaving no doubt that State enactment was repugnant to Central enactment under Article 254 of Constitution. SC grounded its conclusion on following factors:
- The provisions of a statute are directly in conflict with a law enacted by Parliament so that compliance with one is impossible along with obedience to the other
- Parliament has intended to occupy the entire field by enacting an exhaustive and complete code
- The provisions of WB-HIRA do not compliment RERA. Instead, WB-HIRA purports to occupy the same field as the Union legislation.

- Newtech Promoters and Developers Pvt Ltd. Vs
- UP State RERA& Others
- Order Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2021
- Challenged by the Promoter on various aspects of RERA working including :
- (1)Retroactive application of RERA,
- (2)Jjurisdiction of Authority or Adjudicating officers for granting refund or interest,
- (3) Proviso to section 43(5)-pre-deposit 100% before admitting appeal of promoters,
- (4) Whether single member of RERA may be delegated powers of RERA to pass orders.
- (5) Execution of orders, etc.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

A three-judge bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (the "**Court**") recently passed a judgment dated 11th November 2021<sup>1</sup> (the "**said Judgement**")

Dealing with various afflicting practices of the promoters and builders, and further clarified the existing inconsistencies within various provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 ("**the Act**").

### 2. BACKGROUND

A complaint was instituted by the homebuyers and allottees before the Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (the "**Authority**") for refund of their investment amount along with interest under Section 31 of the Act as the promoters had failed to hand over the possession of the units to the allottees in accordance with the home buyers' agreements.

Accordingly, an order was passed to refund the principal amount along with interest (MCLR + 1%) as prescribed under the Act.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

However, aggrieved by the aforesaid order, the promoters took an unconventional step and filed an appeal before the High Court of Allahabad under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India instead of filing an appeal under Section 45(5) of the Act and contended that the order of refund was passed by the single member of the Authority without jurisdiction. The promoters also questioned the pre-requisite of deposit of the amount as necessitated under Section 43(5) of the Act. However, the writ petition was dismissed by the High Court of Allahabad and therefore, the present appeal was filed by the promoters before the Court.

- 3. ISSUES i) Whether the Act has a retroactive application? ("**Issue 1**");
- ii) Whether the Authority has power to pass an order directing the builders to refund the amount to the allotees under Sections 12, 14, 18 and 19 of the Act? ("Issue 2");
- iii)Whether the Authority has the power under Section 81to delegate its function of hearing of complaints? ("Iss:3);
- iv)Whether the pre-condition of pre-deposit mentioned under Section 43(5) of the Act in relation to right of appeal is valid? ("**Issue 4**");
- v) Whether the Authority has been vested with the power to issue recovery certificate for retrieval of the principal

### 4. ISSUE 1: RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF THE ACT 4.1 Whether the Act has retroactive or retrospective effect and what will be its legal consequences if tested on the anvil of Constitution of India?

It was observed by the Court that the Act is not retrospective in nature because it affects the existing rights of the persons mentioned in the Act like promoters, allotees etc. The intent of the legislature was to bring all "ongoing projects"<sup>2</sup> which commenced prior to the Act and for which the completion certificate had not been issued, under the ambit of the Act.

5. ISSUE 2: POWERS VESTED WITH THE AUTHORITY **5.1 Whether the Authority has power to pass an order directing the builders to refund the amount to the allotees under Sections 12, 14, 18 and 19 of the Act or does such a power exclusively vest with the adjudicating officer under Section 71 of the Act?** In view of the legislative intent of the Act, the Court held that the power is vested with the Authority to deal with

issues relating to refund of the investment amount or interest on such refund.

## 5. ISSUE 2: POWERS VESTED WITH THE AUTHORITY

However, if any complaint pertains to compensation and interest thereon, the adjudicating officer under the Act will have the power to deal with such cases. If adjudication other than compensation as envisaged under Sections 12, 14, 18 and 19 of the Act is extended to the adjudicating officer, it may expand the ambit and scope of powers and functions of the adjudicating officer under Section 71 of the Act, and that would be in contravention of the Act.

## 6. ISSUE 3: POWER OF AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 81 OF THE ACT

6.1 Whether the Authority under Section 81 of the Act has the power to delegate its function of hearing of complaints under Section 31 of the Act to a single member?

If the power under Section 81 of the Act has been delegated by the Authority, then such action, if being exercised by a single member cannot be said to be outside the provisions of the Act.<sup>3</sup> However, the same power to delegate under Section 81 shall exclude making regulations under Section 85 of the Act.

#### 7. ISSUE 4: VALIDITY OF PRE-DEPOSIT UNDER SECTION 43(5) 7.1 Whether the pre-condition of pre-deposit mentioned under Section 43(5) of the Act for dealing with substantive right of appeal is valid in the eyes of law?

The Court held that the question of discrimination between allottees and promoters does not arise as they fall under distinct and different categories or classes. The deposit of amount equivalent to 30 percent of penalty by the promoter while preferring an appeal shall avoid uncalled litigation at the appellate stage and shall further safeguard the amount to be recovered for the allottee in case the appeal fails at a later stage. The intention of the legislation is that the promoters ought to show their bona fide intentions by depositing the amount so contemplated and avoid frivolous appeals

#### 8. ISSUE 5: POWER OF AUHTORITY TO ISSUE RECOVERY CERTIFICATE

- 8.1 Whether the Authority has been conferred power under Section 40(1) of the Act to issue recovery certificate for retrieval of the principal amount?
- The Court observed that there exist visible inconsistencies in the powers of the Authority regarding refund of the principal amount under Section 18 of the Act and the text of the provision by which such refund can be referred under Section 40(1) of the Act. If Section 40(1) is strictly construed, it would defeat the purpose of the Act. The Court held that there exists ambiguity in Section 40(1) of the Act and the same must be harmonized with the purpose of the Act. It was further clarified that the amount which has been determined and refundable to the allottees is recoverable within the ambit of Section 40(1) of the Act.

- Pioneer Urban Land and Infrastructure Ltd Vs
- Union of India & Others
- Order Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2019
- Challenged Home Buyers as Financial Creditors under IBC, 2016 while RERA in place.
- Held :
- The Amendment to the Code include Home Buyers as financial creditor u/s 5(8)(f) does not infringe Articles 14, 19(1)(g) read with Article 19(6), or 300-A of the Constitution of India.

# • Held :

- The RERA is to be read harmoniously with the Code
- In the event of conflict that the Code will prevail over the RERA.
- Concurrent remedies to Allottees:
   (a) Consumer Protection Act, 1986,
   (b) RERA
  - (c) Triggering of the Code.
- Directed the Chief Secretaries of all the states/ UT to appoint Permanent Authority/Tribunal in 3 months as per RERA.

MAHAREAT Appeal in ComplaintsNo. SCI 0000672 Regn of RERA on plot size or number of apartments or both.

- M/s Geetanjali Aman Constructions Vs
- Hrishikesh Ramesh Paranjpe & others
- Appellants had not registered the project.
- The area of plot is 382 sq.mtrs. and project consists of twenty two flats and nine shops
- Two members held: The exemption is for projects of 500 sq.Meters or 8 units ..Need not register the project with MahaRERA.
- Other member held: 500 sq.Meters is for plots and units are for buildings... so liable for regn.

#### **Bombay High Court:** WP (St) No. 1118 of 2021 on 1-03-2021 Macrotech Developers Ltd Vs State of Maharashtra and Others

- Petitioner is not required to register the phase of the project "Lodha Dioro" upto 40<sup>th</sup> Floor under the provisions of Section 3 of the Act in view of the part occupancy certificate in respect thereof having been obtained/issued by the MMRDA prior to 1.8.2017.(i.e before the date fixed for registration of ongoing projects which was upto 3 months of commencement of the Act, 2016)
- Adjudicating Officer had no jurisdiction to determine the registration of the project or phase thereof under Section 3 (1) of the Act. This was solely within the sphere of powers of the Authority to pass the necessary orders and directions pertaining to aspects of registration of the project or part thereof in terms of Section 3 read with Section 31 of the Act, being one of its functions under Section 34 of the Act.

**BOMBAY HIGH COURT : CIVIL APPLN .683 OF 2018: RERA apply to long leased under construction flats.** 

- Lavasa Corporation Limited Vs.
- Jitendra Jagdish Tulsiani & others

 Held that: Long term lease of '999 years', it would definitely amount to sale and is thus covered under RERA.

## MAHARERA Complaint No: -78620 Applicability of RERA to industrial Units

- Techno Dirive Engineer Pvt Ltd
- Vs
- Renaissance Indus Infra Pvt Ltd
- Coram: Hon'ble Shri. B.D.Kapdanis
- Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019
- MahaRERA regn No. p51700010971
- Held :
- RERA is not applicable to Industrial units as the definition of apartment in RERA does not include industry as against definition flats under MOFA which includes industry.

- **BOMBAY HC : 2<sup>nd</sup> APPEAL 13781 OF 2018**
- Accountability of Professionals upheld
  - M/s Sea Princess Realty ] Vs Allottees
  - Project : Gundecha Trillium
  - Possession Date : 31st December, 2016
  - MahaRERA order: 16.01.2018, Decided : Int for 6 months
  - MahaREAT order : 4th April, 2018, Decided : (1)Conducted joint inspection & (2) allowed interest for 1 year and (3) Action against Architect for issuing wrong certificate of completion.

2<sup>nd</sup> Appeal order : 7th JUNE, 2018 BY HC.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Appeal only on Question of law and not on facts.
  - Relied on SC : Surat Singh-vs- Siri Bhagwan and ors [(2018)
  - Ratio : "As per para 20. of the considering CPC section 100 of CPC, the 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal would be only if the High Court is "satisfied" that the case involves a "substantial question of law".
  - The entire appeal is based on the facts discovered in the First appeal
  - Dismissed the appeal
  - Confirmed: Interest on Delayed possession for 1 year and actions against architect.

#### **BOMBAY HC : WP(L) 908 OF 2018**.

#### **Complaints of Un-registered Projects to be heard**

- Mohd Zain Khan Vs MahaRERA
- Order Date : 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2018.
- MahaRERA was not entertaining complaints of unregistered projects.:
- In HC MahaRERA gave an undertaking to modify the software and register the complaints of unregistered projects in 15 days:
- Held :

MahaRERA to hear complaints against unregistered projects and dispose of the complaints as per the procedure set for registered projects. SC: CIVIL APPEAL NO(s) 9064 & 9065 of 2018 Plans need to be Displayed at site By SC

Ferani Hotels Pvt. Ltd. V / s SIC Mumbai & others

Order Dated : 27th September 2018

Challenge : Appeal raises the issue of disclosure under the R T I, seeking information regarding the plans submitted to public authorities by a Signature Not Verified Digitally signed by developer of a project. The SIC had allowed it.

SC Held : No merit in the appeal and consider it a legal misadventure & imposed cost of Rs.2.5 Lakhs

# SUPREME COURT OF INDIA : CIVIL APPEAL NO(s) 9064 & 9065 of 2018

Ferani Hotels Pvt. Ltd. V / s SICr Mumbai & others

Order Dated : 27th September 2018

Held : To display Sanctioned plan; Layout plan; along with the specifications approved by the Competent Authority at the site apart from any other manner provided by the regulations made by the Authority. This aspect should be given appropriate publicity as a part of enforcement of RERA

MahaRERA Circular 20/2018 Dated 9<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2018

#### SC :CIVIL APPEAL NO(S). 3533-3534 OF 2017 Int & Refund on Delayed Possession beyond 3 years

M/S. FORTUNE INFRASTRUCTURE (NOW KNOWN AS M/S. HICON INFRASTRUCTURE) VERSUS TREVOR D'LIMA & ORS. Held: Upheld the decision of NCDRC that in the absence of date of Possession in the Agreement is not mentioned, 3 years will be reasonable time from the date of booking.

Authorities/ Appellate Tribunals have relied upon this and passed number of decisions.

## MAHAREAT Appeal No. AT-10802

M/s. Unique Shanti Developers
 Vs
 Mrs. Malaika Monis & others:

Date : 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

The promoter had challenged the order refund of principle amount with interest to allottees by Adjudicating officer due to delay in handing over the possession as per agreement for sale.

# MAHAREATAppeal No. AT-10802

- WP: 2737/2016, Neel Kamal Realtor case, the Hon'ble Bombay High Court has laid down that, -
- "Provisions of RERA Act do not rewrite the clause of completion or handing over possession in agreement for sale."
- S.4(2) (I)(C) enables the Promoter to give fresh timeline independent of the time period stipulated in agreement for sale so that he is not visited with penal consequences laid down under RERA.

MAHAREAT APPEAL NO. AT -10679

**RERA** to supersede of one side Agreement

Mr. Sandeep Shivram Jadhav

Vs Rahul Excellence,

Challenged the order of MahaRERA for allowing the deduction of 20% of the agreement value by the promoter as per the registered agreement. Appeal Order Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

#### **MAHAREAT APPEAL NO. AT -10679**

Held : (1) Adjudicating officer committed error in deducting 20% as per deduction clause in an agreement while allowing exit.
(2) Section 18(1)(a) of RERA Act 2016 will prevail over said deduction clause of agreement which took place prior to application of provisions of RERA.

(3) Any term or condition in an agreement which are against the spirit of provisions of RERA cannot be implemented as parties are governed by obligations and duties as per RERA.

#### **SC:CIVIL APPEAL NO 12238 OF 2018**

**Complaints can be filed even after receiving OC** 

Pioneer Urban Land & Infrastructure Ltd. ... Vs

**Govindan Raghavan ...** 

## SC Decided on : 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019

Builder challenged the NCDRC order which had allowed the allottee to exit with interest as the even though OC was received before the complaint was decided as OC was delayed by two years against the agreed possession date.

# SUPREME COURT OF INDIA : CIVIL APPEAL NO 12238 OF 2018

Held : One side contract not binding on Parties.(1) A term of a contract will not be final and binding if it is shown that the flat purchasers had no option but to sign on the dotted line, on a contract framed by the builder.

- (2) when possession of the allotted plot/flat/house is not delivered within the specified time, the allottee is entitled to a refund of the amount paid, with reasonable Interest thereon from the date of payment till the date of refund.
- (3) Confirmed the order of NCDRC for exit with interest though OC was received during trial.

All the efforts are made to cover the important provisions of the law. The material contained herein is not exhaustive, and contains certain generalizations. The latest Provisions and Notifications must be viewed. The presenter is not responsible for any loss incurred on the actions taken based on the material presented.

--CA. Ramesh S. Prabhu



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# CA.Ramesh S. Prabhu, FCA, CISA(USA)

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Let us empower each one of us by sharing knowledge. Let us Innovate, Get involved & Solve issues collectively within four corners of Law.

# Thank you for Getting involved in the discussion!

CA. BHAVNA RADHKESHWAR & CA.RAMESH PRABHU,

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**CHAIRMAN** 

MAHARASHTRA SOCIETIES WELFARE ASSOCIATION, MUMBAI.