



FOXMANDAL

OIL & GAS



Bangalore | Chennai | Dhaka | Hyderabad | Kolkata
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With over 200+ professionals located across seven cities in India FoxMandal (FM) provides seamless legal services to clients. In India our offices are located in Noida, New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad & Surat. In addition, we have two associate offices in London and Dhaka.

The firm was established in 1984 in New Delhi under the name of FoxMandal & Co. The founding partner, Dinabandhu Mandal was also the partner in the firm in Kolkata which his grandfather, G. C. Mandal with J. K. Fox started in partnership to establish one of the first Indo-British law firm.

The firm has been at the forefront of many significant legal developments in India having acted for, advised and represented domestic and international businesses, government and its agencies as well as multilateral institutions. The firm's strength is its team of experienced and trained lawyers who treasure the value of diligence and knowledge as well as creativity and innovation in addressing their client's needs. FM aims to offer to its clients, legal advice that meets the client's needs and expectations.

The immense success of FoxMandal's operations in New Delhi was instrumental in establishing other associate offices in India, UK and Bangladesh including Bangalore, Chennai, Dhaka, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Noida, New Delhi, London, Pune and Surat. FM is a well-reputed full service law firm presenting an appropriate mix of the necessary legal expertise, industry specialization and commercial acumen. This firm of advocates, solicitors and notaries, comprises of over 150 lawyers with 20 partners and 100 para-legal staff. Our offices situated in all the important regions in India ensure that our clients receive cost-effective, value added and fully integrated services.

Over the years, FoxMandal has been ranked as the top firm in India by various international journals. **Mr. Som Mandal is recipient of "Economic Times Excellence in Leadership Award" in August 2022.** In the year 2020, "Legal Comprehensive" recognised **Mr. Som Mandal** amongst one of the best "TOP 100 Lawyers in the world". In the year 2019, FoxMandal was awarded "Times Power Icons" award for exemplary contribution in the field of "Global Legal Service". In

2018, AI (Acquisition International) awarded FoxMandal Global Excellence Award **“National Law firm of the year 2018-India”**. In **2018, ICFM (Inter Continental Finance & Law Magazine)** nominated FoxMandal as **“one of the top 100 leading firms in the world”**. FM was also acknowledged by **ACQ5 Law Awards - 2017** for **“National Law Firm of the Year”** for work done across all areas. FM was also acknowledged by **“Who’s Who Legal (WWL) 2016”** and **Mr. Som Mandal was featured as a “Top legal consultant in Energy and Mining sector in India”**. FM was recognized by **“Legal 500 magazine - 2015 edition”** for work done across all areas. FM was awarded the **“India Law Firm Awards 2014”** for the best **“Corporate Commercial Law Firm”** by **India Business Law Journal (IBLJ)**. FM was featured in **“The lawyers - 2014 Asia Pacific 150”** amongst **“Top 10 Indian law firms”**. FM won **“Acquisition International M&A award 2014”**. FM was awarded the **“Disinvestment law firm of the year – India”** by **“Intercontinental finance magazine (ICFM)”**, in 2014. FM won the **“Acquisition international Dispute Resolution Firm of the Year Award 2013”**. The firm won **“Intercontinental Finance 2012 Global Award”**. FM was awarded the best **“Dispute Resolution Law Firm 2012 - Finance Monthly Law Awards”**. FM won **“The Best National Law Firm, 2008”** award by the **International Legal Alliance Summit & Awards, 2008** at Paris and distinguished during the International Legal Awards Ceremony amongst the leading law firms from 22 countries. We have been awarded the **“Employer of Choice, 2008”**, a response among over 15,000 lawyers region-wide by **ALB (Asian Legal Business)**. FoxMandal has been recognized with **“Client Choice Award, 2007”** in India, from more than 1,300 individual assessments received from corporate counsel worldwide by **ILO (International Law Office)**, the **Official Partner to the International Bar Association**, for FM stands apart for the excellent client care and the quality of service. It has been awarded for the law firms' ability to add real value to their clients' business above and beyond the other players in the market. Amongst others, we have been adjudged as **“The Best Law Firm of the Year”** for India in 2006 by **IFLR (International Financial Law Review)**, a Euromoney publication.



Oil and Gas

The Firm has advised several clients in the field of Oil and Gas.

Our in-house team has ample knowledge and experience in negotiating and drafting Petroleum Agreements. Issues of concern in a Production Sharing Contract like participating interest, liability of the contractor, functioning of the management committee, government participation, financing etc. are well deliberated before finalizing the same. Accordingly, in a Joint Operating Contract core issues such as operator's liability, operating committee, cross charges, project financing etc. are paid adequate attention during negotiating and drafting the contract.

We have advised Premier Oil in their deal with ONGC in previous New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Premier Oil is an operator of the Blocks licensed to ONGC.

We are well acquainted with the legal regime Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 and The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976 {in case of offshore blocks} regulating the exploration and production business in India.

We have also a leading oil & gas arbitration, dispute resolution practice and have handled/currently handling some of the largest oil and gas dispute matters. We are presently acting on behalf of the Union of India through Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on some of the largest oil and gas dispute. Recently, we have advised the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to successfully resolve dispute with Cairns Energy.

Some of the specific transactions and dispute resolutions handled in the Oil & Gas Sector

1. Advised **Premier Oil** in relation to oilfield projects in India.
2. Acted for **Premier Oil** in relation to its exploration activities in India.

3. Advised **Gas Authority of India (GAIL India Limited)** on various issues including its participation in the restructuring of the Dabhol Power Company.
4. Acted on behalf of **Indian Oil Corporation** in its bid to acquire 51% in a government owned **Turkish refinery TUPRAS** in Turkey.
5. Conducted for the **Sahara India Pariwar**, a **multi-jurisdictional legal due diligence** of 21 companies (including companies of the EnSearch Group), in relation to certain investments and participating interests in **oil blocks** located in Australia, Georgia, Nigeria, India and Jordan. Perusal of all documents / agreements between the respective parties including farm out agreements, production sharing agreements, joint operating agreements, assignment agreements, approvals and various documents / correspondences issued by respective Government authorities. Drafting detailed due diligence report on all jurisdictions and advising on foreign exchange laws of India on various aspects of overseas direct investment.
6. Advised **Oil India Limited (OIL)** in relation to various operational issues emanating from a joint operating agreement with Reliance India Limited and Indian Oil Corporation for an **oil exploration project in East Timor**.
7. Assisted **Oil India Limited (OIL)** in its expansion programme and future listing.
8. Appointed as legal consultant for the **Consortium of Petronet**, comprising Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), GAIL, Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for proposed LNG supplies and re-gasification services to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).
9. Acted for **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** in the disinvestment of the stake of Government of West Bengal and other Promoters of **Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd.**

10. Advised **Schlumberger Asia Services Limited** in relation to various regulatory and environmental issues with respect to an integrated pilot project for assessing the feasibility of **exploiting shale gas in Damodar Basin, eastern India.**
11. General Advisory role for **Petronas, Hardy Oil and Gas (UK), Phoenix Group, Mobil, British Petroleum, Shell, TIDCO** etc.
12. Advised **SHV Energy** NV's Indian subsidiary in relation to its LPG ventures in India.
13. Advised **Petronet** LNG in relation to its proposed joint venture with Gas De France.
14. Advised **Invensys** in relation to the largest refinery project in India at Jamnagar.
15. Assisted **Azerbaijan International Operating Company** in connection with structuring of petroleum project.
16. Presently acting on behalf of the **Union of India through Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** on some of the largest oil and gas disputes.
17. Advised the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** to successfully resolve dispute with Cairns Energy.
18. Acted for **Saipem**, a Portugal based subsidiary company of an Italian company with respect to the arbitration proceedings in a dispute against Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation.



Contacts

Partner Name	Email	Mobile
Bangalore Brigadier Ashok Kumar Joshi	<u>ashok.joshi@foxmandal.com</u>	+91-96634 05000
Chennai Yathin Reddy Sanjeev Kumar	<u>yathin.reddy@foxmandal.com</u> <u>sanjeev.kumar@foxmandal.com</u>	+91-98846 56789 +91-98840 44022
Dhaka Alamin Rahman	<u>alamin.rahman@fma.com.bd</u>	+880-17130 61213
Hyderabad Swati Sinha	<u>swati.sinha@foxmandal.com</u>	+91-98109 70477
Kolkata Som Mandal Indranil Munshi	<u>som.mandal@foxmandal.com</u> <u>Indranil.munshi@foxmandal.com</u>	+91-98308 01808 +91-83370 20527
Mumbai Vijay Kumar	<u>vijay.kumar@foxmandal.com</u>	+91-98914 66518
New Delhi Sangeeta Mandal Mamta Tiwari	<u>sangeeta.mandal@foxmandal.com</u> <u>mamta.tiwari@foxmandal.com</u>	+91-95999 45323 +91-98100 79469
London Som Mandal	<u>som.mandal@foxmandal.com</u>	+91-98308 01808 +44-79609 33497
Surat Srinath Iyengar	<u>srinath.iyengar@foxmandal.com</u>	+91-99400 45709