PARTNERSHIP AND ITS REFORMS IN INDIA

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Abstract :
Partnership” is the relation between persons who have agreed to share the profits of a business carried on by all or any of them acting for all. India cannot be pinpointed. However, many believe that investment by high-net-worth individuals and companies in the railroad project implemented by the British government in India was one of India’s first instances of public-private partnerships.

A partnership is a legally binding agreement between two or more people who pool their resources to start a business, decide to manage and run it and agree to split the risks, profits and losses associated with it. Based on the level of liability, participation and roles in a partnership firm, there are various types of partnership arrangements. Learning about the different types of business partners can help you expand your knowledge of business partnerships. In this article, we discuss in depth eight different types of partners in a business arrangement.

Types of partnership:-

There are three relatively common partnership types: general partnership (GP), limited partnership (LP) and limited liability partnership (LLP). A fourth, the limited liability limited partnership (LLLP), is not recognized in all states.
Typically a PPP is a long-term contract between a private party and a government entity, for providing a public asset or service, in which the private party bears significant risk and management responsibility. More on public-private partnerships.

Five Golden Rules of Successful Partnerships

Rule 1: Be clear on why.
Rule 2: Be clear on who.
Rule 3: Be clear on what.
Rule 4: Be clear on when.
Rule 5: Be clear on how.
Rule 6: Purposeful Collaboration.

Let’s dive into each of these key areas in more detail, and begin to unearth what it means to really be a trusted partner to your buyers.

Why the principles of partnership matter:

#1: Trust.
#2: Shared knowledge.
#3: Shared goals.
#4: Innovation.
#5: Communication.
#6: Leverage these principles of partnership with account planning.

Length of Partnership in a Partnership Deed:

Partners continue the business for any length of time-based on their desires. It can continue for as long as the partners desire and is dissolved when a partner gives notice of withdrawal to the firm.

Partnership Deed:
A partnership deed is a legal document created when two or more people join hands to run a business. This document outlines the essential business terms and conditions, including profit/loss sharing, obligations, admission of new partner/s, agreed-upon rules, salaries, exit procedure, etc.

This document is essential, and if for some reason the company ends up in court, it can be served as a legal document. A Partnership deed, also known as the Partnership Agreement, is registered under the Indian Registration Act of 1908, so there is no risk that the partners will lose the Deed of the partnership.

In addition, registration of the partnership deed provides several benefits, including eligibility for a PAN, opening a bank account, and assistance in obtaining a GST registration or FSSAI license in the organization’s name.

Is Partnership Agreement Necessary :-

A partnership agreement format describes the legal options available to the firm’s partners. Here is a list of the significance of a partnership agreement. It specifies the rights, responsibilities, and liabilities of each partner. The terms and conditions of the partnership are specified in the deed, which significantly aids in avoiding misunderstandings among the partners. In a disagreement between the partners, the partnership agreement will be readily accessible for resolution. It describes the function of each partner. The partnership agreement will also include clauses that specify how compensation will be determined.

A partnership deed, also known as a partnership agreement, is a written contract between business partners. The Indian legal system affords entrepreneurs numerous options for launching a business. And due to many advantages, a partnership deed is one of the most popular business structures among entrepreneurs.

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Advantages Does A Partnership Deed Offer:

A formal agreement between two parties is a written and registered contract. Consequently, a partnership deed is superior to an oral agreement.
- In addition, a partnership agreement specifies the rules and regulations and the profit-sharing ratio that partners must observe.
- A partnership agreement aids in avoiding confusion among the firm’s partners by clearly identifying each partner.
- In a disagreement, partners can refer to the partnership agreement to resolve the conflict.

Elimination of Partners:
- The default rule in the Act states that no majority of partners may expel any party, making it impossible to remove a partner. In contrast, a partnership agreement can provide for the expulsion of a partner if the clauses specify the required notice period and the grounds and motives for the removal.

Sharing Gains:
- Under the Act, all partners are presumed to share the profits equally. However, this would not be fair to the partner who has contributed more time and money to the business. The document will equitably divide the profits.

Avoid Legal Action:
- Legal proceedings are known to be time-consuming. If a legal dispute arises for whatever reason, partners can avoid it by including mediation and arbitration as alternative dispute resolution methods in the deed.

Restricting Liability:
- According to the Act, all partners share the business’s liabilities equally. A partnership agreement would enable the partners to outline each partner’s liability.

Undesirable Dissolution:
- Essentially, dissolution refers to the act of formally ending something. A partnership agreement allows the partners to control the effects of the events outlined in the Indian partnership firm registration act of 1932 and make their own decisions regarding the continuation of the partnership.

Primary Considerations When Drafting a Partnership Deed:

The total number of associates:

- The minimum requirement for drafting a partnership deed form is two partners.
- Ten or fewer partners are required to create a partnership agreement form for banking businesses.
- There must be twenty or fewer partners to draft a partnership deed form for non-banking businesses.

Capital Requirement:

- No minimum or maximum amount of capital can be invested in a partnership. However, the stamp duty will depend on the partners’ capital contributions.
- Two factors can be used to classify partnerships: duration and liability. There are two types of alliances based on course: “partnership at will” and “particular partnership.” In this type of partnership, all partners’ liability is unlimited. In these types of blocks, each partner has an equal right to participate in the partnership’s management.
These types are described in the sections that follow:

Partnership at will: These types of partnerships have neither a fixed duration nor a specific objective. This type of partnership exists at the partners' discretion. If a partnership deed lacks an expiration clause, the association is referred to as a “partnership at will.” At the time of its formation, neither the company's duration nor purpose is specified. Partners continue the business for any length of time-based on their desires. It can continue for as long as the partners desire and is dissolved when a partner gives notice of withdrawal to the firm.

It will continue until the partners develop mutual trust. This type of partnership is formed to conduct legal business indefinitely. There is no agreement regarding the duration of a partnership's existence. Any partner may dissolve the partnership by notifying the other partners of his intention to leave. There is no provision regarding the formation of a partnership.

Particular partnership:-

When a partnership is formed for a specific project or period, it is referred to as a particular partnership. A partnership is a partnership formed for the completion of a specific project, such as the construction of a building or an activity to be conducted over a specified period. A partnership formed for completing a specific task, such as building construction, is known as a particular partnership. It is a partnership formed for a limited time or to accomplish a particular goal.

The partnership terminates upon the completion of the specified work or the specified time frame expires. It dissolves automatically when the purpose for which it was created has been accomplished or when the duration of its existence has expired. It can continue for as long as the partners desire and is terminated when any partner notifies the firm of their withdrawal from the partnership. Nevertheless, the partners can reach an agreement to continue the collaboration.

8 Different Types Of Partners In Business :-

- Active Partner
- Sleeping or Dormant Partner
- Secret Partner
- Nominal Partner

Below are the various general types of partners who can form a partnership firm in this country, as of 2022, as per the Indian Partnership Act of 1932. Since the Partnership Act does not restrict the type of partnership that partners desire to define for themselves, the list below is not exhaustive. Here is how you can broadly categorise them:

1. Active or managing partner

An active partner participates in a company's management. Referred to as material participants, active partners invest in the partnership and participate in its day-to-day activities to maximise their returns. They typically hold some of the most important positions and can serve in various roles, including those of a manager, advisor, organiser and controller of the company's operations. The active partner may withdraw compensation from the business, subject to the partnership deed's terms and conditions. Additionally, they are completely liable for any debts.
2. Inactive or sleeping partner

An inactive partner is not involved in the day-to-day operations of the partnership firm. But other partners might consult with them when making important decisions for the company. Similar to other partners, a sleeping partner contributes a fair portion of capital to the business and shares its gains and losses. Outsiders may not be aware of this partner's relationship, but they invest in the company and are responsible for paying off any debts on the company's behalf. They have limited financial obligations and liability to the business.

3. Nominal partner

A nominal partner has no substantial stake in a partnership firm. They do not participate in the operation of the company and merely lend their name to it. They make no capital investments in the company and hence do not share in its profits. But the nominal partner is still responsible for the actions of any other partners when dealing with third parties and outsiders. They are also responsible for paying the firm's debts back to its creditors.

4. Partner by estoppel or holding out

A partner who indicates through their words, deeds or conduct that they are a partner in the firm is a partner by estoppel. Even if they are not actually a partner in the company, they may have presented themselves in a way that legally binds them to become a partner by estoppel. Also, if a company names a person as a partner and the person knows this but does not object to or reject the partnership, people can assume their consent, and thus they legally become a partner by estoppel for that firm. Later, they cannot deny being a partner.

5. Partner in profits only

A partner who enters the partnership firm as a 'partner in profits only' partakes in profits but is not responsible for any losses. Even when engaging with third parties, they are only accountable for their profit-making activities and do not share any other liabilities. They do not participate in firm management and are not accountable for the company's business decisions. These types of partners often join a company for its money and goodwill.

6. Minor as a partner

A minor, or someone under the age of 18, cannot be a formal partner in any partnership firm as per the Contract Act. But, if other business partners agree, they may still be eligible for a partnership. A minor may partake in a company's profits, but they are only liable for their capital contribution if the company suffers a loss. After reaching maturity or turning 18, a minor partner has six months to determine whether they want to stay on as a partner or leave the firm. They declare this by a public notice in both situations.

7. Secret partner

A secret partner is a partner whose affiliation with the company is unknown to the broader public. The secret partner occupies the space between the active and sleeping partners. They invest capital, enjoy profits, share losses, take part in business management and are subject to unlimited liability. But they keep their membership a secret from outsiders and other parties. A silent partner is similar to a secret partner but does not have the right to take part in business management.
8. Sub-partner

A third party who shares a stake in a company with an existing partner is a sub-partner. This occurs when a partner consents to divide the company's profits with another party. The relationship is between them and the partner and not between the sub-partner and the partnership firm. A sub-partner is not an entity of the firm and has no obligations to the firm as a result.

Typically, a sub-partner accepts a profit-sharing arrangement as a third party. Such a partner is not permitted to identify themselves as a partner in the company. Additionally, they are not accountable for the actions of the original firm's partners and have no rights reserved in the original firm. They can only make a profit claim against the partner who engaged them as a sub-partner based on the agreed-upon terms.

Conclusion

Running a business as a partnership is complex and requires a great deal of planning and risk; factors such as disagreements, money, or any other internal conflict can result in a breakup. Before embarking on a new journey and investing all of your savings and efforts into starting a new joint venture, it is prudent to sign a partnership deed, a legal document that can help protect the interests of each partner.

PPP and example:

The other approach uses the purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rate—the rate at which the currency of one country would have to be converted into that of another country to buy the same amount of goods and services in each country. To understand PPP, let's take a commonly used example, the price of a hamburger.

Types of PPP in India:

The Government of India defined the public-private partnership (PPP or 3P) as a commercial legal relationship in 2011. The User-fee based BOT model, Performance-based management/maintenance contracts, and Modified design-build (turnkey) contracts are three examples of PPPs that are recognised by the Indian government.

India's current PPP :: $13.12 trillion