

Newsletter

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Welcome to the May issue of the newsletter.

This edition brings to our readers a featured article entitled “The New Land Bill – Ground Reality”.

The Government introduced the Right to Fair Compensation And Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in the Parliament in February 2015. The Bill has been under a lot of protests for being anti - farmer. Is the Bill, ‘kisan mitra’ (farmer friendly) as publicized by the Government or anti farmer as proclaimed by the Opposition?

We continue to highlight certain key judgements passed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India as well as changes in corporate and commercial matters, case laws in indirect taxation, updates in Projects, Energy and Natural Resources and IP sector.

Your inputs and feedback are always welcome and we look forward to our interactions with you.



The new land bill – ground reality

The Right to Fair Compensation And Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (“2015 Bill”) popularly known as the New Land Bill was introduced in the Lower House of the Parliament on 24th February, 2015 amidst a lot of opposition and protests. The 2015 Bill seeks to simplify the complex and stringent land acquisition process as introduced under The Right To Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (“2013 Act”).

What does the 2015 Bill propose

The 2015 Bill proposes several amendments to the 2013 Act, however, the most talked about, opposed and the topic under discussion here, is the exemption granted to the selected 5 categories of projects from the mandatory consent required to be obtained from the families affected by the process of land acquisition and from conducting a Social Impact Assessment study of the areas likely to be affected due to the land acquisition.

The exemption proposed by the Government in the 2015 Bill is being vehemently opposed by social activists and the opposition party. According to them, the exemption granted by the Government is anti farmer and pro industrialists.

The 2015 Bill proposes that the appropriate Government may, in public interest, by notification, exempt any of the projects mentioned below from certain provisions of the 2013 Act viz., (i) obtaining consent from families affected by the process of land acquisition; (ii) conducting the Social Impact Assessment study in areas likely to be affected by land acquisition; and (iii) restriction in acquiring irrigated multicrop land.

The projects which are proposed to be exempted are:

- national security or defence of India and every part thereof, including preparation for defence or defence production
- rural infrastructure including electrification
- affordable housing and housing for the poor people
- industrial corridors
- infrastructure and social infrastructure projects including projects under public-private partnership where the ownership of land continues to vest with the Government

Provisions under the 2013 Act

The Social Impact Assessment process under the 2013 Act is a lengthy and complicated process. The Social Impact Assessment study, inter alia, is required to focus on the following aspects:

- Areas that would be most adversely affected by the project
- Whether the quantum of land that is sought for the project is more than what is necessary
- The feasibility and other alternative sites for executing the project
- Whether the acquiring body is able to prove that the land that they wish to acquire is a demonstrable last resort
- A detailed analysis of the type, structure and location of the land. In case of an agricultural land, the irrigation coverage and cropping pattern must be analysed
- The ownership pattern, holding size and details of land owners, with special reference to change in ownership in the preceding three years

The Social Impact Assessment study is required to be completed within a period of 6 months from its commencement.

The 2013 Act requires prior-consent from 70% of the people affected in case public-private partnership projects and 80% of the people affected in the case of private companies are acquiring land for its project. This consent also includes consent to the amount of compensation that shall be paid.

Impact

It is pertinent to note that the 5 exempted categories of projects under the 2015 Bill are essentially infrastructure projects and projects of national security.

Obtaining the consent from the families affected by the process of land acquisition for key projects of infrastructure and defence is a convoluted process. Obtaining such a high percentage of consent is a time consuming and tedious process and will hamper India's growth.

The negative of retaining the consent clause is that certain sections of the society with motivated interest can easily influence the affected families in not giving their consent



and delay the process of obtaining consent. Most of the projects proposed to be exempted from the consent clause will benefit rural India. These projects will provide better infrastructure in the country. People in India require a better standard of living, which includes improved infrastructure, housing and other utilities. Considering the fact that India is poised for a strong position globally with respect to growth and development, in the event, the 2015 Bill is brought into effect, global as well as the domestic players will be attracted to invest in the Indian infrastructure industry which will in turn promote development especially in rural India.

The 2015 Bill only amends and simplifies the procedure to acquire land for certain categories of project, the rate at which the compensation is paid to the affected families remains the same as provided for in the 2013 Act i.e., 4 times the market value of the land proposed to be acquired if the land is situated in the rural area and 2 times the market price if the land is situated in the urban area.

Other changes

Other changes proposed in the 2015 Bill are as follows:

the exclusion of acquisition of land for private hospitals and private educational institutions from the purview of 2013 Act has been proposed to be removed

13 laws under which land is acquired and which were not under the purview of the 2013 Act are proposed to be brought in consonance of with the land acquisition process under the 2013 Act

- Under the 2013 Act, the land acquired but not utilized had to be returned within a period of 5 years. The 2015 Bill proposes the period within which the unutilised land has

to be returned will be (i) 5 years or (ii) any period specified at the time of setting up the project, whichever is later

- Time period for retrospective application of the 2013 Act is proposed to be amended by the 2015 Bill.
- The 2015 Bill proposes that any 'private entity' can acquire land through the Government. Under the 2013 Act only 'private companies' could acquire land through the Government. Hence under the proposed amendment, apart from a company, a proprietorship, partnership firm, corporation, non-profit organisation, or other entity under any other law can acquire land
- The 2015 Bill proposes that any official cannot be prosecuted for offences under the 2013 Act without the prior consent/sanction of the Government

Conclusion

The overall effect of the 2015 Bill is development and growth oriented. It maintains a balance between development on one hand which is the need of the day for modern India and compensating the affected families in a just and appropriate manner on the other hand.

For any clarification or further information, please contact



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Legal alert

Recent Judgements

Ashapura Mine-Chem Ltd. vs. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation 2015 (5) SCALE 379

An Arbitration Agreement is a standalone agreement independent of the underlying contract

In its recent judgment, the Supreme Court has once again examined the principle of an arbitration agreement being a separate standalone agreement independent of the underlying agreement. The Supreme Court examined the validity of an arbitration clause contained in a Memorandum of Understanding which was terminated prior to the entering into of a formal agreement between the parties.

The Appellant filed an application under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 before the Gujarat High Court seeking the appointment of a sole arbitrator to adjudicate the disputes that had arisen between the parties. The Single Judge of the Gujarat High Court rejected the application on the ground that the parties had no consensus *ad idem* even with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding itself and as such, Clause 27 of the same could not be applied. Subsequently, the Appellant approached the Supreme Court.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the parties proposed to set up a joint venture along with a Chinese company for establishing an alumina plant in the Kutch district of Gujarat. Clause 27 of the Memorandum of Understanding contained the arbitration agreement between the parties, whereby any unresolved dispute (if not solved amicably through mutual consultation) would be referred to arbitration under a sole arbitrator. The arbitration was to be governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

Prior to the entering into of a formal agreement, the Respondent informed the Appellant that it was cancelling

the Memorandum of Understanding due to the failure of the Appellant to comply with certain terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Appellant attempted to amicably resolve the dispute but found the Respondent rebuffing its attempts. Consequently, the Appellant invoked Clause 27 of the Memorandum of Understanding but the Respondent resisted any attempt to appoint an arbitrator.

The Supreme Court examined the various judicial precedents¹ on the question of whether an arbitration agreement is independent of the underlying contract itself. The Supreme Court has, in numerous precedents, upheld the proposition that an arbitration agreement functions as a standalone agreement, independent of the underlying contract.

The Supreme Court once again upheld the said proposition and declared that the arbitration agreement under Clause 27 of the Memorandum of Understanding would function as a standalone agreement independent of the Memorandum of Understanding itself. As a result, any dispute that arose over the terms of the agreement would have to be referred to arbitration.

The Supreme Court set aside the decision of the Gujarat High Court on the basis that the Single Judge had failed to appreciate the legal position as regards the existence of the arbitration agreement in the Memorandum of Understanding irrespective of the failure of the parties to reach a full-fledged agreement with respect to the various terms and conditions contained in the Memorandum of Understanding for a joint venture. It accordingly appointed an arbitrator under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to adjudicate the disputes that have arisen between the parties.

¹ *Reva Electric Car Co. Private Ltd. vs. Green Mobil* 2012 (2) SCC 93; *Today Homes and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. vs. Ludhiana Improvement Trust and Anr.* 2014 (5) SCC 68; *Enercon (India) Ltd. and Ors. Vs. Enercon GMBH and Anr* 2014 (5) SCC 1



Rajya Sabha passes the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2014

First hurdle in the enhancement of the pecuniary jurisdiction of the lower courts of Delhi cleared

amended sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Delhi High Court Act, 1966 by substituting the words “rupees twenty lakhs” with the words “rupees two crore”. The Delhi High Court Act, 1966 had been last amended in 2003, when the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Delhi High Court was raised from Rs. 5 lakhs (GBP 5,000/USD 7,800) to Rs. 20 lakhs (GBP 20,155/USD 31,276).

The pecuniary jurisdiction of the District Courts of Delhi in cases falling under its ordinary original jurisdiction will be enhanced to Rs. 2 crore (GBP 201,555/USD 312,768). At present, all cases having a value exceeding Rs. 20 lakhs fell within the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Delhi High Court.

The Bill also similarly amends the Punjab Courts Act, 1918, as in force in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of district courts governed by the Punjab Courts Act, 1918 to Rs. 2 crore.

The matters that are currently pending before the Delhi High Court which would subsequently fall within the pecuniary jurisdiction of the district courts could be transferred to the appropriate district court by the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court in view of a specific provision of the Bill which reads as follows:

“The Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi may transfer any suit or other proceedings which is or are pending the High Court immediately before the commencement of

this Act to such subordinate court in the National Capital Territory of Delhi as would have jurisdiction to entertain such suit or proceedings had such suit or proceedings been instituted or filed for the first time after such commencement.”

However, it is important to note that the Bill has to be passed by the Lok Sabha and receive the President’s assent before it can take the effect of a law. The lawyers of all six district courts of New Delhi conducted a strike for a period of two weeks, bringing the district courts of Delhi to a grinding halt for the duration of the strike, in an effort to expedite the process of the passing of the Bill by the Rajya Sabha.

Once the Bill becomes a law, it would be immensely beneficial for litigants across the National Capital Territory, clearing the way for the expeditious disposal of matters and reducing the pendency of cases in the judicial system of Delhi. With the enhancement of the pecuniary jurisdiction of the lower courts, the workload on the Delhi High Court would be lightened, reducing the pendency of cases before it. The proposed creation of three new district courts (in addition to the existing six district courts) within New Delhi would further reduce the pendency of cases in the judicial system, making Delhi an attractive destination for litigation in both the lower court and the High Court jurisdictions.

The Bill is expected to be tabled before the Lok Sabha in the second week of May.

We will bring you further updates in this legislation as the Bill is tabled before the Lok Sabha.



Indirect taxation

The Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, announced the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 ('FTP') on April 1, 2015. The FTP policy came into effect from the same date. The Government has announced the new FTP in the milieu of several measures viz. Digital India concept, increase in export of goods and services and generation of more employment opportunities etc, with a clear intention to increase the country's engagement in the global trade in the upcoming years. Moreover, the red eye area of the new FTP is in support of the "Make in India" vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Further, significant highlights of the new FTP are briefly summarised as under:

Promotion of 'Make in India' vision

- Reduction of export obligations to 75% in case the capital goods under the EPCG scheme are procured from the indigeneous manufacturers
- Higher rewards under MEIS for export items with high domestic content and value addition

Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) and Service Export from India Scheme (SEIS)

- As per the FTP, all the erstwhile schemes viz. FPS, MLFPS, FMS, Agri Infrastructure Incentive Scrip and VKGUY have been merged into a single scheme i.e. MEIS. Similarly, the erstwhile Serve from India Scheme has been replaced by the Service Exports from India Scheme
- Under the FTP, duty credit scrips issued under the new schemes can be fully utilised for the payment of Customs duty, Excise duty and Service Tax
- Benefits under MEIS and SEIS have now also been extended to units situated in SEZs

Recognition of 'Status Holders'

Persons possessing excellence in international trade and who have contributed in the country's foreign trade have been awarded the recognition as 'Status Holders'. Such persons would be awarded with certain other privileges.

Trade facilitation

The requirement to file annexures with forms ANF 3B, ANF 3C and ANF 3D has been done away with. Further, an

online procedure has been developed to upload digitally signed documents by Chartered Accountant/ Company Secretary/ Cost Accountant

Other procedures simplified

- EPCG authorisation holders to maintain records only for 2 years rather than 3 years
- Applications for refund can be uploaded online, documents in Exporter/ Importer profile can also be uploaded now
- Online correspondence with CBDT and MCA etc

Miscellaneous initiatives

- EOUs can now set up warehouses near the port of export
- Export obligation period for export items related to defence, military stores, aerospace and nuclear energy would be 24 months from the date of issue of authorization/ co – terminus with contracted duration of the export order, whichever is less
- Export House, Star Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House, Premier Trading House certificates would now be renamed as One, Two, Three, Four, Five star export house
- Fast track procedures would be provided for de-bonding/ exit of STP/ EHTP units
- EOUs with physical export turnover of Rs. 10 crore and above have been allowed the facility for fast track clearances of import and domestic procurement



Case Laws

Service taxes

Refund claim application to be filed as per the location of taxable event

The Chennai CESTAT held that place of realisation of foreign exchange proceeds makes no difference since the proceeds have been ultimately received in India only and the same establishes export from India. It was also held that what is more important to decide the taxability of an activity is the place where taxable event occurred. As per the location of taxable event, the refund claim application has rightly been filed.

[Commissioner of Central Excise, Coimbatore vs. M/s Cbay Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd. (2015 (5)TMI 142 – CESTAT CHENNAI – ST)]

Central Excise

Cenvat credit on inputs not to be reversed if the goods are lost in fire

The Delhi Tribunal held that the issue is related to availment of Cenvat credit of excise duty paid on the inputs utilised for manufacturing of unfinished/ semi - finished

goods, lost in fire. Thus, the Cenvat credit of excise duty paid on such inputs has rightly been taken and hence, is not required to be reversed proportionately under the law.

[M/s Steelbird HI Tech India Ltd. Vs. CCE, Delhi – II (2015 (4)TMI 602 – CESTAT NEW DELHI – Central Excise)]

Value Added Tax (VAT)

Rajasthan VAT

Imparting of education is not in the nature of a business Activity

Imparting of education cannot be considered to fall in the nature of business activity/ a trade/ commerce/ manufacture. If the assessee is not carrying on any business/ trade/ commerce/ manufacture and the predominant activity is only to impart education, the assessee cannot be said to be a dealer. Hence, the assessee is not required to get registered under the provisions of the Rajasthan Value Added Tax Act.

[Commercial Taxes Officer Vs. M/s Banasthali Vidyapith (2015-VIL-171-RAJ)]



Corporate and commercial

MCA clarification on remuneration of managerial person

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) through its General Circular No. 07/2015 dated April 10, 2015 has clarified that a managerial person who was appointed and paid remuneration, without approval of Central Government, in excess of limits specified in para II Para (C) of Schedule XIII of the Companies Act, 1956 as such managerial person met the conditions specified therein, such managerial person can continue to receive remuneration for the remainder of his term in accordance with relevant provisions of the earlier Companies Act even if part of his / her tenure falls after April 1, 2014.

Clarification on Section 186(7) of the Companies Act, 2013

The MCA through its General Circular No. 06/2015 dated April 9, 2015 has clarified that where the effective yield on tax free bonds is greater than the prevailing yield of one year, three year, five year or ten year Government Security closest to the tenor of the loan, there is no violation of Section 186(7) of the Companies Act, 2013.



Projects, energy and natural resources

Infrastructure

RBI permits banks to invest in long-term infrastructure bonds of other banks

In order to boost infrastructure investment, the Reserve Bank of India has allowed banks to invest in long-term infrastructure bonds issued by other banks. Although any single bank's holding of bonds in a particular issue will be subject to certain limits in relation to the bond issue size.

In July 2014, RBI had allowed banks to issue long-term bonds (LTBs) for lending to long-term projects in infrastructure sub-sectors, and affordable housing. However, cross-holding of such bonds amongst banks was not permitted.

Smart cities mission and urban rejuvenation scheme (AMRUT) approved with an outlay of Rs. 100000 Crore

The Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister, in a bid to reform the urban landscape of the country to make them more efficient, smart and sustainable besides fostering economic growth, has cleared 100 Smart Cities Project and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for 500 cities. While the Smart Cities Mission will receive an outlay of Rs 48,000 crore, the AMRUT mission will get Rs 50,000 crore over the next five years. While the government will put in Rs 1 lakh crore under the two missions, states and urban local bodies would organize matching resources for development of urban areas over the next five years, taking the total flow of investment close to Rs 2 lakh crore. In addition, significant private investments would be mobilized by states and urban local bodies through PPP model as required to meet project costs.

Indian railways to e-auction re-development of stations through public-private partnership (PPP)

The Indian Railways is working on a policy for e-auctioning contracts for about 100 railway stations to overcome the hurdles faced by private sector partners while executing PPP projects. The private concessionaires involved in converting the railway stations into world-class transit facilities could be given a specified area within the station premises for commercial exploitation. The blue-print of the policy is being readied.

New hybrid annuity model of PPP introduced for the road sector to revive the private investment

The government is targeting the award of half the 8,500 km of road development projects up for awards this financial year under the new 'hybrid annuity' model, under which the government will pay 40 per cent of the project cost to the concessionaire during the construction phase in five equal instalments of 8% each. This assured return is likely to ease the concessionaire's reliance on the toll. The government would also take up the responsibility of revenue collection. The government will provide 90 per cent of land and the related environment along with forest clearance. The balance 60% cost would be funded by the concessionaire. Operation and maintenance of the toll road will also rest with the concessionaire.

Energy

Shell set for global acquisition of BG for US\$ 70 Billion

In the industry's biggest deal in at least a decade, Royal Dutch Shell Plc has agreed to buy BG Group Plc for about \$70 billion, making Europe's largest oil company a leading player in global natural gas and adding fields in Brazil.

With this acquisition Royal Dutch Shell Plc is all set to become the top international firm in India's thriving gas import and marketing business.

BG's core strengths lie in the logistics of liquified natural gas or LNG, therefore, Shell, which has a 2.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) LNG terminal at Hazira in Gujarat, could tap into BG's vast global network to source and sell LNG in India.

IFC signs master co-operation agreement with Indian renewable agency to finance renewable energy projects

International Finance Corp and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) have signed the former's master cooperation agreement to provide infrastructure financing for renewable energy projects in India. The partnership with IFC will help IREDA increase its portfolio in financing renewable energy projects to support the Government of India's plans to establish up to 175 gigawatts of renewable energy projects over the next seven years.



IP update

Madras High Court revises its order on unconstitutionality of provisions relating to IPAB

The division bench of Madras High Court comprising of the Hon'ble Chief Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice M M Sundresh has vide an Order dated 10.03.2015 declared certain provisions of the Trade Marks Act, 1999 pertaining to qualifications and selection procedure of members of IPAB as unconstitutional [reported in IP Updates, Clasis Law Newsletter, April 2015 Issue]. The Hon'ble Court in this Order had emphasized on the requirement of legal knowledge of a technical member addressing disputes or matters under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

However, the petitioner, vide a letter dated 12.03.2015 apprised the Hon'ble Court that the said Order did not deal with the qualifications of a technical member and appointment of a technical member to the post of Vice Chairman of IPAB under the Patents Act, 1970.

In view of the same, the Hon'ble Court heard Counsels for both parties and passed a Revised Order (available at pages 42-51 of the Revised Order) wherein it held that Section 116(2) of the Patents Act, 1970 is constitutional. In arriving at this conclusion, the Hon'ble Court differentiated between the qualifications of a technical member under the Trade Marks Act, 1999 and that of a technical member under the Patents Act, 1970.

Section 116(2) of the Patents Act, 1970 provides the qualifications of a technical member as one who:

- *Has held the post of Controller under the Act or exercised the functions of the Controller under this Act for at least five years*
- *Has been a Registered Patent Agent for at least five years and possesses a degree in engineering or technology or a Masters degree in science*

The Hon'ble Court held that the object and rationale behind prescribing the above as the qualification of a technical member under the Patents Act, 1970 is to primarily throw more light on the technical matters unlike a technical member under the Trade Marks Act, 1999 who often exercises judicial functions and participates in decision making process in trade marks matters.

Therefore, the Hon'ble Court held that the above mentioned qualifications of a technical member under the Patents Act, 1970 were constitutional and there was no necessity in reading the requirement of legal knowledge in the same.

However, the Hon'ble Court strongly expressed its abhorrence towards the existing practice of technical members appointed under the Patents Act, 1970 functioning in the said capacity in the IPAB in deciding trade marks matters. It held that it would be totally inappropriate and a travesty of justice to interchange the roles of a technical member under the Patents Act, 1970 and a technical member under the Trade Marks Act, 1999 as the same is not unauthorized under the law.

Breach of confidentiality covers the gap in protection to 'ideas' in copyright law

The Bombay High Court in a recent order deciding the ad-interim injunction in *Beyond Dreams Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. v. Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. & Anr* [Notice of Motion No.785 of 2015 in Suit (L) No. 251 of 2015] has analyzed the interface of the law governing confidentiality and the copyright law qua protection of ideas and expressions.

The Hon'ble Court has recognized the difference between the 'law of confidence' and the 'law of copyright' and that the protection under the former is infact much broader than the proprietary rights under the copyright law. The Hon'ble Court further held that the law of confidence could be validly relied upon to restrain the publication of a work when the work is a resultant product of breach of confidence.

It is a well-recognized principle that copyright does not exist in an idea or information per se. However, when the idea or information has been sufficiently formed and has been acquired under the circumstances of confidence, publishing the work without consent of the creator would amount to breach of confidence and is likely to attract an injunction from the Court with a view to protect such idea or information.



On the question of infringement of copyright, the Hon'ble Court also took note of the interesting yet intriguing issue of determining copyright infringement in an unfinished or incomplete work. The Hon'ble Court held that the general approach of comparing the form and manner of expression and the various dramatic features in two completed works cannot be applied in case where the works or one of the works in question is an incomplete work. In such a case, the Hon'ble Court has held that the much popular 'spring board doctrine' may be relied upon. This doctrine provides that a work is said to be copied by another when the latter uses the former's idea as a spring board and devises some additional material to produce its own work.

Khoday Distilleries' registered trade mark 'ROYAL PIPERS' removed from the Trade Marks Register in India.

In a trade mark battle between Khoday Distilleries and Chivas Holdings Ltd, the IPAB (Chennai) has ordered the removal of Khoday's registered trade mark 'ROYAL PIPERS'. The mark is reported to have been removed from the Register on account of the deceptive similarity with Chivas's trade mark '100 PIPERS'. While Khoday's trade mark has been on the register for almost 13 years now, Chivas's trade mark has been reportedly in use since the year 1949. A more detailed report on the grounds of removal shall follow once we lay our hands on the Section 186(7) of the Companies Act, 2013.



Recent events

Inter-Pacific bar association 2015

6th – 9th May 2015, Hong Kong

Mustafa Motiwala, Partner attended the Inter-Pacific Bar Association 25th Annual Meeting and Conference to be held from 6-9 May 2015. The international legal conference brought together IPBA members, corporate lawyers, international business lawyers and colleagues from all over the region.

International Trademark Association (INTA) 137th annual meeting

2nd – 6th May 2015, San Diego, California

Rahul Beruar, Partner attended the 137th Annual Meeting of International Trademark Association (INTA). The 2015 meeting has been by far the largest annual meeting of INTA which saw more than 9,900 trademark professionals as well as brands owners from across the world networking, exchanging and debating ideas in respect of trade marks. The Annual Meet included several table topics discussions by trademarks professionals, academicians, consumers and trademarks owners. Besides the annual meeting, Mr. Beruar also attended the INTA Committee meetings on emerging issues and discussed the issues pertaining to 'trade marks' and 'brands' including plain packaging and parallel imports.

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