



**AZB & PARTNERS**  
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

*Energy, Expertise, Execution – Unmatched*

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PRACTICE


**2022**





# ABOUT US

---



The AZB & Partners' Intellectual Property team is a one-stop shop for all intellectual property ('IP') matters, with deep experience in the pharmaceuticals, FMCG, fashion / beauty and banking / financial services sectors. We are known for our expertise in IP prosecution, portfolio management, enforcement / litigation, transactions and due diligence. By drawing on the firm's experience across practice areas, we are able to provide holistic advice to our clients, tailored to the industries and regulatory environments within which they operate.

We advise our clients on a wide range of IP issues, including trademarks, trade dress, copyright, patents, designs, plant varieties / biodiversity, geographical indications, domain name, advertising (including comparative advertising), intermediary liability, data protection / privacy and misappropriation of trade secrets / confidential information. We also assist clients with issues in relation to meta tagging, deep linking, parallel importation, custom recordal and border protection measures.

We handle trademark and patent portfolios for various domestic and international clients. Our trademark and patent prosecution practice involves conducting clearance searches, rendering patentability and freedom to operate opinions, 'watch' services, prosecution, registration, opposition, cancellation and rectification proceedings at various IP registries in India and at the Intellectual Property Appellate Board. Some members of our team are also registered patent agents, with technical backgrounds, allowing them to assist clients with drafting and prosecuting patents.

Our transactional IP practice includes drafting, negotiating and advising our clients on licensing, co-branding and co-existence, franchising, IP acquisitions, technology transfers and conducting patent / brand audits.

Additionally, we render advice and frame anti-counterfeiting strategies for our clients. We also undertake contentious proceedings before various fora in India and have consistently succeeded in obtaining "Anton Pillar" orders and injunctions with respect to trademarks and copyrights. Further, we protect our clients' trademark rights by initiating domain name anti-cybersquatting proceedings in relation to top-level domain names and have assisted clients in taking down fake websites. We also assist our clients with domain name registrations / transfers.

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS IN INDIA

The protection of intellectual property rights ('IPRs') in India can be broadly classified into statutory and common law protection. Trademarks (including domain names), copyrights, patents, designs, geographical indications of goods and plant varieties may be protected under Indian law.

Additionally, trade secrets, confidential information and industrial know-how may be protected under the principles of equity and common law. Courts have held, however, that to be capable of protection, trade secrets / confidential information should (i) be treated as such; (ii) be of economic value, capable of commercial exploitation; and (iii) give a competitive edge to the proprietor.

The following statutes contain the substantive scheme of statutory protection available for IPRs in

1. *The Trade Marks Act, 1999*
2. *The Copyright Act, 1957*
3. *The Patents Act, 1970*
4. *The Designs Act, 2000*
5. *The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999*
6. *The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001*

The following IPRs are protected under Indian law:



## PATENTS

Patent protection (product and process) is granted to inventions which meet the criteria of (i) novelty; (ii) non-obviousness (i.e., an inventive step); and (iii) utility (i.e., capable of industrial application). However, certain inventions, including those in certain fields such as agricultural methods, business methods and computer programs per se, are specifically excluded.

An application for patent protection in India may be filed either directly, or as a convention application, or under the Patent Co-operation Treaty ('PCT'). The *Patents Act, 1970* ('**Patents Act**') mandates that the applicant file a statement disclosing detailed particulars of same or substantially similar patent applications filed outside India, including any developments in the prosecution of such patent applications. Under the *Patents Act*, a patentee/licensee of a granted patent is required to file a 'working statement' annually, stating whether the invention disclosed in such patent has been 'worked' on a commercial scale in India. Every patent is granted a term of 20 years from the date of filing the patent application (or the international filing date, in the case of PCT applications), subject to the payment of a renewal fee, from time to time. Compulsory licenses for a patent may be issued by the Patent Office at any

time after 3 years from the date on which the patent is granted. A patent application can either be challenged prior to its grant, by way of a pre-grant opposition, or post-grant, by way of a post-grant opposition, before the Patent Office. Appeals from orders of the Patent Office in this regard lie before the Intellectual Property Appellate Board.

To apply for IP protection in India / outside India for any invention based on research / information on biological resources obtained from India, prior approval must first be obtained from the National Biodiversity Authority ('NBA').

A patentee may avail of remedies, including injunctions (temporary / permanent), damages or accounts of profit, search, seizures, forfeitures and destruction of infringing goods.



## TRADEMARKS

Trademark protection (as per the *Trade Marks Act, 1999* or "*Trade Marks Act*") is accorded to any mark, including a word, numeral, letter, device and signature, which are capable of (i) being represented graphically; and (ii) distinguishing the goods / services of one person from that of others. These include combinations of colours, shapes, packaging of goods, collective marks, certification marks and three dimensional marks, as well as distinctive sound and smell marks. Protection is also accorded to well-known marks (including unregistered marks). The *Trade Marks Rules, 2017*, provide that brand owners may file an application with the Registrar of Trademarks to certify their trademark as a 'well-known' mark in India.

Trademark applications can be made under a single class or in multiple classes under one application. Use in India prior to the date of the application is not a prerequisite. The initial term of a trademark is 10 years from the date of filing the application. Thereafter, the registration may be perpetually renewed for further terms of 10 years each. There is no requirement to submit a declaration of the use of the trademark at the time of renewal.

In 2013, India became a member of the *Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks* (the '**Madrid Protocol**'). Under the Madrid Protocol, any natural person / legal entity with an effective industrial / commercial establishment in India is able to protect its trademarks internationally in other member countries by filing a single international trademark application. Similarly, foreign brand owners from member countries are able to procure trademarks protection in India.



Remedies available to trademark owners include injunction, damages or accounts of profit, search and seizure, forfeiture and destruction of infringing goods. The Trade Marks Act, notwithstanding the general provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, also permits a plaintiff to institute a suit in the territorial jurisdiction of the Court where the plaintiff resides or works for gain. Trademark infringement and counterfeiting are also cognizable offences, where a warrant from a Court is not required for search and seizure actions taken by the police.



## COPYRIGHTS

The Copyright Act, 1957, as amended by the Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 ('Copyright Act'), confers protection on creative works that are (i) original; and (ii) in some tangible form. Works entitled to protection include artistic works, musical works, literary works, dramatic works, sound recordings, cinematographic films and computer programs. Further, the Copyright Act also recognizes neighbouring / performers' rights in performances and broadcasts.

The registration of a copyright is not mandatory. However, since copyright registration is *prima facie* evidence of ownership, registration is helpful in enforcement actions. In the case of a literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work, the author is the first owner of the copyright, except in the case of commissioned works or works made for hire.

The Copyright Act recognizes special rights of authors and performers, including the right to claim damages and prevent distortion or modification of the work. Authors' / performers' special rights subsist even after the copyright has been assigned by the author / performer. The author / performer may, however, contractually waive his/her rights.

India is a party to the *Berne Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, WIPO Copyright Treaty and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty*. Therefore, the Copyright Act protects foreign works of convention countries in such a manner, as though they were works first published under the Copyright Act.

Remedies available to a copyright owner include injunction, damages, account of profits and delivery up of infringing works. Similar to the Trade Marks Act, the Copyright Act also permits a plaintiff to institute a suit in the territorial jurisdiction of the Court where the plaintiff resides or works for gain. Further, infringement of copyright is also a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment extending up to 3 years and/or fines up to US\$ 3,000.



## DESIGNS

A 'design' is only the features of shape, configuration, pattern, ornament, or composition of lines or colours applied to any article which, in the finished article, appeal to and are judged solely by the eye. To be eligible for registration, a design must be (i) new and original; and (ii) must not have been publicly disclosed, either by written publication or through use.

Registration of a design is mandatory for obtaining protection in India. An application for design protection in India may be filed either directly, or as a convention application. Convention applications may be filed in India within 6 months of filing the application in the convention country, seeking priority date on the basis of applications in a convention country. The initial term of registration of a design is 10 years, renewable for a further term of 5 years and the date of registration relates back to the date of filing.

The remedies available for infringement of a copyright in a registered design are the same as those available for copyright infringement.



## PLANT VARIETIES

Plant varieties are protected in India under the *Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Act, 2001* ('Plant Varieties Act'), which came into force in 2005. The Plant Varieties Act covers all categories of plants, with the exception of microorganisms. Registrable plant varieties are categorized as new variety, extant variety, farmer's variety and essentially derived variety.

Registration of plant varieties is mandatory for claiming protection. For the purpose of registration, (i) a 'new variety' must be novel, distinctive, uniform and stable; (ii) an 'extant variety' must be distinctive, uniform and stable, but need not be novel; and (iii) a 'farmers' variety' need not conform any requirements, provided there is a valid declaration that the genetic / parental material has been lawfully acquired. Registration remains valid for 9 years in the case of trees and vines and 6 years for other crops. It may be renewed, but the total period of validity cannot exceed (i) 15 years from the date of notification of an extant variety by the Central Government; (ii) 18 years from the date of registration of trees and vines; and (iii) 15 years from the date of registration, for all other cases.

In case of infringement, the available remedies include injunction, damages and/or account of profits.



## GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

Protection and registration is accorded to an indication which identifies goods manufactured or originating from a particular territory, where a certain quality, reputation or other characteristic of a good / activity is essentially attributable to a particular region.

Geographical indications ('GI') cannot be privately held and are typically registered in the name of a trade association representing the interest of producers.

The initial term of registration of a GI is 10 years, which may be perpetually renewed for subsequent terms of 10 years each.

The remedies available for infringement of GIs are similar to those available for trademark infringement.



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Indian jurisprudence, especially in relation to trademarks and copyrights, has evolved considerably over the years in terms of both, protection and enforcement. Significant attempts have been made to increase digitization and transparency at the various IP registries, as well as reduce the prosecution backlog.

Recently, in a writ petition filed on behalf of the Intellectual Property Attorneys Association, the High Court of Delhi held that the Registrar of Trade Marks is duty bound to send a copy of the order passed under Section 18(5) of the Trade Marks Act, to the trade mark applicant, containing the grounds for refusal or conditional acceptance and material used by him at arriving at his decision to the applicant. This is bound to increase transparency and prevent arbitrariness in decision making. This will also help in reducing timelines for filing an appeal against refusal orders. In the patent space, in a significant decision on the question of patentability of computer related inventions, the High Court of Delhi observed that it would be retrograde to hold that inventions based on computer programs cannot be patented at all and held that an invention based on computer programs may be patentable if a technical effect or a technical contribution can be demonstrated. Enforcement of patents in India is in its nascent stages with pharmaceutical and telecommunications related patents being tested with the highest frequency. The Government has recently also approved the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program, which will allow the Indian Patent Office to collaborate with foreign offices leading to expeditious examination and prosecution of applications. The Government has also notified the new Manual of Patent Office Practices and Procedures to enhance transparency in the functioning of the Patent Office.

IPRs are now strictly enforced by Indian courts and tribunals. While there are no special tribunals for adjudicating infringement actions, the Intellectual Property Appellate Board ('IPAB') is responsible

for hearing appeals from orders of the officers and controllers of the various IP registries. The IPAB also acts as the Copyright Board, fixing royalties, rules and disputes relating to copyright societies.

With respect to infringement / passing-off actions, injunctions still remain the most prominent and effective remedy. Most recently, the High Court of Delhi ('DHC'), in a bid to reduce the burden of copyright owners battling *hydra-headed* rogue websites, devised an innovative relief – *the dynamic injunction*. This allowed the aggrieved right holder to simply implead additional mirror websites to the original suit for injunction, by way of an interlocutory application, as opposed to filing a fresh suit.

In yet another significant development, the High Court of Bombay, interpreted Section 31D of the Copyright Act, to hold that the statutory licensing mechanism under the said provision is not available to 'internet broadcasts', as it is not subsumed in 'radio' or 'television' broadcasting, which was the original legislative purpose of the said provision. Further, in an interesting case on 'architectural works', the DHC held that an architect's moral rights over a building do not take precedence over the rights of the building owner to destroy or modify the building.

Further, Courts have begun making detailed assessments on the quantum of damages and granting substantial damages in IP infringement matters. Courts also grant significant punitive damages in cases of blatant infringement / counterfeiting. In cases of egregious and apparent infringement, Courts are increasingly passing summary judgments in favour of rights holders. Additionally, rights holders are also recording their IPRs, especially trademarks, before the relevant customs authorities, in order to prevent counterfeit products from entering the Indian market through imports.

Additionally, the increased accountability being placed on online marketplaces and e-commerce platforms by various Courts, most notably, the DHC marks a key positive trend in the enforcement of IPRs on the internet. In various orders, the DHC has critically evaluated the liability of e-commerce platforms in relation to trademark infringement, by examining their business models, the role played by the intermediary in the overall transaction (i.e., whether it is a mere conduit or an active participant, deciding key parameters of the interaction), considering whether the intermediary is complying with the relevant regulations under the *Information Technology Act 2000* and whether they are taking adequate measures to ensure that no unlawful acts are committed on the platform / website. In the same vein, the Government followed suit with its release of the Draft E-Commerce Policy, recommending that e-commerce platforms (intermediaries) be required to implement anti-counterfeiting and anti-piracy measures on their platforms.

# OUR EXPERIENCE

## PROSECUTION EXPERIENCE

We have robust experience in IP prosecution, portfolio management and registration of IPRs, including trademarks, patents, copyrights and designs, with Indian registries. We have significant expertise in the pharmaceutical, crop science, FMCG, apparel and banking / financial services sectors. Our clients in this space include:

- Skechers USA Inc.
- Dell Inc.
- Philip Morris Brands
- Bayer
- VF Corporation – TBL Licensing LLC, The North Face Apparel Corp, Vans, JanSport Apparel Corp. Eagle Creek, Inc. and Altra LLC
- MasterCard
- Unilever
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Lockheed Martin Corporation
- Glanbia (ON Optimum Nutrition)
- Shopify Inc.
- Suzlon Energy
- Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar / SRT Sports Management
- Williams Grand Prix Engineering
- Owens Corning Intellectual Capital
- Axis Bank
- Nirvana
- CPK Management Company
- FSN E-Commerce Ventures Private Limited
- House of Anita Dongre
- NRB Bearings Limited

## LITIGATION & ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE

We protect our client's IPRs by undertaking contentious proceedings before various Tribunals, High Courts and other Courts in India and have consistently succeeded in obtaining 'Anton Pillar' orders and injunctions. We assist with litigation / enforcement proceedings in areas ranging from trademarks, trade dress, copyright, broadcast reproduction rights, patents, designs, domain names, cyber law and intermediary liability, advertising laws (including comparative advertising), data protection and misappropriation of trade secrets / confidential information. We also formulate anti-counterfeiting strategies and strategies to counter parallel importation. We have advised a vast array of clients with respect to their litigations / enforcement strategies, including:



**Skechers U.S.A.** on (i) developing and implementing a holistic IP protection, anti-counterfeiting and enforcement strategy in India; (ii) interdiction and seizure proceedings before the Customs authority; (iii) its trade dress infringement and passing off actions against identified infringers; and (iv) initiating enforcement proceedings against fake websites.



**Torrent Pharmaceuticals** on successfully enforcing its brand, 'Chymoral Forte,' against Wockhardt. This matter clarified important legal principles in relation to passing-off, especially in pharmaceutical cases, as well as the tests for establishing acquiescence. The court also emphasized the implications of a finding of 'dishonest adoption.'



**ABB India** on the unauthorized disclosure of trade secrets, theft of technical know-how and infringement of ABB's patent, copyright and trademark rights by former employees.



**Star Sports India** in relation to a suit filed by it against GTPL Hathway for infringement of broadcast reproduction rights. We successfully obtained an interim injunction, eventually resulting in the settlement of the dispute.



**The Christian Broadcasting Network** with respect to its passing off suit against CBN News, where we successfully secured an ex parte injunction, restraining CBN News from using the mark 'CBN' News and/or any 'CBN' formative trademarks.



**Dell** in relation to its investigation and successful actions against (i) parties misappropriating its logo and selling counterfeit products; and (ii) misappropriation of the mark DELL in domain names.



**The North Face Apparel Corp** with respect to (i) its suit against an entity organizing sporting events / holiday packages for tourists under the brand, 'North Face Adventure Tours,' where we secured an ex parte judgment in our favour, the first of its kind passed by that court in a trademark infringement and passing-off suit; and (ii) a cancellation petition before the IPAB, where the IPAB pronounced the 'The North Face' mark to be a "well know trademark" under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.



**Wrangler Apparel** on investigations and suits involving counterfeiting of its products under the 'Wrangler / W Stitch Design' mark.



**Max Healthcare Institute** in relation to a suit for trademark infringement, passing-off and rendition of accounts, where the party using its marks 'MaxCure / MaxKure' was restrained from using the impugned marks / any other marks and was ordered to change the name of the hospitals run by it.



**Suzlon** on (i) identifying, filing and prosecuting trademark and patent applications; (ii) the protection



of its brand name; and (iii) its trademark infringement suit against Suzlon Industries.



**Richemont International** with respect to an anti-counterfeiting action for the Montblanc brand.



**Super-Max** on its injunction against Tigaksha Metallics, in connection with products bearing its trademarks.



**OYO Rooms** on licensing IP rights for its operations in certain countries.



**Multi Commodity Exchange of India** on copyright ownership of reference rates.



**Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar**, the world famous cricketer on (i) identifying, protecting and advising on celebrity and personality rights; and (ii) developing / implementing a holistic IP protection, anti-counterfeiting and enforcement strategy against identified infringers.

## TRANSACTIONS & ADVISORY EXPERIENCE

Our well-known IP transactional team assists clients with drafting / negotiating IP documents and advising on licensing, co-branding, co-existence and joint ventures, franchising, IP acquisitions and technology transfers. We are actively engaged in conducting IP due diligence and brand audits. We have advised several clients on their IP transactions, including:



**Reliance Industries** on the IP aspects of its acquisition of a majority stake in (i) Embibe, an AI platform for education, where we assisted with IP due diligence and finalizing the transaction documents with robust IP safeguards; and (ii) Jio Music and Saavn Group's combined music streaming business, involving extensive diligence of the IP assets and music licenses.



**MMI Holdings** on licensing its technology, know-how and wellness expertise to its joint venture with Aditya Birla Group.



**BSE Limited** on IP ownership issues in relation to cobranded indices.



**Samara Capital** on purchasing, along with Amazon, a grocery retail chain promoted by the Aditya Birla Group, where we assisted with IP due diligence and finalizing the license agreement.



**GSK Consumer Healthcare** on its merger with Hindustan Unilever ('HUL'), India's largest pure-play consumer goods company, allowing HUL access to brands such as Horlicks, Boost and Maltova and distribution rights for oral care brands such as Sensodyne, Eno and Crocin.



**WestBridge Capital** on its multi-jurisdictional IP due diligence of Vini Cosmetics, an India focused investment fund. WestBridge Capital's investment was the largest private investment deal in the domestic consumer goods industry.



**Thomas Cook (India) Limited ('TCIL')** on its acquisition of the 'Thomas Cook' brand for India, Sri Lanka and Mauritius for a one-time payment of GBP 1.5 million from Thomas Cook Group Plc, Thomas Cook UK Limited and Thomas Cook Indian IP Limited ('Thomas Cook UK'). The transaction enabled TCIL to retain the 'Thomas Cook' brand in India, Sri Lanka and Mauritius, despite Thomas Cook UK entering into liquidation.





# OUR TEAM



AZB & Partners – Delhi

T: + 91 120 417 9999

@: akhileshkumar.raiazbpartners.com

*Ranked as a leading TM professional under Individuals: Enforcement & Litigation, Prosecution & Strategy, and Transactions table by WTR 1000 (2020 - 2022)*

*'Recommended' for Intellectual Property by Legal 500 Asia Pacific (2020 - 2022)*

*Named a 'Trademark and Transactions Star' by Managing IP Stars (2021 - 2022)*

*Named among Top 100 IP Experts in India by Asia IP Law (2021)*

*Ranked as a 'Leading TM professional' in the Individual Enforcement & Litigation and Prosecution & Strategy Table published by World Trademark Review 1000 (2019)*



AZB & Partners – Mumbai

T: + 91 22 4072 9999

@: nandan.pendseyazbpartners.com

*Ranked as a leading TM professional under Individuals: Enforcement & Litigation, Prosecution & Strategy and Transactions table by WTR 1000 (2020 - 2022)*

*'Recommended' for Intellectual Property (2020 - 2022) and Data Protection (2022) by Legal 500 Asia Pacific*

*Named a Trademark Star by Managing IP Stars (2021 - 2022)*

*Named among Top 100 IP Experts in India by Asia IP Law (2021)*

*Ranked as a 'Leading TM professional' in the Individual Enforcement & Litigation and Prosecution & Strategy Table by World Trademark Review 1000 (2019)*

## AKHILESH KUMAR RAI

Senior Partner

Akhilesh Kumar Rai, a Partner in the Delhi office, co-heads the firm's Intellectual Property practice. With a background in IP litigation, Akhilesh is well-known for his advice on strategic issues affecting the exploitation, enforcement, acquisition, license, sale and realignment of IPRs. He assists his clients with IP prosecution (including counterfeit / infringement actions, criminal raids, opposition / cancellation actions and UDRP and INDRP proceedings), IP portfolio management, intermediary liabilities, data protection / privacy, protection of trade secrets / confidential information, Adword biddings, parallel imports, custom recordation and protection against grey imports. He also has experience in handling the IP aspects of complex M&A and PE transactions.

His clients span a broad spectrum of sectors, including the apparel / fashion, technology, automobile, FMCG, food and beverages, pharmaceutical / crop sciences, hospitals / healthcare, nutraceuticals and media and entertainment industries.

Akhilesh is a member of the International Trademark Association and the Asian Patent Attorneys Association. He is also a part of INTA sub-committees, including those on Parallel Imports and Non-Traditional Trademarks.

Additionally, Akhilesh has been involved in helping formulate action plans to lobby with the government on various IP policies. He is also regularly invited to conferences organized by the United Kingdom IP Office, to provide inputs on the importance of IP in India. Moreover, he speaks at various IP conferences and also holds training programs for his clients' employees.

## NANDAN PENDSEY

Partner

Nandan Pendsey, a Partner in the Mumbai office, co-heads the firm's Intellectual Property practice. Clients praise him for his in-depth knowledge of the legal and regulatory IP landscape in India, recommending him for his strategic and commercial advice. He has practiced intellectual property rights for close to 17 years and comes highly recommended for providing sound legal and strategic advice keeping in mind the business and commercial objectives of the client. He is a registered patent agent with a background in biotechnology and is also dually qualified to practice in the State of New York and California in the United States.

He specializes in IP litigation / enforcement, IP transactions, licensing, IP prosecution, managing IP portfolios and brand protection. Nandan has represented his clients before various tribunals and courts in India. His roster of domestic / international clients spans a wide array of industries, such as consumer goods, new technology, apparels, media, chemicals / pharmaceuticals, sports management, infrastructure and banking / financial services.

Nandan is a member of the International Trademark Association, Licensing Executives Society International and the Asian Patent Attorneys Association. Additionally, Nandan has contributed various articles on IP issues to renowned publications and is regularly invited to speak at conferences / events on issues surrounding parallel imports and customs enforcement of IPRs and IP licensing / enforcement.

# IP ACCOLADES

---



*Ranked in the 'Silver Category' for Prosecution and Strategy by  
World Trademark Review 1000 (2022)*



*Ranked in the 'Silver Category' for Enforcement and Litigation by  
World Trademark Review 1000 (2022)*



*'Ranked' for Intellectual Property by  
Chambers Asia-Pacific (2021)*



*'Recognized' for Intellectual Property by  
Asialaw Profiles (2022)*



*Ranked as 'Tier 1 Firm' for Copyrights & Trademarks by  
Asian Legal Business (2020)*



*Ranked in the 'Enforcement & Litigation' and 'Prosecution &  
Strategy' Tables for Firms (India Chapter) by  
World Trademark Review 1000 (2019)*



# FIRM ACCOLADES



Consistently recognized as a leading law firm for Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Corporate / M&A, Competition / Antitrust, Dispute Resolution, Private Equity, Real Estate and Tax by **Chambers Asia-Pacific**



Consistently recognized as a leading law firm for Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Corporate / M&A, Competition / Antitrust and Dispute Resolution by **Chambers Global**



Ranked the No. 1 Law Firm in India (2019) and consistently recommended for Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Corporate / M&A, Competition / Antitrust, Dispute Resolution, Private Equity and TMT by the **RSG India Report**



Consistently rated as a 'Tier 1 Firm' for Banking, Capital Markets, Corporate / M&A and Private Equity by **IFLR1000**



Consistently named 'Best Overall Law Firm' by the **India Business Law Journal**



Consistently rated as a 'Tier 1 Firm' for Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Corporate / M&A, Investment Funds and Tax by **Legal 500 Asia Pacific**



Consistently rated as 'Outstanding' for Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Corporate / M&A and Private Equity by **Asialaw Profiles**



Consistently ranked No. 1 by Deal Count and Deal Volume by Asia-Pacific League Tables such as **Bloomberg, Mergermarket, Thomson Reuters and Venture Intelligence**

## OUR OFFICES

### MUMBAI

AZB House, Peninsula Corporate Park  
Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel  
Mumbai 400 013  
India

T: + 91 22 4072 9999  
F: + 91 22 6639 6888  
@: [mumbai@azbpartners.com](mailto:mumbai@azbpartners.com)

One Forbes, 5th Floor,  
VB Gandhi Marg, Kala Ghoda  
Mumbai 400 001  
India  
T: +91 22 4910 0600  
F: +91 22 4910 0699  
@: [disputeresolution.mumbai@azbpartners.com](mailto:disputeresolution.mumbai@azbpartners.com)

### DELHI

AZB House  
Plot No. A7 & A8  
Sector 4, Noida 201301  
National Capital Region Delhi  
India  
T: +91 120 4179 999  
F: +91 120 4179 900  
@: [delhi@azbpartners.com](mailto:delhi@azbpartners.com)

Unit No. 4B,  
4th Floor, Hansalya Building  
Barakhamba Road,  
New Delhi – 110 001.  
India  
T: +91 11 40221500  
@: [delhi@azbpartners.com](mailto:delhi@azbpartners.com)

Unitech Cyber Park  
602 Tower-B, 6th Floor Sector 39  
Gurgaon 122001  
India  
T: +91 124 4841300  
F: +91 124 4841319  
@: [gurgaon@azbpartners.com](mailto:gurgaon@azbpartners.com)

### PUNE

Onyx Towers  
1101-B, 11th Floor  
North Main Road Koregoan Park  
Pune 411001  
India  
T: +91 20 6725 6666  
F: +91 20 6725 6600  
@: [pune@azbpartners.com](mailto:pune@azbpartners.com)

### BANGALORE

7th Floor  
Embassy Icon  
Infantry Road  
Bangalore 560001  
India  
T: +91 80 4240 0500  
F: +91 80 2221 9347  
@: [bangalore@azbpartners.com](mailto:bangalore@azbpartners.com)

[www.azbpartners.com](http://www.azbpartners.com)

The abstract visuals used throughout this handbook are details drawn from the art collection displayed in our offices.

DISCLAIMER: This handbook is available only on request. This handbook is not meant for general circulation and is not for re-circulation. Any form of reproduction, dissemination, copying, disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this handbook is strictly prohibited. This handbook is not an advertisement or solicitation. The contents of this handbook are solely meant for informative purposes only and not as a substitute for professional / legal advice. Legal advice should be obtained based on the specific circumstances of each case, before relying on the contents herein or prior to taking any decision based on the information contained herein. AZB & Partners disclaims all responsibility and accepts no liability for the consequences of any person acting, or refraining from acting, on such information.

If you have received this handbook in error, please notify us immediately by calling + 91 22 4072 9999.

Copyright © 2022 AZB & Partners. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of content, including by caching, framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without prior written consent of AZB & Partners.