



## KEY EXPERIENCE

**B 41, Soami Nagar South, New Delhi - 110017**

**2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 11/13, Botawala Building, Horniman Circle, Mumbai - 400001**

**[info@acaralaw.com](mailto:info@acaralaw.com)**

**[www.acaralaw.com](http://www.acaralaw.com)**

## Arbitration

- Our team has wide ranging experience in representing government entities as well as leading private companies in disputes arising out of road and railway construction contracts which adopt internationally recognized standard form contracts such as FIDIC as the General Conditions of Contract. We have devised strategies for supporting as well as defending claims under construction contracts, such as claims arising out of force majeure, change in law, price variations, additional works performed beyond the scope of contract, Employer's risks, extension of time and additional payments / costs, reimbursement of taxes and royalties, and interpretation of FIDIC "time-bar" clauses under Indian contract law.
- Represented clients for challenging as well as defending arbitral awards before jurisdictional fora, including under Section 34 of the Indian Arbitration Act 1996.
- Represented clients seeking or opposing interim protection from Courts and Arbitral Tribunals, including under Sections 9, 16 and 17 of the Indian Arbitration Act 1996.
- Represented clients in proceedings seeking and opposing appointment of arbitral tribunal under Section 11 of the Indian Arbitration Act, 1996, dealing with issues such as existence and validity of arbitration agreements compliance of arbitration clauses, stamp duty implications, time-barred claims, and reference of non-signatories to arbitration.
- Represented a client in an international commercial arbitration administered in terms of the SIAC Rules 2016 in a shareholders' dispute arising out of multiple interlinked joint venture agreements. The issues involved included the applicability of the Group of Companies Doctrine to bind non-signatories to an arbitration agreement, remedies available in case of breach of good faith obligations in a contract, reference of disputes arising under multiple interlinked agreements forming part of a composite transaction to arbitration under the principal agreement, enforceability of agreements to agree under Indian contract law and common law.

- Advised and successfully represented Infrastructure company namely Oval Projects Engineering Ltd. in Arbitration held in Tripura, leading to an award arising from the EPC contract.
- Represented Centrient Pharmaceuticals India Private Limited., an Indian subsidiary of a Dutch pharmaceutical company, in challenging an award passed in favor of Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, in an arbitration initiated under a Joint Venture Agreement entered for the manufacture of penicillin.
- Representing Ecom Express Ltd and Nestaway Technologies Pvt Ltd in Delhi NCR region in arbitration matters.
- Representing DFCCIL before the Dispute Adjudication Board related to a FIDIC contract for the design and construction of civil, building, and track works for the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.
- Successfully represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. in high stake arbitration inter alia involving complex legal issues of non-signatories being party to institutional arbitration; ownership and title of assets; delivery and possession of assets and performance under the franchise agreement executed between the parties.
- Advising and representing Suzlon Energy Ltd in a claim of default of payments for O&M services rendered by Suzlon across seven turbines and unquantified damages for wrongful/premature termination of the O&M agreements arising from four turbines along with costs of the arbitration.
- Advising Hindalco Industries Limited regarding a contract for procurement of equipment and construction of a Flue Gas De-sulfurisation plant on EPC basis. The Dispute arose due delay in commissioning of the plant by the foreign contractor.

## **White Collar Crimes**

- Defended Mr. A Raja in the 2G Spectrum Case Trial and representing him in the Appeal before The High Court of Delhi.
- Successfully represented and discharged Hindalco Industries Ltd. before CBI special court against all the allegations by CBI including unauthorized use of coal from one of its coal blocks in Odisha.

- Advising and representing a Non – Executive Independent Director in one of the subsidiaries of IL&FS. We have successfully advised and represented our client in proceedings before the Hon’ble Supreme Court for protection from an asset freeze order issued by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal. The dispute arose on account of the impleadment of our client, in oppression and mismanagement proceedings initiated against IL&FS and its subsidiaries.
- Successfully represented a Non – Executive Independent Director of one of the subsidiaries of IL&FS before NCLT in an application filed by MCA seeking impleadment. The NCLT rejected MCA’s prayer for impleadment of the Non – Executive Independent Director.
- Represented a Non – Executive, Independent Director in one of the Firestar companies concerned with Nirav Modi. We successfully represented our client before National Company Law Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and finally obtained stay of an “asset freeze” from the Hon’ble Supreme Court.
- Represented a leading IPL franchise and a leading software MNC in proceedings before the Appellate Tribunal for PMLA and FEMA, New Delhi pertaining to remittance of foreign exchange under FEMA Act and liabilities of directors vis-à-vis FEMA Regulations.
- Represented Mr. MD Gouse Pasha, RTO under PBPT Act before the Adjudicating Authority at Delhi and Chennai.
- Representing Mr. MD Gouse Pasha, RTO under PBPT Act before the Appellate Tribunal under PBPT Act at Delhi.
- Advised and represented a leading real estate developer and businessman of Kolkata in proceedings initiated against him under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 post the demonetization move of the Government of India.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd in criminal complaints filed against contractors under the Minimum Wages Act, CLRA and ISMW Act. The dispute stems from procedural irregularities and alleged violations of Minimum Wages Act, Inter State Migrant Workers Act and Contract Labour (regulation and Abolition) Act.

- Representing Apex Laboratories Ltd. in a petition seeking setting aside of criminal proceedings initiated alleging production of unsafe, misbranded, sub-standard under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- Representing convict before Appellate Court held guilty for offence under section 138 of NI Act.

## **Civil & Commercial Disputes**

- Advised and represented one of the leading wagon/metro car manufacturers in the country before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in matters arising out of and pertaining to a tender floated by the Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Ltd for design, manufacture, supply, testing, Commissioning of Passenger Rolling Stock (Electrical Multiple Units) and training of personnel at Nagpur Metro Rail Project.
- Represented one of the leading manufacturers of defence equipment containers in a proceeding before the Competition Commission of India.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd. in Supreme Court on the issue of levying Terminal Tax by municipal authorities for transporting coal from Madhya Pradesh Municipal Limits to outside Madhya Pradesh.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Limited in the Delhi High Court on the issue of violation of Article 14 of the Constitution on account of discrimination against private companies as the benefit of a One-Time Surrender Scheme was extended only to Government PSUs.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd., UltraTech Cement and Grasim Industries in Madhya Pradesh High Court against the Notification issued by Coal India Ltd. on the grounds of abusing its dominant and monopolistic position in the market by imposing additional charges over and above the notified price of coal across all mines.
- Representing UltraTech Cement before High Court of Madhya Pradesh against the imposition of rural road tax on limestone inter-alia on the grounds for wrongfully applying prices declared by India Bureau of Mines

(IBM) for the purpose of calculating tax.

- Represented and advised a leading global defence equipment manufacturer and supplier in connection with litigation initiated against the 'blacklisting' of such manufacturer by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India on allegations of corruption; we have also advised the said entity in ongoing criminal investigations in connection with allegations of corruption.
- Successfully represented infrastructure company R.K Jain Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd. in Delhi High Court against the banning order passed by NHAI.
- Successfully represented a renowned start-up company (National Award Winner in Technology Start-up) WellRX Technologies Ltd. in oil and gas sector in Tripura High Court against the banning order passed by ONGC, which also led to restoration of contract by ONGC.
- Handling commercial litigation for several MNCs, startup companies, and individuals.
- Handling money recovery suits, for Ecom Express Ltd and Nestaway Technologies Pvt Ltd in Delhi NCR region.
- Handling Declaration suits, Partition Suits, matrimonial matters etc.
- Handling Consumer complaints for clients including Godrej Properties Pvt Ltd, Flipkart, WS Retails and its subsidiaries and also for individuals before District Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum, State Consumer Forum and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.
- Handling complaints for individuals and companies before RERA Panchkula and Noida.
- Advising EGIS India Consulting Engineers Pvt Ltd on their employment policy, blacklisting by PSUs, Social Media Policy, employee disputes etc.
- Drafting and managing contracts for EGIS India Consulting Engineers Pvt Ltd, Medlife Wellness Retail Pvt. Ltd and other corporate clients.
- Represented E.I Dupont India Private Limited before the NCLT, Mumbai.
- Rendering pre-litigation advisory and focus on identification and resolution of issues for avoiding matters going into litigation.
- Represented our Client against Air India in a challenge to its overbooking policy and succeeded before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

- Representing Landlords and Tenant before the Rent Controller and the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.
- Represented Magunta Agro Farms Pvt Ltd, having several liquor vends in Delhi and obtained injunctions against mob from multiple courts in Delhi.
- Representing Kayjay Constructions Company Pvt Ltd before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the final order passed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi.
- Representing EMIL Mines and Mineral Resources Limited before the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh in matters (100+) relating to the acquisition of private land for the Bandha Coal Block, Singrauli.
- Representing GRI Infra Pvt Ltd., which is the successful bidder, before the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh in relation to petitions filed by unsuccessful bidders challenging the grant of tender for the construction of a new railway line. The project is worth 2176 crores.
- Represented Datamini Technologies Ltd., an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in a writ petition instituted by CCS Computers Ltd. challenging the blacklisting notice issued by the NDMC.
- Represented All India Tennis Association in a writ petition before the Delhi High Court alleging violations of the Sports Code and a judgment passed by the Division Bench of the Delhi High Court interpreting the Sports Code.
- Representing UltraTech Cement Limited and Grasim Industries Limited before the Calcutta High Court in a constitutional challenge to the vires of the Revocation of West Bengal Incentive Schemes Act, 2025 which retrospectively rescinded all incentives/ subsidies granted to the industries in West Bengal through various schemes over the years.
- Successfully represented an individual in a writ petition before the Delhi High Court where the Passport Authorities had failed to renew the passport due to pending criminal cases.

## **Banking & Insolvency**

- Representing around 700 Fixed Deposit holders before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a matter challenging the Resolution Plan of Dewan Housing Finance Ltd. approved by NCLT in favour of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd and upheld by the NCLAT.
- Representing clients before Debt Recover Tribunal, Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal in various loan recovery matters.
- Successfully represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. leading to the landmark judgement passed by the NCLAT on 09.01.2023. NCLAT in Hindalco Industries Limited v. Hirakud Industrial Works Ltd. Company Appeals 42 and 43 of 2022 quashed and set aside NCLT's judgement approving the Resolution Plan and (1) imposing INR 50 lacs penalty each on the Corporate Debtor and Financial Creditor under S. 65 IBC on findings of fraudulent and malicious initiation of CIRP; (2) directing investigation against the Resolution Professional for material irregularities in conduct of CIRP and (3) quashing the approval of SRA's Resolution Plan. NCLAT found that a common group of companies were the "controlling mind" behind all entities involved in the CIRP which had indulged in "gaming" the IBC with ulterior motives.
- Represent as well as defend companies and IRPs in proceedings initiated under IBC before various NCLTs / NCLAT / Supreme Court.
- Examined and advised on impact of potential insolvency proceedings on financial transactions, sub-contracting of EPC contracts, mode of payments, Escrow etc.
- Advised and represented one of the major foreign banks before the Supreme Court, various High Courts as well as fora like Debt Recovery Tribunal, Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal, NCLT and Enforcement Directorate in recovery proceedings as well as other criminal/civil matters pertaining/relating to such recovery proceedings.
- Advised and represented a major NBFC in proceedings initiated by a Financial Creditor under the provisions of IBC. These proceedings initiated before the NCLT was second such petition to be admitted and settled (in full) before the Principal Bench of NCLT at New Delhi.

- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd. before NCLT Kolkata in IBC proceedings against the Corporate Debtor for non-payment of dues.
- Successfully secured an order of admission under section 9 of IBC from NCLT Kolkata in a petition filed on behalf of India's leading infrastructure project companies namely- GR Infra Projects Ltd. In appeal before NCLAT the matter was settled upon payment of admitted amount by the corporate debtor namely Bharat Hitech Cement Ltd.

## **Electricity**

- Advised Hindalco Industries Limited on the issue of Renewable Purchase Obligations under various State regulations and in respect of notifications dated 01.02.2019 and 01.10.2019 by the Ministry of Power and their impact on the Captive generating plants (CGP's) being managed by Hindalco throughout India.
- Advising Hindalco on RPO implications in case of fossil fuel/renewable energy fuel co-generation captive plants.
- Advised Hindalco Industries Limited on the issue of Renewable Consumption Obligations notified under the Energy Conservation Act, 2000 and its impact on the Captive generating plants (CGP's) being managed by Hindalco throughout India.
- Advising and assisting Hindalco Industries Limited in obtaining General Network Access and Connectivity under the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022 for different units across the country.
- Filed an intervention application on behalf of Hindalco Industries Limited before the Hon'ble Supreme Court involving issue of refund of Renewable Energy Certificates (on the implication of Renewable Purchase Obligations REC's) purchased during the period November 2017- February 2018.
- Represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. before Kerala Electricity Regulatory commission seeking permission for setting up and running a second captive generation plant from the same premises and successfully obtained a

favourable order.

- Represents Hindalco Industries Ltd. before Hon'ble Supreme Court in proceedings challenging the levy of Parallel Operation Charges on Captive Generating Plants by regulatory agencies in Madhya Pradesh.
- Represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. before Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission challenging the levy of wheeling and banking charges and parallel operation charges in relation to a solar captive generating plant proposed to be established without direct connection to the grid.
- Advising and representing clients in seeking refunds of Additional Surcharge (ASC) / Cross Subsidy Surcharge (CSS) wherever applicable. In this exercise filing petitions under Section 142 of Electricity Act 2003 before various electricity regulatory commissions.
- Represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. before Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission in proceedings initiated by the power distribution companies challenging the statutory regime regulating the supply of electricity from CGPs to captive users and denial of benefits envisaged under Electricity Act in relation to captive generation of electricity.
- Represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. before Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad for grant of Short-Term Open Access to its captive power plant at Renukoot and successfully obtained a favourable order.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd before High Court of Bombay challenging the levy of 'Tax on Sale of Electricity'.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd before Ld. Appellate Tribunal of Electricity challenging the Multi-Year Tariff Order which made banking in State of Maharashtra redundant and successfully obtained stay of the operation of the MYT Order.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd. before Odisha State Electricity Regulatory Commission seeking procedure for scheduling simultaneous sale/ export of power from captive power plants and purchase/ import of power from renewable sources through the grid.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd before Odisha State Electricity

Regulatory Commission wherein GRIDCO Ltd has filed an application approval of mechanism for apportionment of recovery of charges arising due to deficit of the Deviation and Ancillary Service Pool Account.

- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd before Ld. APTEL seeking revision of effective date of General Network Access under Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd before Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh challenging levy of Electricity Duty on auxiliary consumption by Captive Power Plant and successfully obtained stay on levy of Electricity Duty.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd before Appellate Tribunal for Electricity challenging the refusal by CTUIL to grant extension of time for augmentation of transmission system for General Network Access.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd before High Court of Delhi seeking waiver of ISTS Charges and extension of time.

## **Environment**

- Successfully represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. before the Eastern Zone Bench of the NGT in Hindalco Industries Limited v. Odisha Pollution Control Board & Ors, Appeal No. 12/2023 leading to a judgment on 03.07.2023 wherein the NGT was pleased to allow Hindalco's appeal and set aside the impugned direction of the State Pollution Control Board imposing financial penalty of INR 13 crores for alleged illegal disposal of hazardous waste as non est and illegal for having proceeded without the mandatory prior approval of the Central Pollution Control Board.
- Successfully represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a Civil Appeal in Hindalco Industries Limited v. Ashwani Kumar Dubey and Ors., Civil Appeal No. 15-16 of 2020 arising from the NGT's order adopting the recommendations of the Core Committee in respect of reduction of boiler emission from 150 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> to 50 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>

contrary to statutory norms. In a judgment dated 04.07.2023 the Hon'ble Supreme Court set aside the NGT's order as without authority and remitted the issue of emission norms to the Central Pollution Control Board to examine the feasibility of altering the standards applicable to industries like those of Hindalco.

- We have successfully represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. before the NGT, New Delhi, in a complaint involving pollution caused due to transport of coal by Hindalco from its mine to the nearest railway siding through trucks. The complaint was disposed of with direction to the State Government to utilise DMF funds for upgradation of roads.
- Successfully represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in challenging a judgment of NGT imposing compensation solely based on recommendations of a committee.
- Successfully challenged an order issued by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board under the Air Act and Water Act for closure of a mine before the Bombay High Court. The matter involved issues of maintainability of writ petition due to availability of remedy before the NGT, non-adherence of principles of natural justice and environment issues such as whether any operation could be directed to be shut down on the basis that it was in the Eco Sensitive Zone even though there was no specific notification identifying such area as ESZ.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd. before the Lucknow High Court in a challenge to imposition of NPV and obligations for compulsory afforestation for land leased for non-forest purpose before the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- We track developments in key environment cases including MC Mehta, T.N. Godavarman, Ashwani Dubey, Common Cause.
- Regularly advise various industries in making representations before the state pollution control boards in relation to issues regarding compliances for flyash disposal utilisations, air and water emissions, FGD compliances, boiler emissions and periodic compliances under CTO and ECs.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Limited before Ld, NGT, Eastern Zone

wherein allegations of environmental degradation and safety hazards have been alleged against Hindalco Industries Ltd. at Kathautia Coal Mines, Palamau.

- Representing Utkal Alumina Limited before Ld, NGT, Eastern Zone relating to allegations on noise, air and water pollution concerning the operation of an 18.2 kms long conveyor belt at its plant at Rayagada, Odisha.
- Successfully represented Hindalco Industries Limited in NGT, Eastern Zone challenging an order passed by Odisha State Pollution Control Board imposing Environmental Compensation on Hindalco Industries Limited. Hon'ble NGT was pleased to quash the order holding it to be without jurisdiction.

## **Labour & Employment**

- Represented Vector E Commerce Pvt. Ltd. in Delhi NCR region in various labour matters.
- Represent Hindalco Industries Ltd., UltraTech Cements Ltd. and Grasim Industries Ltd. in their pan India (Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh) disputes with workers' unions' challenging the amendment to certified standing orders to raise the age of retirement in violation of settlement arrived at between the management and the unions.
- We represent Hindalco Industries Ltd in labour court proceedings before Labour Courts and High Courts in State of Odisha involving disputes such as illegal strike, termination of workman etc.

## **Pharma and Food**

- Regularly advise pharma companies in their compliances under the D&C Act and DPCO, 2013.
- Regularly collaborate with international firms to advise clients on clinical trial regulations in India, regulations concerning new drug approvals, regulations concerning conduct of bio-availability studies in India and like issues arising out of regulatory framework in India.

- Advised and represented the IDMA (Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association) and FOPE (Foundation of Pharma Entrepreneurs) before the Hon'ble High Court and Hon'ble Supreme Court in a matter pertaining to "Product Approval" for Food Business Operators (FBOs). The resultant order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this matter has led to the Product Approval Advisories being set to naught.
- Successfully represented IDMA (Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association) and FOPE (Foundation of Pharma Entrepreneurs) for the entire industry before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court and Hon'ble Supreme Court in challenging the order of the Central Government by which it had banned 344 fixed dose combinations drugs overnight .
- Advised and represented a domestic pharmaceutical company and one of its shareholders in shareholder disputes and other disputes arising from such shareholder disputes, including but not limited to disputes with lenders, before the Delhi High Court, Company Law Board, Debt Recovery Tribunal and constituted Arbitral Tribunal.
- Representing PharmEasy before Hon'ble High Courts of Delhi and Calcutta wherein petitions have been filed seeking banning of all e-pharma companies from selling medicines online.
- Represented Jenburkt Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Pharm Products Pvt. Ltd. and MPI Ethicals Ltd. before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in a challenge to a notification banning Fixed Dose Combinations.
- Representing Therapeutic Pharmaceuticals before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in a challenge to a notification banning Fixed Dose Combinations.
- Representing Apex Laboratories Ltd. in a petition seeking setting aside of criminal proceedings initiated alleging production of unsafe, misbranded, sub-standard under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

## **Regulatory Disputes**

- Representing UltraTech Cement Ltd. in a regulatory challenge to grant of co-user rights to a third party by South Eastern Railways over its private

railway siding. This is a heavily contested writ petition involving interplay of Railways' Private Siding Policy, Private Freight Terminal Policy and Gati Shakti Policy.

- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd. in a challenge before the Orissa High Court to demands raised for Energy Loss Compensation by the Orissa Hydro Power Corporation under the Orissa Irrigation Act, 1959 and Rules framed thereunder.
- Representing UltraTech Cement Ltd. in a challenge before the Madhya Pradesh High Court to an order under Section 40 and 48A of the Indian Stamps Act, 1899 passed by the Collector of Stamps imposing a demand of INR 297.66 crore on an scheme of arrangement sanctioned by NCLT and which provided acquisition of assets as a going concern on slump-exchange basis. The demand has been stayed by the High Court in appeal and the matter is pending final hearing.
- Representing UltraTech Cement Ltd. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a challenge by the State of Madhya Pradesh to the judgment passed by the Madhya Pradesh High Court holding that the State does not have executive powers to impose Regulation Fee on legally excavated minor minerals transported from other states in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- Successfully defended Hindalco Industries Ltd. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in an SLP filed by the State of Uttar Pradesh challenging the judgment passed by the High Court of Allahabad holding that the levy of transit fee on coal transported by means of Aerial Rope Way and BeltPipe Conveyor was not within the modes of transportation prescribed by the UP Transit of Timber and other Forest Produce Rules, 1978 upon which transit fee can be levied.
- Representing UltraTech Cement Limited before the Supreme Court and the Madhya Pradesh High Court to protect the rights of UltraTech Cement Limited on its private railway siding at Maihar Cement Plant.
- Representing UltraTech Cements Ltd. in a challenge to expropriatory increase in transit fee under the Madhya Pradesh Transit (Forest Produce) Rules 2000, in the year 2020.
- Advising mining companies in their compliance under various agreements

with the Central Government or State Government including the Coal Block Development and Production Agreements and Mineral Development and Production Agreements. We advise such companies in safeguarding their rights under such agreements.

- Advised a company, prevalent in oil and gas sector, for the purpose of export and import of "emission control device" from ASEAN and Middle East countries.
- Advised a leading north-eastern cement manufacturer Star Cement on transfer of Gotan Limestone mines and Haryadhana mines in Rajasthan in light of recent legislative development whereby the status of limestone was changed from minor mineral to major mineral.
- Successfully represented Hindalco Industries Ltd. in 11 writ petitions filed before the Jharkhand High Court at Ranchi challenging demands raised by the State Government under S. 21(5) of the MMDR Act, 1957 pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment in ***Common Cause vs. UOI WP(C) No. 114 of 2014*** defining "illegal mining". The demands have been quashed on the ground that the District Mining Officers acted without delegation of powers under S. 21(5).
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd. and BALCO in claims before Mines Tribunals at Ranchi and Bilaspur for recovery of money appropriated from bank guarantees given under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015. Hindalco has won the first favourable judgment in this regard both, before the Mines Tribunal, Ranchi that has directed the Central Government to refund INR 117 crores and in a challenge against the judgment of the Mines Tribunal, Bilaspur, from the High Court of Chhattisgarh wherein the High Court has directed the Central Government to refund an amount of INR 72 crores.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd. before the Jharkhand High Court in a writ petition challenging notices for closure issued by the State Forest Department after auction and allocation of the mine under Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, on the ground that certain land falling within mining land had been identified as forest land based on cadastral survey. The matter involves issues such as status of land converted to revenue land

before the implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rights of the Successful Bidder of a coal mine under the CMSP Act.

- Represented Ultratech Cement Ltd. before Orissa High Court in writ proceedings challenging the denial of VAT Reimbursement to the tune of INR 367 crores under the Industrial Policy Resolution 2007. Orissa High Court vide Judgment dated 04.01.2022 allowed the writ petitions on the basis of doctrines of promissory estoppel and legitimate expectation and directed the State of Odisha to reimburse VAT to the tune of INR 367 crores to Ultratech Cement Ltd. The SLP preferred by the State of Odisha against the said Judgment has been dismissed by Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- Representing Hindalco Industries Ltd. before the Allahabad High Court and Supreme Court in issues arising out of raising of demand for interest on unpaid entry tax during the period that entry tax demands were stayed by the Supreme Court subject to deposit of bank guarantee.

## **Securities Law**

- Advising India's premier clearing corporation, NSE Clearing Limited (NCL) in proceedings before the Securities Appellate Tribunal, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal and the Supreme Court and in writ petitions before various High Courts, in securities and regulatory litigation.
- We have dealt with issues involving Surveillance of Clearing Members, Regulatory actions of suspension and expulsion, Levy of penalties, Claims of the constituents and its redressal, etc.
- Advised and successfully represented NCL before the NCLAT on the issue as to whether the bar on commencement and continuation of legal proceedings against IL&FS and its subsidiaries also bars the proceedings before grievance redressal committee constituted under the laws of SEBI and functioning under the aegis of the Clearing Corporation.
- Advising and representing NCL before the Supreme Court on the issue of jurisdiction to decide an application seeking annulment of trades executed in light of the fraudulent trades undertaken by a stock broker and the resultant misuse of securities.

- Advising and representing the Securities and Exchange Board of India, before the Supreme Court. The spectrum of issues that are dealt with by our team includes issues pertaining to Listing Obligations, Issue of Capital and Other Debt Instruments, Disclosure Requirements, Prohibition of Insider Trading, Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices, Unregulated Collective Investment Schemes, Takeover Code, Minimum Public Shareholding, Loan against Securities, fraudulent issue of Global Depositary Receipts, illegal Assured Return Schemes, default committed by stock brokers and clearing members, intersection of the fields of Securities and other laws such as IBC etc.
- Advising and defending NCL before the Supreme Court in an appeal challenging the direction of restitution issued by NCL against Clearing Members who wrongfully sold securities placed as collateral of non-defaulting clients of a stockbroker. The direction of restitution is upheld by Securities Appellate Tribunal.
- Advised and successfully represented the former MD&CEO, NSEIL before Securities Appellate Tribunal in NSE Colocation matter. Represented the Senior Officials of NSEIL in NSE Colocation matter, and the internal inquiry before retired Judge of Bombay High Court.
- Advised and represented NSEIL before the Securities Appellate Tribunal involving issues of violations by Trading Members under the SEBI Act and regulations thereunder, regulatory actions of suspension and expulsion, levy of penalties, adjudication of claims by grievance redressal committees etc.

## **Telecom**

- Advising and representing India's leading telecom service provider before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a challenge to One Time Spectrum Charges (OTSC) demanded by the government.