



BOOK REVIEWS

COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES (2007). By Alka Chawla. Macmillan India Ltd. 2/10 Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110002. Pp. xxx + 255. Price Rs. 265/-.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY rights emerged as a pivotal field of law due to the rapid changes in the world scenario and the identification of the necessity of honouring champions of creative and innovative ideas. In this knowledge driven generation where intellectual property rights have contributed its chunk for litigations to continue, it is the need of the hour to have a good understanding of the concept.

Copyright, being one of the prominent subjects of this field, attained significance in a heightened manner during the past few decades and is still persisting. However, the evolution of the right could be traced back to the godly commandment of 'Thou Shall Not Steal'. The Berne Convention, TRIPs and the WIPO Copyright Treaty have paid their contributions for the emergence of this field. Generally defined as a reward for those expressing their ideas, copyright has achieved greater echelon due to the sprouting of legal issues with regard to the same. The growing trends of internationalism, economic liberalism, technological explosion and the fast growing communication cobwebs expose the possibilities of piracy.

The book under review is an earnest effort to assimilate the law governing copyright. This book offers a good understanding of the fundamentals of copyright and related issues and will be an amiable mate to law students as well as professionals. It will also provide valuable guidance to those who look forward to having a thorough idea about this new product of the globalised era. It is replete with valuable ideas presented in very simple and proper language.

The book throws a glance at the multifarious practical issues of copyright. The author has adopted a systematic approach by discussing the aspects in the light of the Copyright Act of 1957 and its amendments. The theoretical basis as mandated by the Act is efficiently backed up with the practical situations as envisaged in different judicial decisions and other conventions or treaties. The author could touch all relevant areas of copyright, which makes the book a comprehensive package of knowledge on the subject.

The author has referred to the legal developments in this area in different jurisdictions. Reference to international developments also helps one to analyze the evolution of copyright as an area of interest. Basic concepts such as author of work, owner of copyright and works in which



the rights subsist are dealt with in detail with judicial decisions supplementing different viewpoints. Elaborate discussions on copyright societies and internet and copyright law with special reference to controversies like applicable law is worth appreciation. The book gives a comprehensive outlook of the remedies against piracy and infringement. The chapter on limitations to the copyright that speaks of temporal limitations, licensing aspects, fair dealing doctrine etc. are also worth mentioning.

The author is to be duly appreciated for her endeavour of combining copyright and related aspects in the international as well as Indian standards. This variety of analysis is facilitating the convergence of different facets of copyright protection under the same canopy. They are to be encouraged at the wake of the modern era where demarcating lines of national and international jurisdiction are diminishing due to the establishment of new international tribunals and organizations. The references provided reveal that the author has carried out an extensive research. The book is strongly recommended for all those who are interested in going deep into the topic.

*Alex George**

*Advocate, Kerala High Court.