



MULLA INDIAN CONTRACT AND SPECIFIC RELIEF ACTS (2006). By R.G. Padia. Lexis Nexis, 14th Floor, Vijaya Building, 17 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001. Pp.clvii+ccxii+ 2988 (Vol. I & II). Price Rs. 2250/-.

THE BOOK under review is a classic in Indian legal literature. It stood the test of time. It helped generations of Indian students to learn contract law without tears. It has been a reference book for the lawyers, judges and the teachers for decades. The publication has the excellent record of improvement from edition to edition. Every edition has had its own peculiarities. The present edition also has a claim of peculiarities. It would be herculean task to scan through these too voluminous volumes to identify the special features though.

Generally speaking, the present edition has also maintained its quality in clarity of discussions. An earnest attempt is made to discuss current developments in contract law in the global context.

The Indian judiciary has been very dynamic in interpretation of cases under the Indian Contract Act and Specific Relief Act. In some cases it has been the endeavour of the courts to examine the issues in the light of the fundamental concepts in contract law rather than in the context of constitutional principles. In other cases it was governed by higher principles such as corporate social responsibility. The large mass of case law produced under section 23 of the Contract Act have really added new dimensions to the Indian contract law.

The special feature of the present edition is that the author has exercised the much needed pruning of outdated case law thus avoiding the readers plight of being scared by the long list of cases tagged on to each section of the respective Acts. He has meticulously avoided mentioning unnecessary cases. On the contrary, as already mentioned, new decisions having the potential to open up new horizons of contract law in the context of current global commercial practices have been examined in the book adding its usefulness not only to the lawyer profession but also to the student community.

Despite the much needed pruning done by the author it has to be noted that both these volumes are too voluminous. Usually students are scared of such voluminous works. This situation may lead these volumes to be made reference books limiting their utility to a small section of scholars for the limited purpose of clearing doubts. Therefore a little more pruning in the next edition may be necessary to make it more popular.



Be that as it may, it is sure that the qualities of the present edition are too numerous for enumeration. It is informative. Scholarly elaborate. Nicely printed and reasonably priced.

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