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I have completed my schooling from Cathedral & John Connon High School, Bombay and graduated with a Gold Medal from Bombay University in 1970. I obtained my Masters Degree in Law from the University of Cambridge, UK. Advani & Co. has evolved as a leading name in arbitration law practice. I am a specialist in both Domestic and International Arbitration. I have been a lead counsel in large number of International Arbitrations under different arbitration rules such as the LCIA, Swedish Arbitration Association, the ICC, Singapore Association of Arbitration (SIAC) and Zurich Chamber of Commerce.

I have also been on the Panel of Arbitrators under different rules such as Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA) and London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA). I have conducted approximately 10 (ten) arbitrations either as a Sole Arbitrator, Co-Arbitrator or Presiding Arbitrator. Currently I am conducting 2 (two) arbitrations under SIAC, wherein I am acting as the Presiding Arbitrator. Further I am also appointed as a Co-Arbitrator in 2 (two) other separate arbitrations under LCIA.

I have conducted, as Lead Counsel a wide range of arbitrations mostly on construction projects and infrastructure including the Energy/Natural Resources sector, Oil Refineries, Financial services, Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector, Metro/Rail Contracts and apart from conventional power plants, also for solar and wind power.

By and large, the maximum number of arbitrations we have conducted is in the Energy/Natural Resources sector namely, for Offshore Oil & Gas. We have acted and continue to act for the main global players on oil and gas including Halliburton, Schlumberger, Baker Hughes, Subsea7, NPCC and several others. We have also acted for a number of Indian Companies such as Dolphin Offshore, Great Eastern Offshore, Naik Services, and several others. As the oil reserves in India are mainly owned by the Oil & Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), the bulk of our claims have been against ONGC.

We have also acted for a number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) including HPCL, SAIL, and JNPT in major arbitrations.

We are currently acting as Lead Counsels for a number of arbitration and litigation matters arising out of major contracts on behalf of Swiber Offshore Construction Pte Ltd. & Sime Darby Engineering Sdn. Bhd.

A small representative list of our Indian clientele includes major companies like Godrej Industries Ltd. in the Power Sector, ISOLUX in the Construction Sector, Cox & Kings in the Tourism Sector, Videojet Technologies Ltd. in the Coding & Marking Sector, JHS Svendgaard Ltd. in the FMCG sector, Aquatech Systems Asia Pvt. Ltd. in the water purifying sector. We have also consistently acted for India's largest construction company Larsen & Turbo (L&T). We have represented L&T in local and global disputes and we continue to be their choice for major disputes.

We have also represented a number of large International Companies carrying on business in India such as, Mitchell International Pte. Ltd., General Electric (GE), Gilbarco Veeder-Root (GVR).

We have a successful record of half a dozen arbitrations where the Award has been in excess of USD 200 million. In India, enforcement of Awards and Foreign Decrees are considered onerous, as it is difficult to locate assets of the Defendants and thus to attach the said assets. Over the years this has become a significant area of practice in which we have successfully enforced International Awards & Foreign Decrees from the High Court level, all the way to the Supreme Court of India.

Recent Awards & Honours:-

We have always been ranked in 'Band I' for arbitrations on an all India basis in Chambers & Partners. This is probably the most prestigious global directory for lawyers. Furthermore, Global Law Experts, Who's Who of Lawyers, Legal 500 and several other publications continues to rank Advani & Company in their 'Band I' for Dispute Resolution.

In 2017, the India Business Law Journal also awarded our firm the Best Dispute Resolution law firm in India. Mr. Advani was also ranked by the same Journal in the 'A List' of lawyers.

I was elected as the first President of the newly formed Indian Arbitration Forum (IAF) which consists of all the eminent Indian law firms.

I was a member of the Court of the Singapore Arbitration Centre (SIAC) till recently.

I have been invited by a large number of organizations, both locally and internationally to speak on different aspects of arbitration and I continue to carry out a number of speaking engagements.

One of the best honours I have received was in a recent Panel Discussion consisting of the sitting Judges of the Supreme Court and some retired Judges of the Supreme Court. I was one of the only three lawyers asked to address the sitting Supreme Court Judges on Arbitration. A copy of the invitation is enclosed.

Experience under FEMA

Prior to FEMA, there existed in India the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) which was much stronger than FEMA, as any violation of the same involved criminal offences and imprisonment. I did a major case in a London-based arbitration for a number of private equity holders in a telecom company called BPL. Under the law as it stood at that time, foreign equity holders could only 26% of equity in a telecom company of India.

As the company was short of funds, the private equity company gave a very large loan to BPL which was required to be converted into equity as and when the laws change.

The law thereafter changed and private equity holders were allowed to hold up to 50% of the telecom companies. The entire case ran on the fact whether there had been a breach of FERA. We argued the case as Indian counsel along with Williams & Connolly and Herbert Smith Freehills in the London-based arbitration. I was the lead counsel in the case and we succeeded handsomely.

More recently, I am handling a case on behalf of Banc ABC of Tanzania which had given a loan to a joint venture of an Indian company, Progressive, in Tanzania for some road construction. The loan was guaranteed at Progressive Limited, the parent company, situated in Hyderabad. Once again, the parent company had not taken permission from Reserve Bank of India to give the guarantee. We filed a claim in the NCLT at Hyderabad against Progressive Limited for bankruptcy and recovery of the loan. The defence plea is that as the guarantee is against the provisions of FEMA, the loan was not payable. We were succeeding in the NCLT but before the order could be passed, Progressive Limited offered a settlement to Banc ABC of Tanzania. We have accepted settlement and filed consent terms and are in the process to receive settlement. This is the experience we have had under FEMA.