

**NIKE DESIGN OBJECTIONABLE**

**Ref: The Economic Times, Friday, 01.02.2019**



Apparently, a customer has levelled allegations against the design of Nike shoes soles stating that it resembles the word "Allah". The online petition said it was "appalling" to allow the name of god on Nike Air Max 270 shoes, which "will surely be trampled, kicked and become soiled with mud or even filth". Averments for offence of blasphemy have been alleged for the said design and Nike has been asked to recall all its products with the impugned logo immediately. However, no legal action has been initiated as yet by either the customer or Nike and we shall witness the strategy of the global sports brand in this matter.

**DIGITAL PAYMENT OMBUDSMAN LIVE**

**Ref: The Economic Times, Friday, 01.02.2019**



Digital India, the advent and growth of financial transactions through online mode necessitated a forum for its expeditious and specialized dispute resolution. The Reserve Bank of India has come up with a policy whereby it has launched an ombudsman scheme for the same. The scheme will provide free-of-cost Redressal mechanism to grievances raised by customers for digital transactions undertaken by them through non-banking channels, like mobile wallets or tech-enabled payment companies using UPI for

settlements. Unauthorized electronic transactions are also covered under the scheme. This ombudsman however is limited in its scope and does not have the power to issue an award where the compensation to the complainant is above 20 lakh. However, the implementation and enforcement of orders passed by the Ombudsman shall follow to ascertain the effectiveness of this scheme.

**GI SCOPE LIMITED**

**Ref: The Times of India, Wednesday, 06.02.2019**



Recently, in an interesting matter the Calcutta High Court has upheld that the protection under Geographical Indications registration is limited for the specified products only and cannot be enforced as a well - known mark. In the case filed by the Tea Board against conglomerate ITC in 2010 for operating a premier lounge – 'Darjeeling Lounge' – at its ITC Sonar Hotel in Kolkata alleging unfair competition and deceptive confusion for public. The Court has ordered that the registration by Tea Board is restricted to only goods such as tea and not to any ancillary services such as lounges. This order is a precedent as it has crystallized rights of a GI holder.

**DIGITIZED LAND RECORD**

**Ref: The Times of India, Friday, 08.02.2019**

Access Land / Property Records Online



Delhi Archives Portal User Registration

As its new initiative, the Delhi Archives, is launching a new portal with over 60 lakh land records digitized in the last 16

months. This includes digitization and preservation of over four crore old records including government orders, rare photographs and manuscripts dated between 1803 and 1993. In the first phase, 60 lakh documents are being uploaded at 'archive.delhi.gov.in'. The access to the repository of historically important documents will be free. Those interested in downloading the high-quality document will have to sign up and pay a nominal fee. This move is unprecedented and shall safeguard the heritage and ancestral records.

### **INDIA 36<sup>TH</sup> RANKED**

**Ref: The Economic Times, Friday, 08.02.2019**



India has jumped eight places to 36<sup>th</sup> position on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index in the year 2019. The index analyses the IP climate in 50 global economies, is an initiative of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC). This improvement reflects important reforms implemented by Indian policymakers towards building and sustaining an innovation ecosystem and is a boost for both domestic entrepreneurs and foreign investors.

### **KHADI PAPER**

**Ref: The Times of India, Monday, 11.02.2019**



REPLAN - An innovative recycling method has been adopted by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission that provides a

viable solution to the problem of plastic disposal. Under this scheme, plastic is being collected, chopped into fine pieces and mixed with cotton fibre rags to produce paper bags, notebooks and household items. This serves the dual purpose on not just reducing plastic waste but the most important quality of recycled plastic is its strength and durability. As far as the remaining debris is concerned, the same can be utilized with soil for gardening purposes. This paper can also be used in the publication industries, where the reinforced paper could be useful as hardbound material, in passbooks of banks and post offices or even as sheets for artists. This innovation is a profitable situation if we consider the latest data released by the central government pointing out India producing around 25,940 million tone of plastic every year, of which 40% ends up as waste.

### **ICMR's PFIZER TIE UP**

**Ref: The Times of India, Thursday, 14.02.2019**



Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and Pfizer, a drug multinational that sells antibiotics have collaborated for the council's Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) project. As part of this 'public private partnership', Pfizer has provided an initial grant of Rs 7 crore to set up a centre in Delhi to combat anti-microbial resistance and to enhance the surveillance programme for this malaise. Main concern expressed by the critics is that this collaboration point would give Pfizer access not just to doctors but also to policymakers. Lot of complaints even stemmed from the fact that selection

process was biased. However, once the project is implemented most of the concerns might just weed off.

### **DATA PROTECTION**

**Ref: The Economic Times, Thursday, 14.02.2019**



The upcoming ecommerce policy will focus more on protection, localization and cross-border flows of data and privacy along with India's position in global trade negotiations. This policy is being drafted by the Department for Promotion of Investment and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and this policy would largely focus on India's interest at the World Trade Organization. This is critical in the background of half the membership of the WTO beginning text-based negotiations on global ecommerce rules, to which India is not a party.

### **FACEBOOK FINED**

**Ref: Mint, Saturday, 16.02.2019**



Facebook Inc. has been reportedly engaged in negotiations with US regulators over alleged privacy violations that could force the social media giant to pay billions of dollars. The ongoing discussions between US Federal Trade Commission's consumer-protection staff and the company could lead to a resolution of the agency's investigation into whether Facebook violated a 2011 settlement with the FTC. The investigation largely focuses on whether Facebook failed to honour previous privacy commitment when the political consulting

firm Cambridge Analytica gained access to information about millions of users.

### **SONY START UP ACCELERATOR**

**Ref: Mint, Thursday, 21.02.2019**



Sony Corp., once known for innovations like the Walkman, in commensuration with its innovative capabilities will support entrepreneurs including a partnership with Tokyo University for stabilizing ideas into businesses. It may invest, strike an alliance, provide office space or support the startups with its own marketing and sales expertise. It may also acquire the businesses if required. The initiative, now known as Sony Startup accelerator Program, was started in 2014 to encourage innovation and risk-taking among employees. Till date 34 ideas have been incubated and 14 of them have become new businesses most prominent ones including smart watches line Wena, the digital smell dispenser Aromatic, and self-flying drone startup Aero-Sense. These setups are adding value to the ever changing nature of our society.

### **WHATS FARZI FAKE NEWS APP**

**Ref: The Times of India, Thursday 21 February 2019**



IIT Delhi students have recently novated an app called WhatsFarzi to regulate menace of Fake news across internet. The app uses a custom logarithm that collates news on a particular topic from all sections and websites and verifies it with news on the same topic from an authentic and verified news portal. The app can also

be used to verify photos for their authenticity. This app shall be of substantial credibility if fake news is severed from verified news and shall have a positive impact on society as a whole.

### **DNA FOR TRACKING**

**Ref: The Times of India, Saturday, 23.02.2019**



Chinese officials have been reportedly collecting DNA to track people amidst its surveillance and oppression campaign. This initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with US. Apparently, it is being done under the garb of a free health check - up. China wants to make the country's Uighurs, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group, more subservient to the communist Party. It has detained up to 1 million people in what China calls "re-education" camps. A lot of human rights activists have been against this campaign. For comparison with Uighur DNA, they also relied on genetic material from people around the world that was provided by Kenneth Kidd, a prominent Yale University geneticist.

### **HARRODS PIRACY IN INDIA**

**Ref: The Times of India, Monday, 25.02.2019**



Harrods MD **Michael Ward** has declared on record that this iconic British luxury department store would not stop small businesses from mimicking the 'Harrods' brand name. Several small outlets across

India from apparel shops to sewing machine sellers use the 'Harrods' brand name but Ward, who was in the capital on Saturday to speak at The Global Business Summit, said it would be a waste of time and resources to register all the store's trademarks in the country.

### **HACHIMOJI DNA**

**Ref: The Times of India, Tuesday, 26.02.2019**



Hachimoji DNA means Eight in Japanese. With the latest innovation, instead of the four known basis for defining DNA i.e. base letters A,C, G and T the new built DNA shall have 8 bases. The novel 8 bases of DNA shall have numerous applications including a durable way to store digital data that could last for centuries. This development has also raised concerns about other acceptable or unknown forms of DNA. The four natural bases of DNA are all anchored to molecular backbones. A pair of backbones can join into a double helix because their bases are attracted to each other. The bases form a bond with their hydrogen atoms. But bases don't stick together at random. C can only bond to G, and A can only bond to T. These strict rules help ensure that DNA strands don't clump together into a jumble. No matter what sequence of bases are contained in natural DNA, it still keeps its shape.

### **WARNER V/S SPOTIFY**

**Ref: Mint, Tuesday, 26.02.2019**



Warner Music Group has filed an injunction before the Bombay high court to restrain Spotify technology SA, the world's largest paid-music-streaming service, from offering songs by its roster of songwriters, including Katy Perry and Led Zeppelin in India. The High Court in its order asked Spotify to deposit 6.5 crore while allowing it to launch services in India. This outcome has been welcomed by many as it ensures songwriters, artists, labels and publishers benefit from the financial opportunity of the Indian market.

### **PUNITIVE DAMAGES IN TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT**

**Ref: [www.livelaw.in](http://www.livelaw.in), Tuesday, 05.02.2019**



Delhi High Court has recently awarded punitive damages amounting to Rs. 3.85 crores to UK based WHATMAN International Ltd. for infringement of its trademark WHATMAN. The court opined that along with the company, the customer base has also been damaged who have been induced to buy fake products as genuine. Whatman, which sells filter paper, had approached the court contending that even though the registered mark WHATMAN is a surname, it has acquired secondary meaning in trade, owing to it being used for more than 250 years. The defendants were observed to be habitual offenders who had been infringing the mark consciously and willfully since past 25 years despite legal action. Awarding of this magnitude of punitive damages in the realm of IPR sets another benchmark in terms of the stakes involved in IPR industry.

### **GENE EDITED BABIES**

**Ref: NATURE MAGAZINE, Tuesday, 22.01.2019**



He Jiankui, a Chinese scientist has crossed the boundary of ethics by indulging into an experiment under gene editing specifically barred by the government. In November 2018, it was revealed that he had altered the genomes of two infant girls in a fashion that it made them HIV resistant to HIV in a way that would be passed on to future generations termed as CRISPR technology. This news was strongly condemned and since then he has been widely criticized for ignoring important ethical considerations and exposing the girls to unknown risks for an uncertain benefit. He has been put under house arrest and investigation has launched an investigation against him.



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