

ANM GLOBAL

Advocates & Legal Consultants

SPORTS AND GAMING LAWS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 2025

COLLATED BY:
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SPORTS LAW – INDIA

BCCI INTRODUCES 'SERIOUS INJURY REPLACEMENT' RULE FOR 2025-26 DOMESTIC MULTI-DAY CRICKET

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has introduced a new category 'Serious Injury Replacement' in its playing conditions for the upcoming domestic multi-day cricket season. This change was prompted by high-profile injuries, (e.g., Rishabh Pant in the England tour) where players were forced to continue despite serious physical injury.

The new rule allows a team to replace a player who sustains a serious injury from an external blow (e.g., fracture, deep cut, or dislocation) during the course of the match and is ruled out for the remainder of the game. The replacement player must be a like-for-like substitute and is ordinarily drawn from the nominated substitutes named at the toss.

The on-field umpires and the BCCI Match Referee must ensure the substitute player does not provide an unfair advantage to the team. This marks a significant shift toward prioritizing player welfare and fairness in Indian domestic cricket.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

OLYMPIC MEDALLIST LOVLINA BORGHAIN ALLEGES 'HUMILIATING' CONDUCT BY BFI OFFICIAL

Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has levelled serious allegations of "disrespectful and gender-discriminatory behaviour" against the Executive Director of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) Col Arun Malik (Retd.).

In a two-page complaint, Borgohain alleged that during a Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Zoom meeting on July 8, 2025, Malik raised his voice and told her to "shut up, lower your head and do as we say,". The dispute reportedly arose from Borgohain's request to have her personal coach accompany her to Europe for the preparation of Liverpool Worlds.

Malik has denied the allegations and stated that the call was professional in entirety. He further stated that her concerns were addressed in line with BFI's uniform policies. Taking note of the complaint, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) constituted a three-member inquiry committee to investigate the matter and Sports Authority of India (SAI) is also initiating an independent probe.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE ACT, 2025 RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT

The National Sports Governance Act, 2025, received assent from the President Droupadi Murmu on August 18, 2025. The Act establishes India's first statutory framework for sports administration. The Act aligns Indian sports governance with global Olympic and Paralympic Charters.

The Act introduces National Sports Bodies, which includes the (i) National Olympic Committee, (ii) National Paralympic Committee and (iii) National and Regional Sports Federations for each designated sport. These bodies must be affiliated with their respective international bodies and establish affiliate units at the State and District levels.

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The Act mandates a National Sports Board (NSB). The NSB grants recognition to these sports bodies and registers their units. Only recognised bodies can receive Central Government funding. Additionally, the Act establishes a National Sports Tribunal (NST), which shall adjudicate sports related disputes.

Access Links: Source [here](#) and [here](#)
Access Legislation: Source [here](#)

SUPREME COURT FINALISES THE AIFF CONSTITUTION

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on September 19, 2025 in a landmark judgement titled *All India Football Federation Vs Rahul Mehra & Ors*, approved the final draft constitution of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). This judgement is very crucial as it ended years of administrative uncertainty for Indian football. The judgement was delivered by a bench comprising of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Justice Joymalya Bagchi. This was necessary to bring the federation into compliance with global statutes.

The Court directed the AIFF to call a special general body meeting and to adopt the new Constitution, with the court's modifications, within four weeks. The Court further observed that the Constitution will mark a new beginning for Indian football.

The new Constitution mandates strict governance limits. Office bearers face a maximum cumulative tenure of 12 years. No individual over the age of 70 can contest for a post.

The judgement also increases athlete participation. The Executive Committee must include five eminent players (with at least two women) with voting rights.

Moreover, the Constitution implements the principles of promotion and relegation for the top-tier league. This change is viewed as essential for healthy competition and global compliance.

Access Link: Source [here](#)
Access Case: [here](#)

SPORTS LAW – INTERNATIONAL

ICC SUSPENDS USA CRICKET MEMBERSHIP

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has immediately suspended the membership status of USA Cricket due to repeated and continued breaches of its obligations under the ICC Constitution.

The ICC stated that it was necessary to protect the long-term interests of Cricket. The suspension was due to failure to implement functional governance structure and slow progress in achieving United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) recognition. These have caused significant reputational damage to the game.

However, the suspension does not prohibit the USA national teams from participating in ICC events, including preparations for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. Additionally, an ICC Normalisation Committee will oversee management and outline steps required for the USA Cricket to restore its membership rights.

Access Links: Source [here](#)

BWF TO TRIAL 25-SECOND TIME CLOCK TO ENFORCE CONTINUOUS PLAY

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council approved of thorough testing regulations for a new time-clock system. The trials begin at some point in late 2025 then expand on through 2026.

The system does introduce a strict limit. This limit is at 25 seconds between rallies and the clock starts after the umpire updates the score. That event starts the clock at once.

This regulatory measure seeks an objective standard for replacing subjective enforcement of this continuous play rule.

Umpires can pause at the clock dependent on some special circumstances such as intervening medically or maintaining of the court. The BWF views the 25-second interval as balancing player recovery the best as it also maintains match pace.

Access Links: Source [here](#)

NHL TO INTRODUCE PLAYOFF SALARY CAP IN 2026

The National Hockey League (NHL) is reforming the salary cap, which will begin during the 2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs. This effectively closes the Long-Term Injured Reserve (LTIR) loophole.

The rules make it mandatory for all the teams to have a 20-man roster for every playoff game complying with the salary cap. This prevents teams from stacking of the rosters because of high-salary players who are returning from LTIR exemptions.

The rule now makes GMs manage cautiously and have a year-round strategy. This rewards sustainable roster planning and is more effective than last-minute cap maneuvering for a championship push.

Access Links: Source [here](#)

WADA PUBLISHES 2026 PROHIBITED LIST, EFFECTIVE FROM 01, JANUARY 2026

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has published its 2026 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods. The list was approved by the Executive Committee of WADA and will come

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into effect on January 1, 2026.

The non-diagnostic use of carbon monoxide (CO) has been added to the Prohibited Methods. WADA has also widened the prohibition on cell usage to include cell components, including but not limited to nuclei and organelles.

Moreover, the Salmeterol's dosing intervals have been changed. Clarifications were also issued regarding washout periods for sustained-release glucocorticoids. The Athletes must comply with the updated list as they face strict liability.

Access Links: Source [here](#)

Access the List [here](#)

GAMING LAW – INDIA

ONLINE MONEY GAMING BANNED IN INDIA UNDER NEW LAW

The Lok Sabha passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 on August 20 after a brief seven-minute discussion. The Rajya Sabha cleared it the next day, and Presidential assent followed on August 22, 2025. The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (**"The Act"**) came into effect on October 1, 2025.

The Act classifies online games into three categories: e-sports, social gaming, and online money, generally known as real money games (RMGs). While it seeks to promote e-sports and social gaming, it imposes a complete ban on all forms of RMGs and their advertisements.

Violations related to RMG service offering will attract imprisonment of up to 3 years, fines up to INR 1 crore, or both. Advertising such games can lead to 2 years' imprisonment and an INR 50 lakh fine. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) will block offending platforms and may involve Interpol to act against offshore operators. Major firms including Dream11, Gameskraft, Games24x7, A23, Zupzee, PokerBaazi and WinZO have suspended their RMG operations.

Update: The centre has released draft rules for online gaming which are open for public consultation until October 31. The draft rule inter alia proposes the creation of the Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) as a dedicated regulator. The Authority will oversee the registration and certification of social games and e-sports, maintain a

national registry of approved games and determine whether a game is lawful or betting-based. A grievance redressal system will also be established, enabling users to escalate unresolved complaints first to an appellate committee and then to the authority, which must resolve cases within 30 days.

Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#)
Access Legislation: The Act [here](#) and the Draft Rules [here](#)

SUPREME COURT TRANSFERS CHALLENGES TO PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING ACT 2025 TO ITSELF

On September 8, in the case of Union of India v. Head Digital Works Private Limited and Anr. (T.P.(C) Nos. 2484-2486/2025), the Supreme Court Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan allowed the Union Government's transfer petitions seeking to consolidate and transfer multiple challenges to the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (**"The Act"**).

The Act has been challenged by online gaming companies by filing writ petitions in Delhi, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh High Courts. The primary contention is that the Act imposes a blanket ban judicially recognised formats such as games of skill, thereby violating the fundamental right to carry on trade or business under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution. The Union Government argued that proceedings before multiple High Courts will add to confusion if the judgements contradict each other. The Supreme Court, therefore, directed that any similar petitions pending before any other High Courts will also automatically stand transferred to the Supreme Court.

On September 26, online gaming companies

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informed the Supreme Court that their businesses have been shut down owing to The Act banning online money games. They urged the Court to grant an urgent hearing and interim relief against the implementation of the law. Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai agreed to list the matter for hearing.

Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#)

Access Order: [here](#)

URVASHI RAUTELA QUESTIONED BY ED IN 1XBET MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE

Urvashi Rautela (actor and model) appeared before the Enforcement Directorate on September 30, 2025, in connection with a money laundering investigation involving the online betting and gaming platform 1xBet. She serves as the Indian brand ambassador for the platform, which is registered in Curaçao. The ED has begun recording her statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. In recent weeks, the agency has questioned several celebrities linked to the case, including cricketers Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Robin Uthappa, and Shikhar Dhawan, as well as actors Sonu Sood, and Bengali actor Ankush Hazra. Multiple social media influencers have also been summoned as part of the probe.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

SUPREME COURT RESERVES JUDGEMENT IN INR 2.5 LAKH CRORE GST DISPUTE ON ONLINE GAMING

On August 12, 2025, after 90+ hours of intense hearings over 31 days, the Supreme Court reserved its judgment in the landmark case *Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (HQs) v. Gameskraft Technologies Pvt. Ltd.*, after hearing final arguments. The batch of matters involves major gaming companies such as Gameskraft, Delta Corp, and industry

associations including the All-India Gaming Federation (AIGF), E-Gaming Federation (EGF), and the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS).

The key issue was whether online skill games attract 28% GST under Rule 31A of CGST Rules, which were originally meant for lotteries and betting. The case concerns with tax demands amounting to approximately INR 2.5 lakh crore (US\$29 billion), making it one of the largest indirect tax disputes in India's legal history.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

Access Order: [here](#)

GAMING LAW – INTERNATIONAL

JAPAN ENFORCES NEW LAW TO TACKLE GAMBLING ADDICTION

Japan's new law aimed at curbing gambling addiction came into effect on September 25, 2025. The law was passed in June and prohibits the launch of online casinos and bans gambling-related advertisements across social media, YouTube, and other online platforms. Website operators and administrators are required to remove such content upon government instruction. Although the penalties for non-compliance are not considered to be high, operators are likely to face mounting pressure to shut down online gambling services if ordered by authorities. In addition, the rules address celebrity endorsements of gambling activities; and direct government agencies to increase public awareness about the risks associated with illegal online gambling. The law came as a reaction to concerns raised by Japan's National Police Agency, which highlighted the survey showing about 3.37 million people engaging in online gambling, signalling high addiction risks among youth.

Access Link: Source [here](#)

GERMANY WARNS AGAINST ILLEGAL GAMBLING PLATFORMS AMID RISING ADDICTION CONCERNS

On the occasion of Gambling Addiction Action Day (September 24, 2025), the Joint Gambling Authority of the German States ("GGL") issued a strong warning against illegal online gambling operators targeting German players, particularly younger audiences. The regulator highlighted that unlicensed platforms lack age verification, deposit limits and blocking systems, which significantly increases the risk of gambling addiction. Preventing gambling addiction

is a key focus of the GGL, which works through three main strategies: raising awareness about risks and protective tools, enforcement against illegal operators, and ensuring that licensed providers comply with player protection regulations under the Interstate Gambling Treaty of 2021. GGL signalled that stronger compliance checks and visible enforcement actions are expected in the coming months, with additional restrictions under consideration if necessary.

Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#)

UK EXTENDS ADVERTISING RULES TO COVER OFFSHORE GAMBLING OPERATORS

The UK Advertising Standards Authority ("ASA") has expanded the scope of the Code of Non-broadcast Advertising and Direct and Promotional Marketing ("CAP Code") to include non-paid-for online marketing, such as social media posts, targeting UK consumers, regardless of where the advertiser is based. This change closes long-standing regulatory loopholes that previously allowed offshore gambling operators in jurisdictions like Malta and Gibraltar to bypass CAP Code advertising standards. The CAP Code's scope has been expanded to cover traditional advertising, mobile apps, ".uk" websites, and organic social media content, effectively removing the exemption on non-paid promotions. The Committee of Advertising Practice has launched a three-month industry consultation, with a formal review expected in December 2025. The ASA has stated that the changes aim to improve regulatory consistency and strengthen consumer protection in the digital advertising ecosystem.

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Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#)

VIRGINIA CONSIDERS NEW GAMING COMMISSION AND ONLINE CASINO LEGALISATION

Virginia lawmakers are debating the creation of a Virginia Gaming Commission, a new regulatory body that would oversee iGaming. Currently, gambling regulation is fragmented; sports betting and casinos fall under the Virginia Lottery, while charitable gaming and horse racing are managed by separate agencies. Potential legalization of real-money online casinos was also discussed.

Earlier this year, Delegate Marcus Simon introduced HB 2171, which sought to bring online casinos under casino-lottery oversight and tackle illegal offshore platforms. Although the bill did not pass, legislators plan to revisit and revise it ahead of the 2026 legislative session. Two additional meetings are scheduled to take place before the General Assembly session begins in January 2026.

Access Link: Source [here](#) and [here](#)

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

ANM Global announced promotions of colleagues: Anisha Shetty as Partner, Shwetank Tripathi as Partner Designate, Gaurav Suryavanshi as Principal Associate, and Raashi Vaishya, Dishita Shah, Jinal Doshi as Senior Associate. Their legal acumen, client service, and excellence reflect the firm's philosophy of nurturing talent and recognising merit.



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PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENT


ANISHA SHETTY
PARTNER


SHWETANK TRIPATHI
PARTNER DESIGNATE


GAURAV SURYAVANSHI
PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATE


JINAL DOSHI
SENIOR ASSOCIATE


RAASHI VAISHYA
SENIOR ASSOCIATE


DISHITA SHAH
SENIOR ASSOCIATE

ET LegalWorld.com
From The Economic Times

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QUOTED BY ET LEGAL - "GAME ON: CAN INDIA'S NEW SPORTS LAW FUEL A LUCRATIVE LEGAL PRACTICE?"



"Compliance will become systematic. The bigger clubs and federations will go to law firms. The smaller ones might rely on independent lawyers. Either way, this creates a stream of legal work that simply didn't exist before."

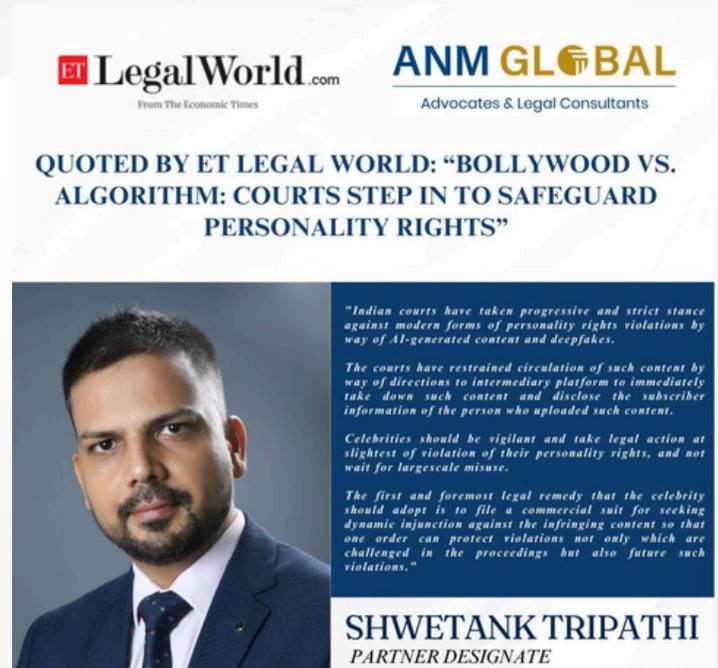
"This will open doors for a lot of young sports lawyers. But the ecosystem itself has to mature. Otherwise, it risks being an opportunity without longevity."

NIDHISH MEHROTRA
MANAGING PARTNER

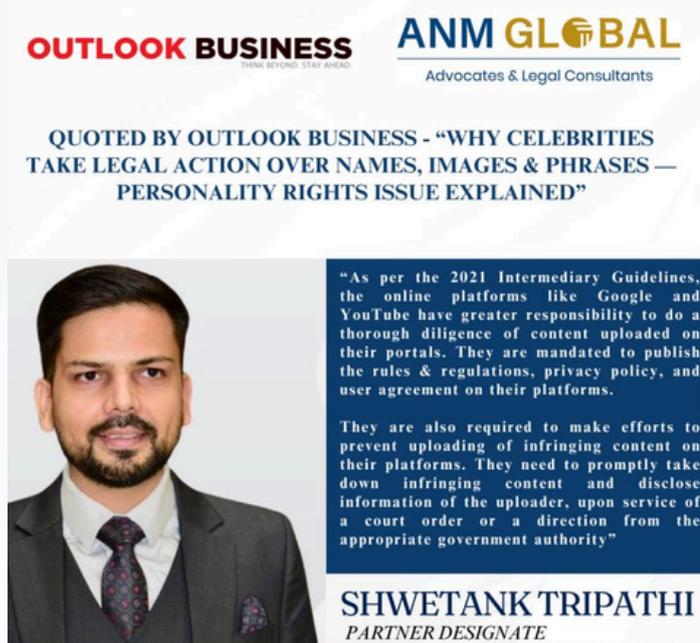
ANM Global Managing Partner Nidhish Mehrotra was quoted in ETLegalWorld's feature "Game On: Can India's New Sports Law Fuel a Lucrative Legal Practice?" sharing perspectives on regulatory compliance in Indian sports law, as the evolving sports and gaming landscape creates new waves of legal work.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

Partner Designate Shwetank Tripathi was quoted in ETLegalWorld's feature "Bollywood vs. Algorithm: Courts Step In to Safeguard Personality Rights." The recognition reflects the firm's commitment to discussions on emerging legal issues and conversations at the intersection of law, technology, and society.



ANM Global's Partner Designate Shwetank Tripathi was quoted in Outlook Business feature "Why Celebrities Take Legal Action over Names, Images & Phrases — Personality Rights Issue Explained," highlighting growing relevance of this area of law with digital media and influencer culture.



FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

ANM Global–Scriboard hosted a Roundtable on Data Privacy, Cybersecurity & AI, chaired by Mr. Rodney D. Ryder. The session explored the intersection of technology, regulation, and law, fostering meaningful dialogue on the evolving landscape of digital law and policy.

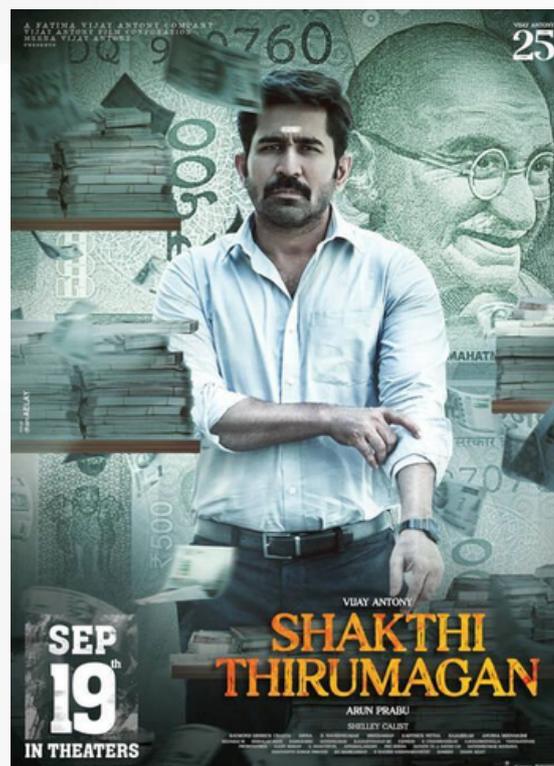


ANM Global’s Partner Sneha Nanandkar represented the firm at INDIA ADR WEEK 2025 by MCIA and IPBA Arbitration Day, Mumbai, engaging with global practitioners on issues from arbitration regime lacunas to ESG, treaties, enforceability of arbitral awards, and climate change, reinforcing ANM Global’s commitment to international arbitration discourse and stronger dispute resolution frameworks.



FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

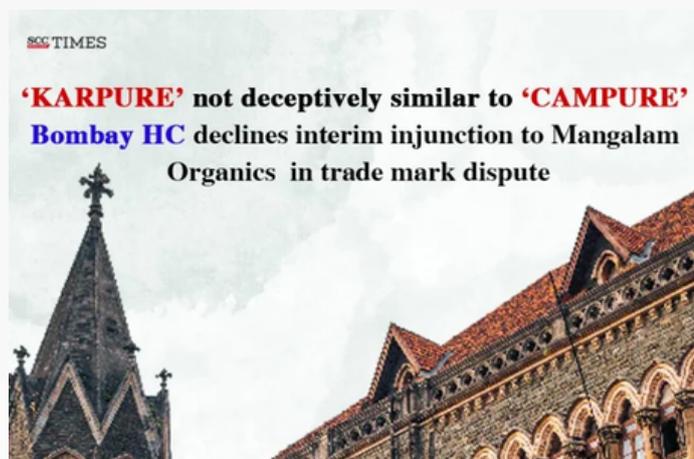
ANM Global represented RKD Studios in acquiring and exploiting dubbing rights of *Shakthi Thirumagan*, directed by Arun Prabhu Purushottaman with Vijay Antony and cast, released on 19th September 2025, enabling wider reach in all world languages except South Indian through its Hindi dubbed version.



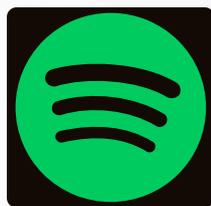
ANM Global provided legal support to I AM Buddha Entertainment & Media LLP for Hindi film “The Bengal Files”, directed by Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri and released on 5th September 2025, handling production-related legal matters, contractual engagements, and distribution deals across mediums, while extending best wishes to the team.

FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

ANM Global represented Tips Music Limited in drafting, negotiating, and executing the exploitation agreement for Mirai's music rights. Directed by Karthik Gattamneni. The epic tale features Teja Sajja, Ritika Nayak, Manoj Kumar Manchu, and cast.



ANM Global successfully represented N. Ranga Rao & Sons Private Limited in the matter of Mangalam Organics Ltd. v. N. Ranga Rao & Sons Pvt. Ltd., where the Hon'ble Bombay High Court refused to grant an interim injunction against the use of the marks "KARPURE" / "AIR KARPURE."



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