Neelakantan V R

Partner

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Practice
Projects and Project Finance

Education
B.A. LL.B., (Hons.), National Law School of India University, Bangalore (2006)

Professional Affiliation
Bar Council of Delhi

Neelakantan is a Partner in the Projects and Project Finance practice group. Prior to joining the Firm, Neelakantan was a partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas (New Delhi).

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

In his area of practice, Neel has advised and represented several prominent clients including:

Oil & Gas

- **Indian Oil Corporation Limited** on the acquisition of interest in the Pacific Northwest project in Canada including advice on acquisition of 10 percent interest in Progress Energy Canada's LNG-destined natural gas reserves in northeast British Columbia and in the Pacific NorthWest LNG Ltd. export facility on Canada's west coast;

- **IOCL, GSPC, GAIL India Limited (GAIL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** on the re-negotiation and finalization of the long-term LNG SPAs with Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Company Limited and the corresponding renegotiation of the gas sales and purchase agreements with Petronet LNG Limited;

- **IOC, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), BPCL and GSPC** on their arrangements with Swan LNG Limited for regasification at Swan LNG Limited's proposed floating storage and regasification facilities in Gujarat;

- **OVL and Bharat Petroleum**, with respect to their financing and security structure for a project based in Mozambique;

- **GAIL** on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline and the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline;

- **Invenire Energy** on the acquisition of Tata Petrodyne from Tata Sons;

- **ONGC** on a number of spot and long term LNG and petroleum product purchase agreements including with TotalEnergies and ADNOC;

- **ONGC Videsh Limited** on the acquisition of 20% interest in the Sakhalin 1 gas field from the Russian Federation; and

- **HPCL** on a number of spot and long term LNG purchase agreements.

Power

- **Augment Infrastructure Partners LP** on its acquisition of controlling shareholding in CleanMax Enviro Energy Solutions Pvt. Ltd and its subsequent rounds of exit;

- **Brookfield Asset Management Inc.** on its proposed acquisition of a renewable energy portfolio of more than 700 MW (comprising of primarily wind and certain solar assets) in India;

- **UPC-AC Energy Solar Asia Limited (Philippines)** in relation to its proposed acquisition of 6 solar power special purpose vehicles, with a portfolio of more than 1100 MW in India;

- **Oyster Renewables Limited** on its bid to acquire Vibrant Energy;

- **Sembcorp Utilities Pte. Ltd** (a large player in the Indian power sector with presence in inter alia renewable energy with a portfolio of a sizeable capacity held through multiple project SPVs, and consisting of wind, solar and hydro assets) on restructuring its Indian group so as to enable it to undertake an IPO of its total power portfolio in India in the most efficient manner;

- **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (India's sovereign wealth fund)** in relation to its proposed acquisition of 5 solar power special purpose vehicles, with a portfolio of more than 600 MW in India;

- **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (India's sovereign wealth fund)** in relation to its proposed acquisition of Sprng Energy;

- **ACME Solar Holdings Limited** on the proposed divestment of its solar power projects in MP and AP, to an Actis LP backed investment platform;

- **Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Private Limited**, a joint venture of NTPC and BPDB in relation to drafting, reviewing and finalization of tender documents for the construction (on EPC turnkey basis) of 2x660 MW maître super-critical thermal power plant at Bangladesh;

- **Teesta Urja Limited** in relation to various issues relating to 1200 MW Teesta Stage - III Hydro Electric Project in Sikkim, and the associated power transmission project;

- **NTPC Limited** in relation to their joint venture in Sri Lanka with Ceylon Electricity Board in relation to their proposed 500 MW coal fired thermal power plant and drafting, negotiating and finalization of power purchase agreement and several state support agreements;

- **Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation** in relation to appointment of supply and erection contractor in relation to a wind power project in the district of Kutch in the state of Gujarat;

- **Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited** on their international competitive bidding process seeking private participation to build the 2 x 500 MW Anpara 'C' thermal power project, the bidding process, bid related and all other project documents including a shared facilities agreement; and

- **Various parties, including Areva group, Westinghouse Electric, Hitachi, Alstom India, GE Group** in relation to liability regime for nuclear power projects in India.

Airports

- **GMR Group** on the merger of GAL into and with GMR Infra Developers Limited (GIDL) (the resulting entity with GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited (GIL);

- **GMR Group** on the approximately USD 1.3 billion investment by Aeroports de Paris S.A into the airports holding company of GMR;

- **GMR Group** on the approximately USD 750 million investment by Abu Dhabi Investment Authority into the promoter of GMR Airports Limited;

- **Airports Authority of India** on the redrafting of the Airports Authority of India Act;

- **Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (MIAL)** on (i) structuring and drafting of agreements in relation to various commercial arrangements existing at the Chattrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airport (ii) drafting of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in connection with the Advertising rights and Duty-Free operations at the CSI Airport (iii) Slum removal and Rehabilitation related issues (iv) assistance in creation of Master Plan and subsequent preparation of initial response to issues raised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in relation to the Master Plan.

- **Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL)** on selection of a concessionaire (i) for the development, operation and maintenance of a fuel facility at the IGI Airport, New Delhi (ii) to undertake the development, operation and maintenance of a Greenfield cargo facility and upgradation, operation and maintenance of a brownfield cargo facility at the IGI Airport, New Delhi (iii) for the undertaking into plane operations at the IGI Airport, New Delhi (iv) development of a high-speed metro express link to the Airport, and the contractual arrangements with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for the same.

- **Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Flughafen Zürich AG)** in relation to development of a multimodal cargo hub at the upcoming greenfield Noida International Airport Limited (which is going to be the largest airport in India);

- **GMR Group** in relation to the divestment of its stake in the Mactan-Cebu Airport in Philippines;

- **The Emirate of Ras Al Khaima** in relation to the grant of a concession for a greenfield airport in Ras Al Khaima; and

- **Intex Corporation** in relation to the establishment of a greenfield airport in Zanzibar.

Ports & Logistics

- **GR Infra Limited** on various aspects of the development of a multi modal logistics park in Indore, including on its long term operations agreement with the Ports Authority of Singapore;

- **Reliance Industries Limited** on various aspects of the development of a multi modal logistics park in Chennai, including on divestment of 49% equity interest to DP World;

- **Petronet LNG Limited** in relation to the establishment of a supplementary jetty for the receipt of LNG and transporting it to the LNG storage tanks in the Existing LNG Facilities at Dahej Port;

- **Petronet LNG Limited (PLL)** in relation to establishment of a regasification facility at Kochi, for importation, re-gasification and transportation of re-gasified LNG;

- **GSPC LNG Limited** with respect to sub-concession for setting up an LNG port and Regasification facilities at Mundra Port, Gujarat and on various matters connected with the development of the LNG terminal, including arrangements for tolling of capacity threat;

- **Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance** in relation to the development of a renegotiation framework for model concession agreements in the national highways and ports sectors;

- **Indian Oil Corporation Limited** on the proposed LNG port terminal at Ennore; and

- **Chennai Port Trust** in relation to their concession arrangements for a roll on roll off facility at Chennai Port.

Railways, Roads and other Infrastructure Projects

- **GE Global Sourcing India Private Limited** in relation to foreign investments in its joint venture with Ministry of Railways, Government of India, for setting up Diesel Locomotive Factory at Marhowra, Saran, Bihar, India;

- **Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited and the government of Andhra Pradesh** in relation to the development of a MRTS system in the state of Andhra Pradesh;

- **Ministry of Railways, Government of India** with respect to the development of a framework for introduction of High Speed Rail Networks in India, on public private participation (PPP) basis; and

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- **Touax Rail Ireland**, with respect to the establishment of an Indian WLC and wagon leasing in India.

Automobile, Electric Vehicles and Battery

- **Tata Motors** in relation to a number of tenders for fleet supply and operations of EV buses;

- **Fortum Star BV, Fortum Charge and Drive India Private Limited** to disinvest a portion of share capital of Fortum Charge and Drive India Private Limited to Finnish Fund for Industrial Cooperation Ltd. to bolster growth for electric vehicles charging infrastructure in India;

- **Porsche** on the applicable legal regime for establishing battery and electric car charging stations in India;

- **Intelligent Energy Limited** in relation to their entry into India and advised on financing of their projects in the field of green battery technology; and

- **BPCL** on its acquisition of battery recycling technologies.