

## Annotated Listing

### Editor's Note

Our policy is to review all books which are either sent to us or in our opinion are useful to our readers.

**Agarwal, J.D. and Aman Agarwal; *Literature in Finance: Specialized Finance (Vol IV)*; 2004, IIF Publication, Delhi, India, pp.218, Price ₹ 330**

Finance is often cited as the main containing factor for developing different sectors of the economy. The millennium goals set by United Nations and an attempt to achieve them in the world economy has increased the importance of sectorial finance. There are a large number of text books as well as research studies, available in Finance. However there is no compendium presenting at one place the literature available on finance, recognizing the fact that there exist wide time gap in the research being done, published in journals and included in books.

Finance as a field has emerged as one of the most vital component for growth and development. Its emergence as a discipline in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brings forth it's vitality. It is one of the most -scare resources, which has been the greatest facilitating factor in the growth and development of and economy, firm, corporate and even an individual. The emergence of finance as a discipline is a strong conviction.

Most of the literature in finance in the past six decades ever since the end of World War II has focused on corporate finance, investments, banking and financial systems, securities markets and public finance. As a result finance as a field of study has been directly indentified with these areas and most often treated as an extension of economics or accounting. The financial management of various sectors of the economy which play a pivotal role in the development processes of a country and required massive investments, equally attracted the attention of international agencies, policy makers, academicians and practitioners as these sectors required massive investments as well as creative solutions to finance these sectors.

To fill the gap between the literature which has been published and the available books on finance, the authors out of their personal experiences globally, have attempted to bring forth the untapped work which remains as decorated in the columns of professional and academic research journals.

Hence the benefit that society may derive from serious research findings based on hard labour and serious efforts of researchers has been a much needed attention. The book under consideration is fourth in the series. The authors brought forth a compendium of literature published on Education Finance, Health Finance, Insurance, International Finance, Corporate Tax Management, Agriculture Finance, Financial Management of Multinational Finance, Corporate Finance and SME Finance.

The book provides a medium for existing work as an appropriate outlet for dissemination. The book has been intended to be useful for policy makers, researchers, doctoral students, practicing managers, chartered accountants, finance executives and students of finance.

**Kuchhal, M.C. and Vivek Kuchhal; *Mercantile Law*; 2013, Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd., Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India, pp.690, Price ₹ 410**

Mercantile Law is a growing subject. It comprises of laws of practical importance in the modern business world. Hence the study of Mercantile Law has been given a high priority for commerce and law education by Universities and professional institutes world over. There is no dearth of literature on the subject, however, there still seems to be a need for a work which unfolds in an easily comprehensible manner the intricate points of the law and seeks to answer the tricky questions which might intrigue the mind of a curious reader.

The book has been organized in eight parts dealing with the laws relating to contracts, Sale of Goods, Partnership, Negotiable Instruments, Insurance, Insolvency, Carriage of Goods, Information Technology, Consumer Protection and Arbitration and Conciliation. The chapters have been designed to explain topic wise the statutory provisions, grouping together the relevant sections. It discusses the statutory provisions and the intricacies of law and explains logic behind them. Both English and Indian decided cases have been cited at appropriate places with a view to securing the necessary authenticity and clarity of the subject and to explain the practical implications of the Law. A large number of decided cases and illustrations have been given in the text to explain the practical implications of the law. Practical problems with some hints and solutions have been given at the end of each chapter for the reader's self assessment.

Part I of the book deals with Law of Contract. This part divided into fifteen chapters begins with the introduction to contracts. Authors have explained different types of contracts well in the chapter. Chapter two is dedicated to Offers and Acceptances. Legal rules regarding a valid offer is described in simple and lucid language in the chapter. Valid considerations only lead to a contract. Consideration, form core of chapter three of the book. Capacity of parties and Free consent have been discussed well in chapter four and five of the book. Authors have carefully added a chapter on Object and consideration in chapter six of the book. Void agreement has been

explained in Chapter seven while contingent contracts have been explained in chapter eight of the book. Performance and Discharge of contract have been explained in subsequent two chapters. Quasi Contracts have been elucidated well in chapter eleven of the book. Remedies for the breach of contract have been discussed in detail in the book. Indemnity & Guarantee and Bailment & Pledge forms the core of chapter thirteen and fourteen of the book. Part One ends with chapter on Agency.

Part two of the book explains Law relating to Sale of Goods. Contract of Sale of Goods and Conditions and Warranties have been explained in chapter sixteen and seventeen respectively. Chapter eighteen deals with Transfer of Property in the country. Authors have explained Performance of Contract of Sale and Rights of Unpaid Seller in the last two chapters of this part of the book.

Law of Partnership forms the core of Part three of the book. After elucidating definition and nature of Partnership in the beginning chapter of this part, authors has explained Formation of Partnership; Rights, Duties and Liabilities of Partners and Dissolution of Partnership Firm in a simple and lucid language in subsequent three chapters of the book.

Part IV of the book describes The Law of Negotiable Instruments. Authors introduce Negotiable Instruments in chapter twenty five of the book. Parties of Negotiable Instruments, Presentment of Negotiable Instruments and Negotiable of Negotiable Instruments have been explained well in next three chapters in this section. Dishonour and discharge of negotiable Instruments and crossing and bouncing of cheques have been explained well in chapter twenty nine and thirty in this part.

Authors have included complete Information Technology Act, 2000 and Consumer Protection Act, 1986 in chapter thirty one and thirty two of the book briefly. Law of Insurance has been dealt with in seventh part in the book. After introducing nature and principles of Insurance, Author has carefully included one chapter each on Life Insurance, Fire Insurance and Marine Insurance to give greater insights into the law of Insurance.

Law of Insolvency has been discussed in the eighth part of the book. Chapter thirty seven deals with the objects and scope of the Insolvency Law. Procedure of Insolvency, Property and Debts of Insolvent and discharge of Insolvent have been covered well in next three chapters in the book.

Last Part of the book deals with Law of Arbitration and Conciliation. After enumerating general provisions regarding Arbitration, Arbitral Tribunal, Arbitration Proceedings, Conciliation and Enforcement of Certain Foreign Awards have been covered in the book.

The book explains the fundamental principles of the subject and presents a comprehensive, coordinated, cohesive and accurate exposition of its statutory provisions in a lucid manner. Besides, the presentation is easy to grasp since each complicated provision has been explained with the help of illustrations and analogies.

The book remains one of the leading text for students of MBA, M.Com, PGDM, CA, ICMA, Company Secretaries, banking and judicial services examinations. It also serves as a handy and compact volume for those engaged in business, young managers and all others interested in study of business law.

**Varshney, P.N. and D.K. Mittal; *Indian Financial System*; Eleventh Edition, Sultan Chand & Sons, Delhi, India, pp. 820, Price ₹ 365**

Financial system aims at establishing a regular, smooth, efficient and cost effective link between savers and investors. It helps encouraging both saving and investment. Financial system facilitates expansion of financial market and promote efficient allocation of financial resources for socially desirable and economically productive purpose. The main thrust of the Indian Financial System approach is the creation of an enabling environment to promote deep, competitive, efficient and vibrant financial institutions and markets with emphasis on stability. Indian economy is steadily moving towards a higher growth path. During the nineties and their after therefore have been major economic policy changes, such as, economic liberalization, deregulation of industries, trade liberalization, financial sector reforms and privatization/ disinvestment in public sector units. The Indian Financial system is now significantly guided by market oriented developments and reforms, and government being a vigilant observer. This book is an effort by the authors to explain the concept of Indian Financial System and the factors or innovation in the Indian Financial System who are guiding the Indian Financial System.

The book starts by explaining the concept of money market in a simple and in an elaborative way. Then the book discusses the concept of commercial banks in India and their functions. The main feature of this book is that it includes the latest performance indicators of the commercial banks in India as well as the changes in policy regarding their priority sector advances and NPAs of commercial banks. Then the book explained the concept of call money market and treasury bills market in India.

To keep pace with the growing requirement of curbing unhealthy practices in fast expanding Indian security market and to protect the interest of the investors SEBI regulate entire gamut of activities in primary and secondary market. The book tries to include the regulation imposed by the market regulators for the investor's protection. Then the authors explained the operations of stock exchange in detail.

Then the book made an attempt to cover almost all the reforms in the secondary market so that it functions efficiently with greater transparency. The book keeps the close eyes on all the attempts that are continuously made to broaden the market and to make the market safer for investors. Then the authors discussed the concept of mutual funds in India and their

role in the Indian Financial System. Insurance sector occupy prominent position in the Indian Financial System.

The book tries to cover this sector as well. Then the authors turn the reader attention towards the venture capital funds in India. The central bank of any country play a significant role in the financial system of that country. RBI occupies a unique and distinctive place in the Indian banking and Financial System. The role and significance of RBI is also discussed in detail. Indian Financial System is an effort to uncover the pillars of Indian Financial System in front of the reader. The book brilliantly explains the latest amended disclosure and investors protection guideline which make this book superior in comparison of other books.

This book is a good read book for those who want to get an in-depth knowledge of the Indian Financial System. This book will serve as a text book for the investors, policy makers, and students who were pursuing their graduation or post graduation in the area of finance.

**Mehta, P. L.; *Managerial Economics: Analysis, Problem and Cases*; Sultan Chand & Sons, Delhi, India, pp. 837, Price ₹ 495**

Managerial economics is the economics of today. It is that branch of economics which Serves as a link between abstract theory and managerial practice. Managerial economics helps business executives to understand how the managerial process combines and synthesizes ideas from various functional fields like sales management, Production management, etc. managerial economics is getting acceptance as a subject in the today's fast changing world. This book by Mehta is an effort to provide a quality study materials in this field.

The book is divided into thirty four chapters. The author starts the book by giving an overview of the managerial economics. Then the author exposed the reader to the main economic concepts and models which are especially suitable for analyzing business problems. Then the author discusses how a consumer performance pattern results in his utility function and how with the help of this utility function and purchasing power, the consumers attains his utility maximizing combination of goods. Then the author presented the basic elements of demand and concept of demand elasticity and estimation of demand. Advertising is an important means of creating demand for the product and of engaging in product differentiation. The book discusses the concept of advertising and sales promotion in detail as well. Author also discusses the supply and production decisions with the help of examples and charts.

The opportunity cost is the return from the second best use of a resource, the author discuss the cost of production. The author explain in a simplified manner how the two most simplified market situations viz. perfect competition and monopoly work. The kind of economic limitations or their absence which exist in there markets decide the nature of managerial decision making The author then dealt with those market structure that fall between the two limiting

case of perfect competition and monopoly viz., monopolistic competition, duopoly and oligopoly. The advanced topics in pricing theory such as peak load pricing are also discussed in detail in this book.

While we decide about a price policy, the firm takes into account internal factors and the external factors, these general considerations in pricing and price forecasting is discussed in length. Profit is return of entrepreneurial ability which includes activities like bringing all inputs together to produce the goods, introducing some innovations and bearing uncertainty of business. This concept of profit is also dealt in this book in detail. Firms are often found to pursue goals other than profit maximization. Policies related to profit planning and forecasting is discussed in detail.

This book also considered how investment proposals can be evaluated to determine whether or not they should be undertaken. The book highlighted the strong points and weaknesses of all the popular methods of project evaluation. Then the book explains how the cost of capital for financing projects is calculated and main considerations need to be taken into account. Effective decision making is nothing more than making the best choice from all available alternatives. The concept of decision analysis is also covered in this book. The book discusses the risk in project using simulation, decision tree and sensitivity analysis.

The most important decision for any successful business is to decide the location of business. This concept of location decision is discussed in this book as well. National income is an indicator of economic activity this book discuss the concept of national income and business cycle as well. Governments play an important role in the growth of an economy. The book presents the role which a government should follow in market economy. The industrial development depend on the type of government exist in the country and the policies they adopt. This interrelation between government and business is discussed in this book at length. Public sector decision safeguards the interest of the common people in a country. The book discusses the benefit & drawback of public sector decisions. Then the book turned the focus of the reader towards international trade and international finance. How economic decisions are made in multinational business is discussed very well with the help of case study and WTO report. Linear programming is a technique to help decision maker in solving constraint optimization problems, this technique of finding optimal decision with limitation is presented in a easy to understand way. Demand forecasting using input output approach is discussed using examples, Game theory technique of decision making in competitive situations is presented in self explanatory way.

The book is an effort to provide all the quality study material to a serious student of managerial economics at one place. The book is written in every simple, easy to understand and self explanatory way. This is a must read and have book for one and all. The main feature of this book includes diagrams, case study approach, relevant examples and simple language. This book is good introduction for manager, and graduate students of economics, management and finance.