

NEWSLETTER

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**MESSAGE FROM
PATRON-IN-CHIEF**

The strength of any dispute resolution system lies not only in the quality of its legal framework but equally in the confidence that it inspires among its stakeholders. As commercial relationships become increasingly complex and cross-border transactions continue to expand, institutional arbitration assumes an even greater significance in ensuring timely, impartial and effective resolution of disputes.

The Delhi International Arbitration Centre has, over the years, consistently demonstrated its commitment to these ideals by fostering an arbitration ecosystem founded on professionalism, transparency and procedural efficiency. Through its continued emphasis on institutional best practices, technological integration and administrative excellence, DIAC has contributed meaningfully to strengthening India's position as a credible and preferred destination for arbitration.

This newsletter reflects the diverse initiatives, academic engagements and institutional developments undertaken during the past few months. Beyond documenting these activities, it serves as a testament to the collective efforts of judges, arbitrators, members of the Bar, researchers, and the dedicated Secretariat whose unwavering commitment continues to enhance the institution's stature.

I congratulate everyone associated with DIAC for their continued endeavour towards advancing institutional arbitration and promoting a culture of efficient dispute resolution. I am confident that the Centre will continue to build upon its achievements and further contribute to the evolution of arbitration jurisprudence in India and beyond.

I extend my best wishes for the continued success of the Delhi International Arbitration Centre and trust that this publication will serve as an informative and valuable resource for all its readers.

**(CHIEF JUSTICE
DEVENDRA KUMAR UPADHYAYA)**



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**MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON,
ARBITRATION COMMITTEE**

The evolution of arbitration in India reflects a broader commitment towards ensuring that commercial disputes are resolved through processes that are efficient, fair and responsive to the needs of a dynamic economy. Institutional arbitration has emerged as an essential pillar in this endeavour, bringing with it greater procedural certainty, administrative support and consistency in the conduct of arbitral proceedings.

The Delhi International Arbitration Centre continues to contribute to this evolving landscape by facilitating an environment where parties, arbitrators and practitioners are able to engage with confidence in a professionally administered process. The role of an arbitral institution extends beyond case management; it encompasses the responsibility of nurturing dialogue, encouraging learning and continuously adapting to developments in law and practice.

This edition of the newsletter offers a glimpse into the activities and initiatives undertaken by DIAC during the past months. It reflects the institution's continued engagement with the legal fraternity through academic programmes, collaborative discussions and other initiatives aimed at strengthening the practice of institutional arbitration. Such efforts are integral to building a vibrant arbitration culture and fostering greater confidence in alternative dispute resolution.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the members of the Arbitration Committee, the Secretariat, the Editorial Board, members of the Bar, arbitrators and all those who have devoted their time and expertise towards the continued progress of the Centre. Their collective commitment has enabled DIAC to maintain the standards expected of a premier arbitral institution.

As arbitration continues to evolve alongside changing commercial realities, it is imperative that institutions remain committed to the values of impartiality, efficiency and excellence. I am confident that DIAC will continue to discharge this responsibility with dedication and purpose, while contributing meaningfully to the growth of institutional arbitration in the country.

I convey my best wishes to everyone associated with the Delhi International Arbitration Centre and trust that this newsletter will serve as a useful reflection of the Centre's ongoing efforts and achievements


(V. KAMESWAR RAO)

OVERVIEW OF DIAC

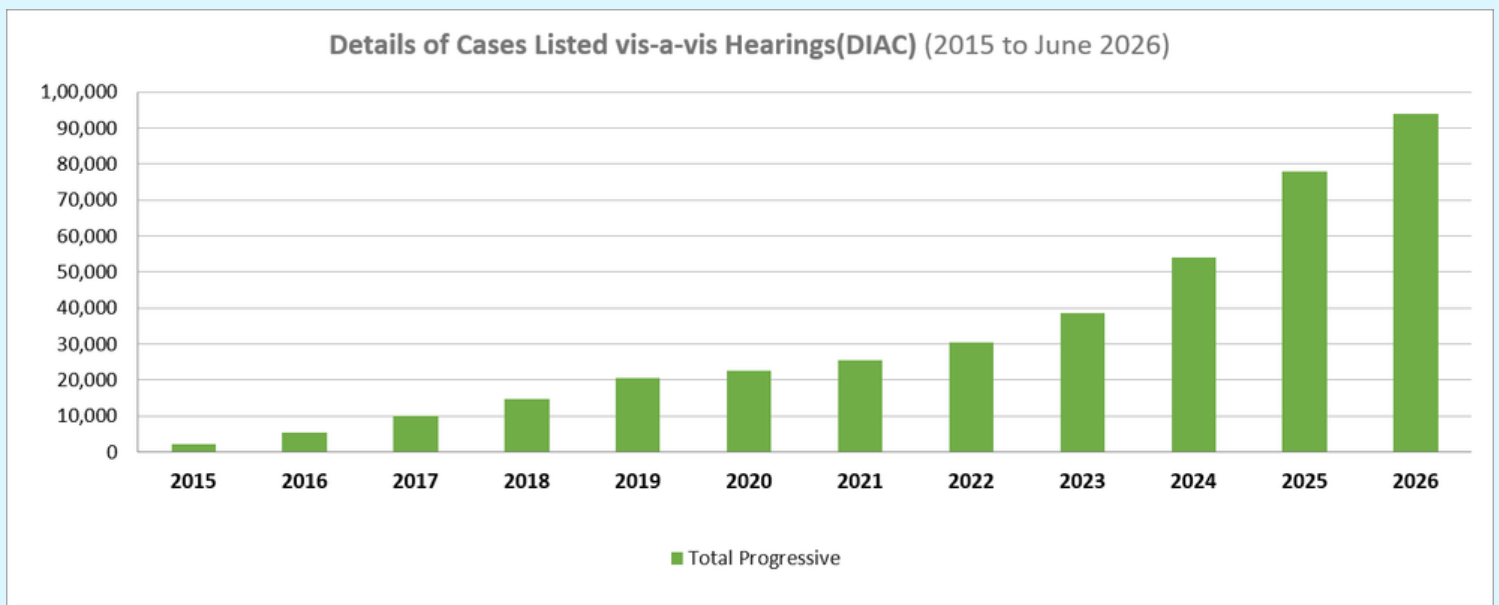
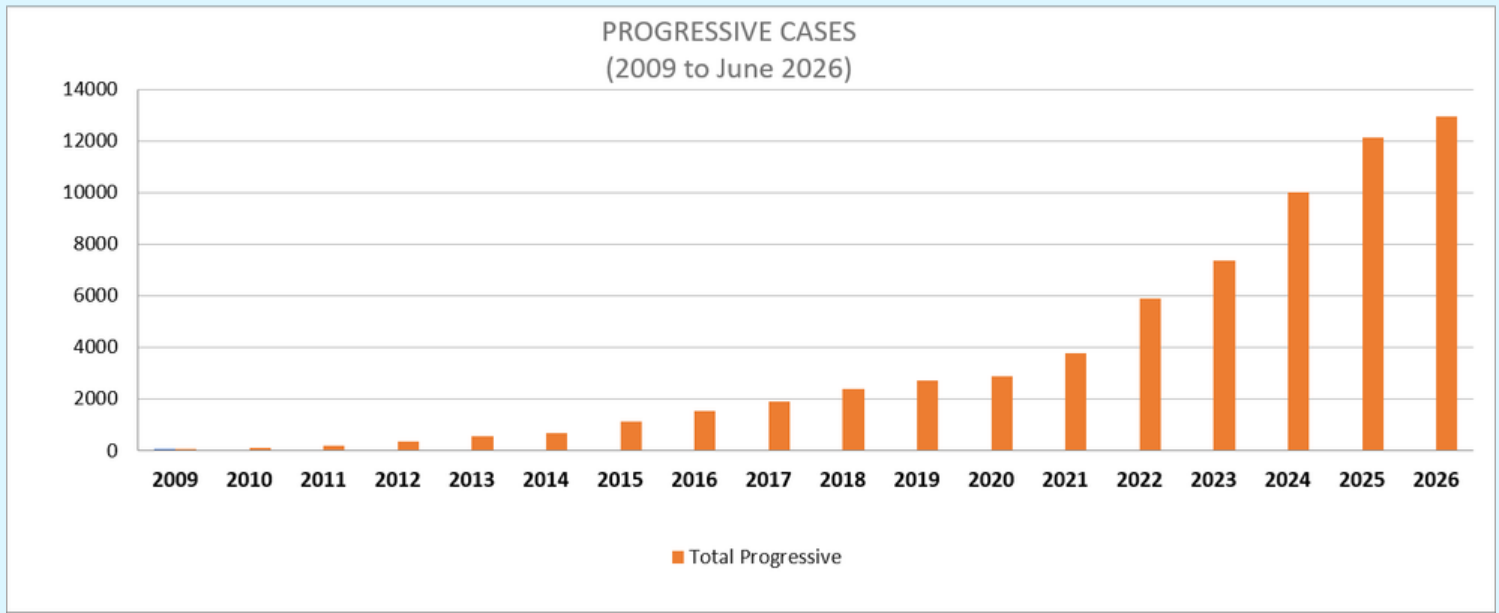
The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) is an institutional arbitration centre established by the High Court of Delhi in 2009 as the Delhi High Court Arbitration Centre. In furtherance of India's evolving commitment to institutional arbitration, the Centre was subsequently reconstituted as the Delhi International Arbitration Centre under the Delhi High Court Act, 2015. Functioning under the aegis of the High Court of Delhi, DIAC provides an institutional framework for the administration of domestic and international commercial arbitration proceedings in accordance with its governing rules.

The establishment of DIAC forms part of the broader transition within the Indian arbitration landscape from predominantly ad hoc proceedings towards institutionally administered arbitration. This shift reflects an increasing recognition of the role played by arbitral institutions in ensuring procedural consistency, administrative efficiency, and greater predictability in the conduct of arbitral proceedings. Through its Arbitration Proceedings Rules, transparent fee structure, and empanelled panel of arbitrators, DIAC provides parties with a structured framework that facilitates the effective administration of disputes while preserving the principles of party autonomy, impartiality, and procedural fairness.

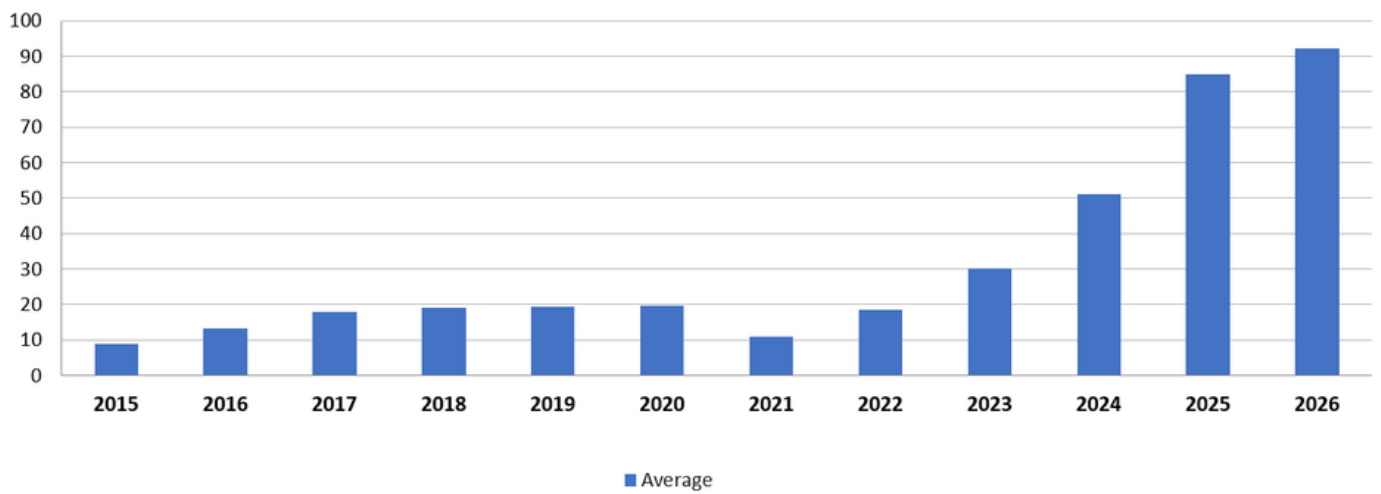
In addition to its case administration functions, DIAC contributes to the development of arbitration law and practice through academic publications, research initiatives and institutional engagement with the judiciary, legal practitioners, and academia. Such initiatives promote informed discourse on contemporary developments in arbitration and contribute to the continued strengthening of institutional arbitration in India.

The evolution of DIAC is reflective of the broader trajectory of arbitration reform in India, which increasingly emphasises the institutionalisation of arbitral processes as a means of enhancing the efficiency, credibility, and accessibility of commercial dispute resolution. Within this evolving framework, DIAC continues to serve as an important institutional mechanism supporting the effective administration of arbitration and the progressive development of India's arbitration ecosystem.

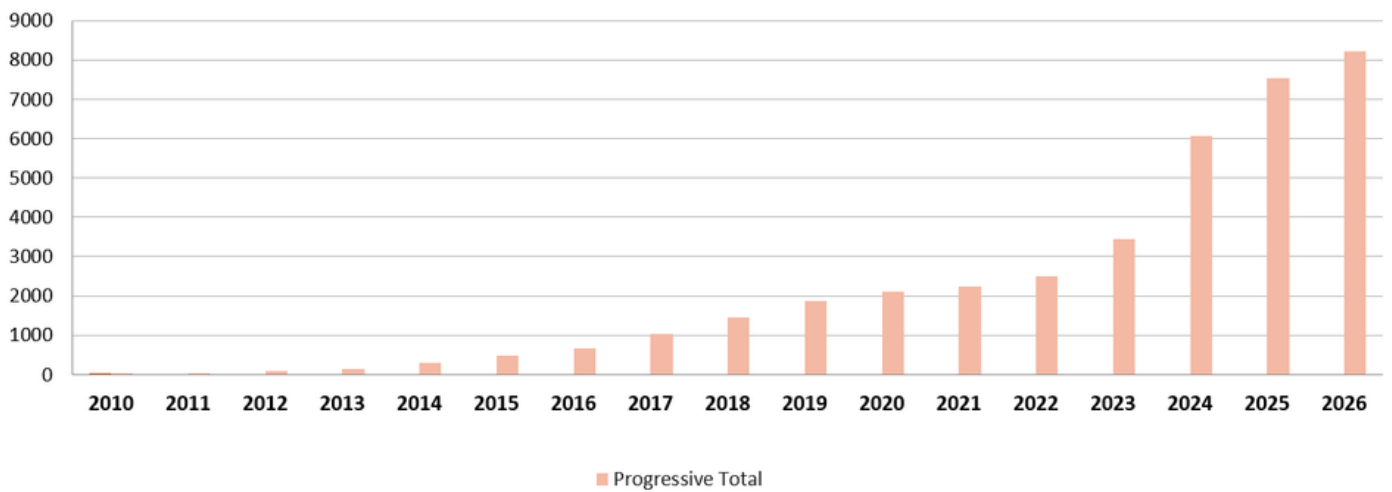
STATISTICS



Average (2015 to June 2026)



Yearly Disposal (2010 to June 2026)



ARBITRATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE: DIAC'S TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESSION

The evolution of arbitration in recent years has been closely intertwined with technological advancement, and the Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) has been at the forefront of this institutional shift. As the demands of commercial dispute resolution continue to evolve, DIAC's integration of digital infrastructure reflects its commitment to efficiency, accessibility, and procedural innovation.

At the centre of this transformation is the Case Management System (CMS), which laid the foundation for a more structured and centralized approach to arbitration administration. By digitizing case registration, procedural tracking, hearing schedules, and record management, the CMS marked DIAC's first significant move away from conventional registry-based processes.

A pivotal moment in this journey came in 2024, when DIAC undertook the upgradation of its existing CMS, expanding its scope into a more comprehensive digital ecosystem. This upgradation introduced cloud-based infrastructure, enhanced workflow automation and modernization of its mobile application.

The upcoming e-filing service will significantly streamline the arbitral proceedings, enabling parties and counsel to file pleadings, upload documents, and monitor case progress remotely. This will reduced procedural delays and strengthened accessibility, particularly in matters involving stakeholders across jurisdictions. Complementing this has been DIAC's move toward digital fee management through online fee calculation and payment facilitation, allowing parties greater transparency and predictability at the commencement stage of arbitration.

DIAC has also modernized its administrative processes by enabling online empanelment of arbitrators, thereby improving institutional efficiency and broadening access to qualified professionals.

Perhaps most notably, DIAC's strengthened digital framework now supports seamless hybrid hearings, combining physical and virtual participation in a manner consistent with contemporary international arbitration practices. This flexibility has enhanced convenience while reducing logistical barriers for parties and arbitrators alike.

Taken together, these developments underscore DIAC's continued efforts to align arbitration with the needs of a modern commercial environment. From the CMS to e-filing, digital payments, and hybrid proceedings, DIAC's technological progression reflects a forward-looking institutional approach that reinforces efficiency, transparency, and adaptability in the administration of arbitration.

RECENT JUDGEMENTS ON ARBITRATION LAW

ANKHIM HOLDINGS PVT. LTD. & ANR. v. ZAVERI CONSTRUCTION PVT. LTD. 2026 INSC 137

[Scope of powers under Section 15(2) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996]

The dispute arose out of a redevelopment project in Mumbai undertaken through a partnership arrangement between the parties. During the pendency of the arbitral proceedings, insolvency proceedings were initiated against the respondent and a moratorium under Section 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 came into force. Subsequently, upon termination of the arbitrator's mandate, the parties approached the Bombay High Court for appointment of a substitute arbitrator under Section 15(2) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

While appointing the substitute arbitrator, the High Court further held that arbitral proceedings conducted during the moratorium period were a nullity.

The issue before the Hon'ble Supreme Court was whether, while exercising jurisdiction under Section 15(2), a Court could declare prior arbitral proceedings and orders invalid on the ground that they had been conducted during the subsistence of a moratorium under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the jurisdiction conferred under Section 15(2) is limited to the appointment of a substitute arbitrator and does not extend to reviewing, setting aside or declaring invalid prior arbitral proceedings. The Court observed that Section 15(4) expressly preserves orders and rulings made prior to the substitution of an arbitrator and reflects the legislative intent to ensure continuity in arbitral proceedings.

Accordingly, while affirming the appointment of the substitute arbitrator, the Court set aside the finding of the High Court declaring earlier arbitral proceedings to be a nullity. The judgment reinforces the limited scope of judicial intervention under Section 15 and affirms the principle of procedural continuity in arbitration.

Link of the Judgement-

https://api.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2024/22455/22455_2024_7_9_67918_Judgement_04-Feb-2026.pdf

REGENTA HOTELS PRIVATE LIMITED v. M/S HOTEL GRAND CENTRE POINT & ORS. 2026 INSC 32

[Commencement of arbitral proceedings under Sections 9(2) and 21 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996]

The dispute arose from a franchise agreement executed between Regenta Hotels Private Limited and M/s Hotel Grand Centre Point concerning the operation and management of a hotel in Srinagar. Following disputes between the partners of the respondent firm, the petitioner obtained interim protection under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and subsequently issued a notice invoking arbitration before filing a petition under Section 11 for appointment of an arbitrator. The Karnataka High Court vacated the interim protection on the ground that arbitral proceedings had not commenced within the period contemplated under Section 9(2), holding that commencement would occur only upon filing of the Section 11 petition.

The issue before the Hon'ble Supreme Court was whether arbitral proceedings are deemed to commence upon issuance of a notice invoking arbitration under Section 21, or only upon filing of a petition under Section 11 seeking appointment of an arbitrator.

Allowing the appeal, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that arbitral proceedings commence upon service of a notice invoking arbitration under Section 21 of the Act and not upon filing a petition under Section 11. The Court observed that Section 21 provides a statutory definition of commencement of arbitral proceedings and must govern the interpretation of Section 9(2).

The judgment provides important clarity regarding the interplay between Sections 9, 11 and 21 of the Act and reiterates that commencement of arbitration is linked to invocation of the arbitration agreement rather than judicial intervention for appointment of an arbitrator.

Link of the Judgement-

https://api.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2024/57801/57801_2024_17_1501_67268_Judgement_07-Jan-2026.pdf

MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. v. SANTOSH CORDEIRO & ANR. 2026 INSC 5

Limited judicial scrutiny at the stage of appointment of an arbitrator under Section 11]

The dispute arose out of a Leave and License Agreement relating to commercial premises in Mumbai. Upon surrender of possession by the licensee, disputes emerged concerning refund of the security deposit and alleged outstanding contractual liabilities. The licensors invoked the arbitration agreement and sought appointment of an arbitrator under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

The appellant opposed the request on the ground that Section 41 of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882 conferred exclusive jurisdiction upon the Small Causes Court and consequently rendered the dispute non-arbitrable.

The issue before the Hon'ble Supreme Court was whether such objections concerning arbitrability ought to be examined by the Court at the Section 11 stage, or be left to the arbitral tribunal for determination.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court reaffirmed the limited scope of judicial scrutiny under Section 11 and relied upon the Constitution Bench

decision in *In Re: Interplay Between Arbitration Agreements and the Arbitration Act*.

The Court held that objections relating to jurisdiction and arbitrability should ordinarily be determined by the arbitral tribunal under Section 16 in accordance with the doctrine of kompetenz-kompetenz.

Observing that the dispute primarily concerned monetary claims arising after surrender of possession, the Court declined to undertake a detailed examination of arbitrability and upheld the appointment of the arbitrator. The decision further strengthens the principle of minimal judicial interference and reinforces the tribunal's primary role in determining questions of jurisdiction.

Link of the Judgement-

https://api.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2025/5070/5070_2025_7_1503_67143_Judgement_05-Jan-2026.pdf

**IMRAN AHMED ANSARI & ANR. v. INTEX TECHNOLOGIES (INDIA) LTD.
& ANR. 2026 3020 HC**

[Scope of judicial interference under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996]

The dispute arose out of an Agreement to Sell executed between the parties in respect of an industrial plot situated in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Disputes emerged regarding performance of the agreement, payment obligations, and alleged encumbrances on the property. The matter was referred to arbitration, wherein the claimants sought specific performance of the agreement. The learned Sole Arbitrator declined the relief of specific performance and instead directed refund of the amounts received under the agreement along with interest.

Aggrieved by the award, the claimants approached the Delhi High Court under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, contending that the arbitral tribunal had erroneously refused specific performance and that the award suffered from patent illegality and perversity.

The issue before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court was whether the arbitral award warranted interference under Section 34 on the ground that the tribunal had incorrectly appreciated the evidence and exercised its discretion in refusing specific performance. The Hon'ble Court reiterated that proceedings under Section 34 do not confer appellate jurisdiction upon the Court

and that judicial interference with arbitral awards remains extremely limited. Relying upon settled precedents governing patent illegality, perversity and public policy, the Court observed that a mere disagreement with the findings of the arbitral tribunal or the possibility of an alternative view cannot justify setting aside an arbitral award.

The Court held that the findings of the learned Arbitrator constituted a plausible view based on the contractual terms, evidence on record and the conduct of the parties. Finding no patent illegality or violation of the fundamental policy of Indian law, the Court dismissed the challenge and upheld the award.

The judgment reinforces the principle of minimal judicial intervention in arbitral proceedings and reiterates that courts exercising jurisdiction under Section 34 cannot re-appreciate evidence or substitute their own view for that of the arbitral tribunal.

Link of the Judgement-

https://delhihighcourt.nic.in/app/showFileJudgment/68008052026OMPENFCOMM1882025_185138.pdf

Home Care Retail Marts Pvt. Ltd. v. Haresh N. Sanghavi & Ors.
Supreme Court | 2026 SCC OnLine SC 670

Supreme Court Clarifies Availability of Post-Award Interim Relief under Section 9

The Supreme Court resolved the conflicting views of various High Courts on the maintainability of applications under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 at the post-award stage. The Court held that the expression “a party” under Section 9 includes both successful and unsuccessful parties to an arbitration agreement, and that an unsuccessful party is not precluded from seeking interim protection merely because it does not hold an enforceable arbitral award.

While recognising the availability of this remedy, the Court emphasised that relief under Section 9 must continue to satisfy the settled requirements governing interim measures. It clarified that the threshold for granting interim relief to an unsuccessful party would be considerably higher, and such relief should be granted only in rare and compelling cases to prevent irreparable prejudice and preserve the efficacy of proceedings challenging the award. Accordingly, the Court overruled the contrary views of the Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Karnataka High Courts and affirmed that any party to an arbitration agreement may invoke Section 9 at the post-award stage, subject to careful judicial scrutiny.

Link of the Judgement-

https://delhihighcourt.nic.in/app/showFileJudgment/68008052026OMPENFCOMM1882025_185138.

Nagreeka Indcon Products Pvt. Ltd. v. Cargocare Logistics (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Supreme Court | (2026) 267 Comp Cas 39

Supreme Court Clarifies Requirements of a Valid Arbitration Agreement

The Supreme Court reiterates the essential characteristics of a valid arbitration agreement and applies these principles to the arbitration clause under consideration. Referring to established precedents, particularly Jagdish Chander v. Ramesh Chander, the Court emphasises that an arbitration agreement must reflect a clear and binding intention of the parties to submit disputes to arbitration. The Court distinguishes between clauses that create a mandatory obligation to arbitrate and those that merely indicate a future possibility of arbitration. It observes that the use of expressions such as “the parties may refer disputes to arbitration” or clauses requiring a subsequent consensus before arbitration can be invoked do not constitute enforceable arbitration agreements. Such provisions merely signify the parties’ willingness to explore arbitration as a potential mode of dispute resolution and contemplate a future agreement rather than an existing binding commitment. Applying these principles to Clause 25, the Court concludes that the clause only envisages the possibility of arbitration subject to further mutual consent and, therefore, fails to satisfy the legal requirements of a valid arbitration agreement under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Consequently, the appeal was dismissed.

Link of the Judgement-

https://delhihighcourt.nic.in/app/showFileJudgment/68008052026OMPENFCOMM1882025_185138.pdf

EVENTS

INSTITUTIONAL AND JUDICIAL DELEGATIONS

12.01.2026- Trainee Judges of the Delhi Higher Judicial Service visit DIAC

The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) welcomed the Trainee Judges of the Delhi Higher Judicial Service for an institutional visit aimed at familiarising them with the Centre's role in administering institutional arbitration. The visit included an overview of DIAC's institutional framework, case management processes, and digital infrastructure supporting the efficient conduct of arbitral proceedings.

The interaction provided an opportunity for discussions on the growing significance of institutional arbitration in India and the evolving role of arbitral institutions in commercial dispute resolution. It also offered the participants valuable insights into the practical functioning of one of India's leading institutional arbitration centres.

12.02.2026- Visit of Mr. Minn Naing Oo and Mr. Gavin Denton to DIAC

The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) welcomed Mr. Minn Naing Oo and Mr. Gavin Denton, distinguished arbitration

practitioners from Singapore, for an institutional visit. The visit provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on contemporary developments in international commercial arbitration and institutional dispute resolution, while exploring evolving practices in arbitration across jurisdictions. The interaction reflected the importance of continued dialogue and knowledge-sharing between arbitration professionals and reinforced DIAC's engagement with the international arbitration community.

13.02.2026- Trainee Judges of the Delhi Judicial Service visit DIAC

The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) welcomed the Trainee Judges of the Delhi Judicial Service for an institutional visit designed to acquaint them with the Centre's functioning and its role in administering institutional arbitration. During the visit, the participants were introduced to DIAC's institutional framework, case management procedures, and the technological infrastructure supporting efficient arbitral proceedings.

**25.02.2026- Visit of Mr. Mohan Pillay to
DIAC**

Mr. Mohan Pillay, a distinguished arbitration practitioner from Singapore, visited the Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) as part of the Centre's ongoing engagement with leading members of the international arbitration community. The visit provided an opportunity for discussions on emerging trends in institutional arbitration, international commercial dispute resolution, and the evolving role of arbitral institutions in meeting the needs of cross-border commerce.

**28.02.2026- Karnataka High Court
Delegation visits DIAC**

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sachin S. Magadum and Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Nataraj of the Karnataka High Court, accompanied by Mr. Dinesh Hegde, Director, Arbitration and Conciliation Centre, Bengaluru, visited the Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) for an institutional visit. The visit facilitated a meaningful exchange of experiences on institutional arbitration, offering an opportunity to discuss contemporary practices and the evolving role of arbitral institutions in India's dispute resolution framework.

**11.03.2026- Delegation of Judges and
Lawyers from the United States and the
United Kingdom visit DIAC**

The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) hosted a delegation of judges and legal practitioners from the United States and the United Kingdom as part of an institutional exchange on contemporary arbitration practices. The delegation was introduced to DIAC's institutional framework, arbitration procedures, and technology-driven case management systems, followed by a tour of the Centre's facilities.

**14.05.2026- Justices of the Bhutanese
Supreme Court visit DIAC**

The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) had the privilege of hosting Hon'ble Justices of the Supreme Court of Bhutan during an institutional visit aimed at promoting judicial dialogue and the exchange of perspectives on institutional arbitration. The delegation was briefed on DIAC's institutional framework, arbitration procedures, technology-enabled case management systems, and the Centre's state-of-the-art hearing facilities.

The interaction further strengthened the spirit of cooperation between the two jurisdictions and underscored the importance of international judicial engagement in advancing institutional arbitration.

ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS

22.01.2026- Law Students from DME College, Noida visit DIAC

Students from DME College of Law, Noida, visited the Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) for an interactive session on institutional arbitration and its role in commercial dispute resolution.

The visit provided an overview of DIAC's institutional framework, arbitration procedures, and case management practices, followed by a tour of the Centre's facilities. The interaction offered students valuable practical insights into the functioning of an institutional arbitral centre and the growing significance of arbitration in contemporary legal practice.

03.03.2026- Students from Goa University Visit DIAC

A group of students from Goa University visited the Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) to gain practical exposure to the functioning of an institutional arbitral institution. During the visit, the students were introduced to DIAC's institutional framework, arbitration procedures, and case administration processes through an interactive session with members of the Secretariat.

The visit provided valuable insights into institutional arbitration and encouraged a deeper understanding of its role in the effective resolution of commercial disputes.

25.03.2026- G.L. Bajaj Institute of Law Students visit DIAC

The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) hosted students from the G.L. Bajaj Institute of Law for an interactive visit aimed at enhancing their understanding of institutional arbitration and its practical application in commercial dispute resolution.

The students were introduced to DIAC's institutional framework, arbitration procedures, and case administration processes, and had the opportunity to interact with members of the Secretariat. The visit provided meaningful exposure to the functioning of an arbitral institution and encouraged greater interest in institutional arbitration among aspiring legal professionals.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL NEWS

INDIA INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES WEEK 2026 AND LAUNCH OF THE CHANDIGARH INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

A significant development in India's dispute resolution landscape was witnessed with the inaugural edition of the India International Disputes Week (IIDW) 2026, held in Chandigarh from 7 to 11 March 2026. The event brought together judges, arbitrators, policymakers, legal practitioners, academics, and representatives of leading dispute resolution institutions from India and abroad to deliberate upon emerging trends in arbitration, mediation, cross-border disputes, digital evidence, and institutional governance. The conference was conceived as a platform for fostering dialogue and strengthening India's engagement with the global dispute resolution community.

A key highlight of the event was the formal launch of the Chandigarh International Arbitration Centre (CIAC) by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India. Established under the aegis of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, CIAC has been envisioned as a modern institution for the administration of domestic and international arbitrations, with a focus on neutrality, procedural efficiency, transparency, and technology-enabled dispute resolution.

The launch of CIAC marks an important step in strengthening institutional arbitration in India and reflects the continuing efforts to develop credible and globally competitive dispute resolution infrastructure across the country. The development is also indicative of India's broader ambition to emerge as a preferred destination for international commercial arbitration and alternative dispute resolution.

ICSI ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR A GLOBAL ADR CENTRE NETWORK

In a significant development for the alternative dispute resolution landscape in India, the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) has announced plans to establish a Global ADR Centre, beginning with its first centre in Noida and subsequently expanding its presence to major domestic and international commercial hubs. The proposed network is expected to extend to cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong and London, with the objective of promoting arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other dispute resolution mechanisms through a structured institutional framework. The initiative reflects the growing recognition of ADR as an effective means of resolving

commercial disputes in an increasingly interconnected business environment.

The proposed ADR network is intended to facilitate faster and more efficient resolution of disputes while reducing the burden on conventional court systems. The initiative also seeks to strengthen India's position in the global dispute resolution ecosystem by creating greater access to institutional dispute resolution services for businesses and professionals operating across jurisdictions. As commercial transactions become increasingly cross-border in nature, the establishment of such ADR centres is expected to contribute to the wider adoption of arbitration and mediation as preferred mechanisms for dispute resolution. The announcement further highlights the expanding role of professional bodies and institutions in supporting the growth of ADR infrastructure in India and abroad.

BANKS URGE RESTORATION OF ARBITRATION FOR HIGH-VALUE INFRASTRUCTURE DISPUTES

A significant policy debate emerged in India's dispute resolution landscape following calls by leading financial institutions for the restoration of arbitration as a dispute resolution mechanism for infrastructure disputes exceeding ₹10 crore. The discussion follows recent policy measures in the road and highways sector that replaced arbitration in

certain high-value contracts with mandatory conciliation, mediation and subsequent recourse to civil courts. Banks and financial institutions have expressed concerns that the removal of arbitration from large infrastructure contracts may lead to prolonged dispute resolution timelines, increased uncertainty in recoveries, and heightened risks for lenders financing major infrastructure projects.

The development has sparked wider discussions regarding the role of arbitration in public infrastructure projects and the balance between accountability, efficiency and commercial certainty. Industry stakeholders have emphasised that infrastructure disputes often involve complex technical and contractual issues that are particularly suited to specialised arbitral determination. The debate is expected to have important implications for future government contracting practices, infrastructure financing and dispute resolution policy in India.

As the country continues to pursue ambitious infrastructure development goals, the question of whether arbitration should remain the preferred mechanism for resolving high-value public contract disputes is likely to remain at the centre of policy discussions within the ADR community.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UK ARBITRATION ACT 2025 COMES INTO FORCE

The United Kingdom's Arbitration Act 2025 has entered into force, introducing significant reforms to the arbitration framework in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The legislation amends the Arbitration Act 1996 with the objective of enhancing efficiency, legal certainty, and maintaining the United Kingdom's position as one of the world's leading arbitration jurisdictions. Among the notable changes introduced are a new default rule providing that the law governing an arbitration agreement will generally be the law of the arbitral seat, unless the parties expressly agree otherwise. The Act also grants arbitral tribunals an express power to summarily dismiss claims or defences that have no real prospect of success and introduces reforms relating to jurisdictional challenges and arbitrator immunity.

The reforms have been widely viewed as a measured modernization of the existing framework rather than a fundamental overhaul. Given London's continued prominence as a preferred seat for international commercial arbitration, the amendments are expected to influence arbitration practice globally and may

serve as a reference point for future legislative reforms in other jurisdictions. The development underscores the continuing efforts of leading arbitration centres to improve procedural efficiency while preserving party autonomy and fairness in arbitral proceedings.

UNCITRAL ADVANCES WORK ON ELECTRONIC ARBITRAL AWARDS

UNCITRAL Working Group II (Dispute Settlement) has continued its work on the recognition and enforcement of electronic arbitral awards, reflecting the increasing digitalization of international dispute resolution. During its recent sessions, the Working Group considered legal and practical issues arising from awards that exist solely in electronic form, including questions relating to authenticity, electronic signatures, and enforceability under the New York Convention. The discussions form part of UNCITRAL's broader efforts to ensure that international arbitration frameworks remain responsive to technological developments and contemporary arbitral practice.

The initiative has attracted significant attention from arbitration practitioners and institutions worldwide, as virtual hearings,

electronic filings, and digital case management systems have become increasingly common. The Working Group's ongoing work seeks to promote legal certainty and facilitate the cross-border recognition and enforcement of electronic awards while preserving the integrity and reliability of arbitral proceedings. The proposed measures are expected to contribute to the continued evolution of international arbitration in the digital era.

UK SUPREME COURT CLARIFIES LIMITS OF STATE IMMUNITY IN ENFORCEMENT OF ICSID AWARDS

In a significant development for investor-state dispute settlement, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom recently held that Spain could not invoke sovereign immunity to resist the recognition of an arbitral award rendered under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (ICSID Convention). The dispute arose from claims brought by investors following changes to Spain's renewable energy subsidy regime. The Court held that by becoming a party to the ICSID Convention, a State accepts obligations relating to the recognition and enforcement of ICSID awards, thereby limiting its ability to rely on sovereign immunity at the recognition stage.

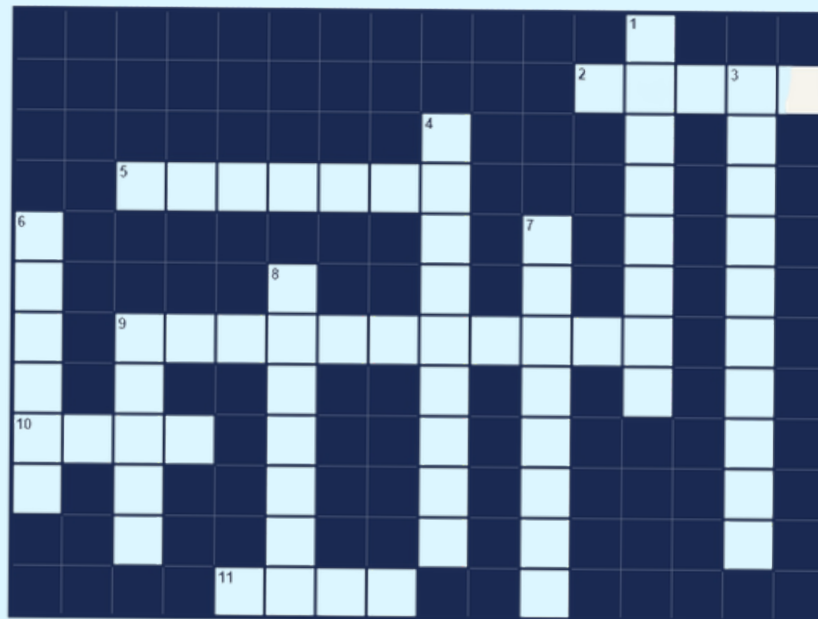
The decision is expected to have important implications for the enforcement of investment

treaty awards and contributes to the continuing global discussion on the interaction between sovereign immunity and investor-state arbitration. The judgment reinforces the enforceability framework established under the ICSID Convention and provides greater certainty for investors seeking recognition of arbitral awards against sovereign States. Given the increasing number of investor-state disputes arising from regulatory and energy-transition measures, the ruling is likely to be closely examined by arbitration practitioners and governments worldwide.



CROSSWORD

Test your knowledge of Arbitration and Legal Terms!
(UNSOLVED)



ACROSS

2. Demand or assertion of a legal right
5. Proceeding conducted in the absence of one party
9. Preferred method of private dispute resolution in commercial matters
10. Abbreviation of the Delhi International Arbitration Centre
11. Juridical home of an arbitration

DOWN

1. Formal written statement of a party's case
3. Court order restraining a party from a particular act
4. ADR process involving a neutral facilitator
6. Legal relief sought or granted
7. Adjudicatory body constituted to decide a dispute
8. Conflict or disagreement requiring resolution
9. Final decision rendered by an arbitral tribunal

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- ## 19. Crossword Answer Key-

Test your knowledge of Arbitration and Legal Terms!
(SOLVED — ANSWER KEY)



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