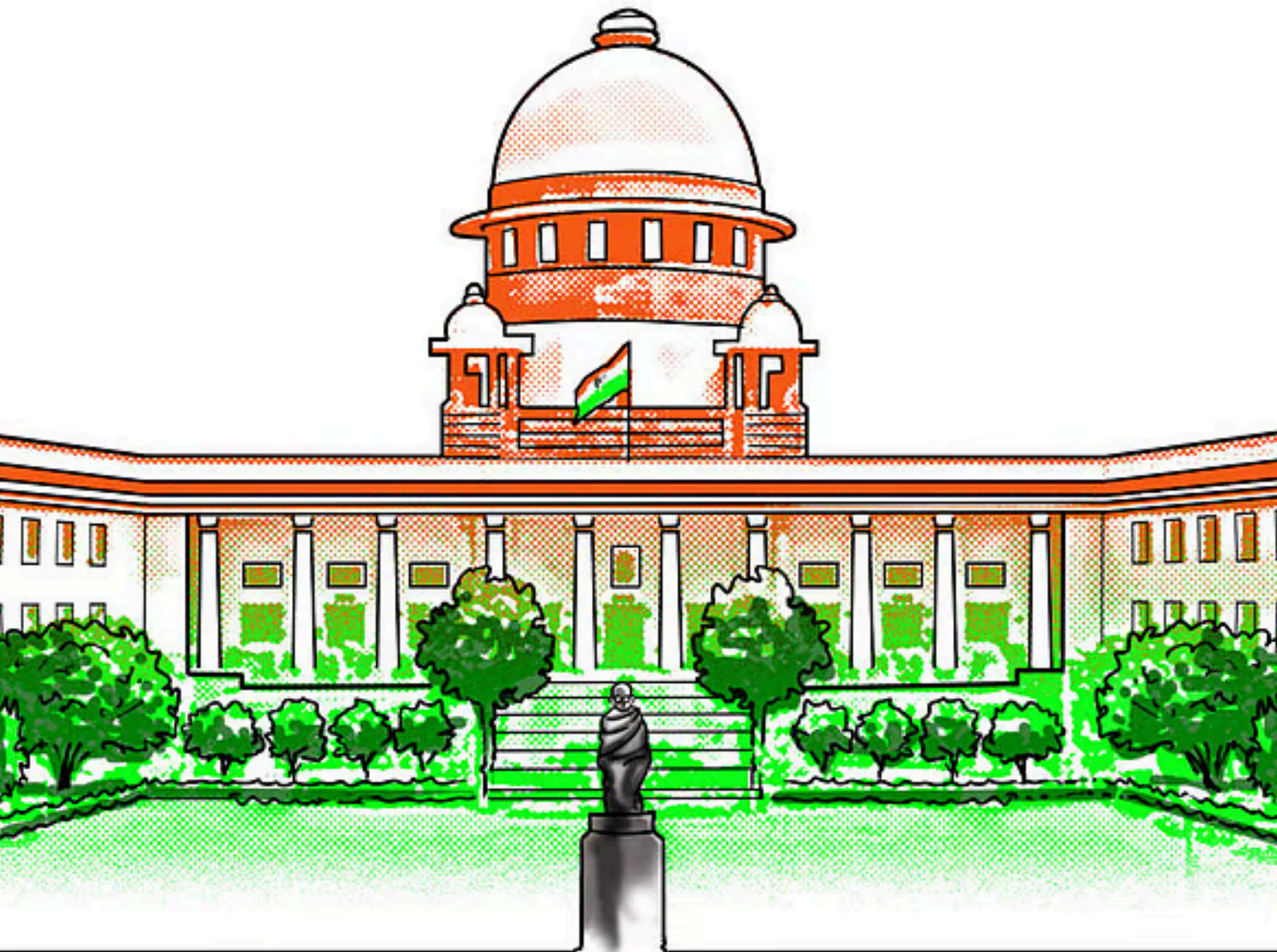


IWIA NEWSLETTER



Indian
Women in
International
Arbitration



VOLUME 3
JULY 2025

ACCOLADES & INITIATIVES 2025



GAR Nomination: IWIA has been nominated for the “*Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge Award*” at the 2025 GAR Awards — for the second year in a row. This recognition affirms our commitment to equity and visibility in international arbitration.

IWIA Mentorship Program – Supporting early-career professionals through structured mentoring.



Udaan: Campus Ambassador Program – Engaging law students in leadership and awareness-building.





#Askmeanything Initiative - A space where community members can have candid conversations with seasoned arbitration professionals.

IWIA Speaker Bank Initiative

– a new initiative to spotlight the voices of Indian women in international arbitration by offering opportunities to speak at IWIA’s webinars and events —no prior experience needed.



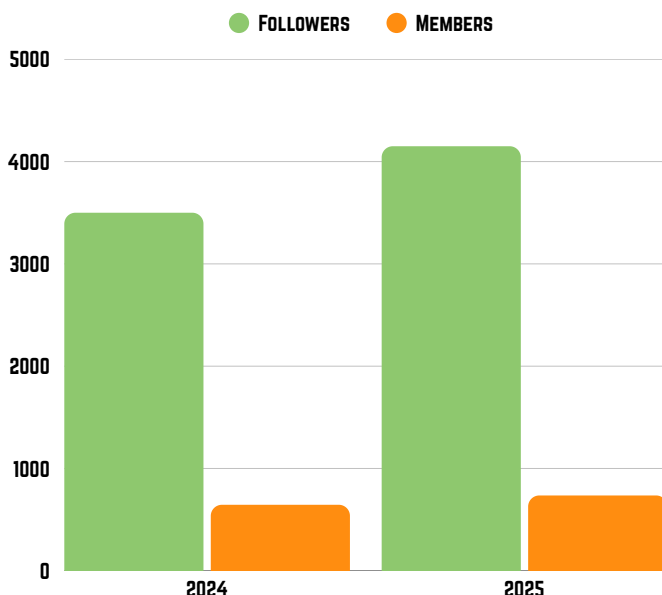
Indian Women in International Arbitration

invites
nominations from you!

IWIA | SPEAKER BANK

IWIA maintains a **Speaker Bank** for events that it organises and supports. **And you can be in it!**

- Nominate **yourself** or another **inspiring Indian woman** in arbitration.
- Prior speaking experience is **not required**, we are happy to support your **growth & visibility** in the international arbitration community.
- Make your voice heard! Nominate now: <https://qoto.now/4PlmH>



Increase in members & followers - In 2025, our reach continued to grow (754 members and 4300 followers) reflecting our collective momentum.

IWIA EVENTS 2025

IWIA x AAA - ICDR x TRILEGAL PANEL DISCUSSION | CARVING YOUR PATH IN ARBITRATION: CHALLENGES, INSIGHTS, AND LESSONS FROM PRACTITIONERS' JOURNEYS



To mark the end of International Women's Month and IWIA's second anniversary, IWIA and AAA-ICDR hosted a panel discussion on 6 March 2025 featuring Karthik Somasundaram, Smita Paliwal, Amritha Salian, and Anita Kapoor. The session offered rich insights for young arbitration professionals, emphasizing perseverance, strategic choices, and adaptability. Panelists shared their journeys into arbitration, highlighting the role of mentorship, supportive firm culture, and in-house perspectives. The discussion also covered leadership development for women, the impact of AI and legal tech and practical tips on personal branding and networking. Adding perspectives from both private practice and in-house roles, the panel provided actionable strategies for building a credible and future-ready arbitration career.

IWIA X AAA - ICDR X JSA PANEL DISCUSSION | THE FUTURE IS FEMALE: INCREASING REPRESENTATION IN ARBITRATION

On 7 March 2025, IWIA, in collaboration with AAA-ICDR and JSA, celebrated International Women's Day and IWIA's second anniversary through an engaging discussion. Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju delivered a compelling keynote, calling for active advocacy for diversity and equal representation. A stellar panel featuring leading professionals including Iram Majid, Shyel Trehan, Amar Gupta, Dinesh Pardasani, and Srishti Gupta shared personal experiences, practical strategies, and institutional approaches to overcoming gender bias in arbitration. Moderated by Anjali Anchayil and Tanushree Nandan, the discussion emphasized mentorship, inclusive practices, performance-driven recognition, and the importance of sincere networking. The event concluded with a lively interaction over refreshments, reaffirming IWIA's commitment to fostering equity and representation in arbitration.



IWIA X AAA-ICDR X DENTONS | NAVIGATING CAREERS IN ARBITRATION: A POWERFUL EVENING OF INSIGHTS AND INSPIRATION

To celebrate the end of International Women's Month and mark its second anniversary, IWIA, in collaboration with AAA-ICDR, hosted an in-person event on 28 March 2025 at Dentons Link Legal, Mumbai. Conceptualized by Niyati Ahuja and Oindrila Mukherjee, with support from Thara Gopalan, the session featured a dynamic panel including Naira Jejeebhoy, Nidhi Parekh, Surabhi Dua, and moderator Kshama A. Loya, with closing remarks by Nusrat Hassan.

Discussions covered career development in arbitration, challenges for women in litigation, the strategic role of in-house counsel, and building credibility as expert witnesses. The event concluded with practical insights on leadership and networking, followed by a vibrant networking session.



HSF-IWIA PANEL DISCUSSION: FROM BOTTLENECKS TO BREAKTHROUGHS: DRIVING EFFICIENCY IN ARBITRATION



Herbert Smith Freehills & IWIA organised a panel discussion on 21 January 2025 featuring insights from leading arbitration professionals and explored key recommendations from the GAR-LCIA report. Moderated by Anuradha Agnihotri, the panel included Navneet Juty, Deshni Naidoo, Niyati Ahuja, and Louise Barber.

Each speaker shared real-life examples of both effective and inefficient arbitration experiences. The discussion emphasized proactive tribunal management, tackling due process paranoia, and the role of high-quality arbitrators and institutional support. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, reinforcing the report's relevance in enhancing arbitration efficiency.

LIDW 2025 : BCLP X BRICK COURT CHAMBERS X IWIA : INSIGHTS FROM THE TITANS OF INDIAN & ENGLISH DISPUTES: WHAT CAN INDIA AND THE UK TEACH EACH OTHER?

On 4 June 2025, a distinguished panel comprising Mukul Rohatgi, Senior Advocate and Former Attorney General of India; Sapan Gupta, Group General Counsel at ArcelorMittal; Eliana Tornese, Registrar of the LCIA; Justice Indu Malhotra, Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India; Shivani Sanghi, Partner, Litigation and International Arbitration and Head of India Practice at BCLP; Daniel Jowell K.C. of Brick Court Chambers; and George Burn, Partner and Co-Head of International Arbitration at BCLP, shared their perspectives on handling major international commercial disputes in India and the UK. The session offered a rare opportunity to learn from the extensive experience of these leading experts and highlighted the valuable lessons the Indian and UK legal systems can draw from each other.



LIDW 2025 : REED SMITH LLP X IWIA : INDIA IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION: THE ROAD AHEAD—DISCUSSION ON INDIA’S GROWING INFLUENCE AND FUTURE IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

This session held on 5 June 2025, examined India’s growing role in international dispute resolution, focusing on recent reforms and future ambitions. Panelists Binsy Susan, Niyati Ahuja, Shaneen Parikh, Gautam Bhattacharya, Sanjeev Gemawat and Sneha Jaisingh discussed the Draft Arbitration Amendment Bill 2024, highlighting progress like the recognition of emergency arbitration, but also concerns around overregulation and judicial interference. Other key themes included enforcement challenges, the proposed appellate arbitral tribunals, and India’s evolving BIT and ISDS strategy. The panel noted a shift in attitudes towards mediation, especially following the enactment of the new Mediation Act. While India’s ambition to become a global arbitration hub is evident, panelists agreed that practical hurdles—especially around enforcement, party autonomy, and institutional credibility—must be addressed to make that vision a reality.



LIDW 2025: WILMERHALE X IWIA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TO THE INDIAN ARBITRATION LANDSCAPE—DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE INDIAN ARBITRATION ACT AND THE 2024 INDIA-UAE BIT.



The session held on 5 June 2025 moderated by Steven Finizio, focusing on key developments in Indian arbitration. Sapna Jhangiani KC opened with an overview of the 2024 India–UAE BIT, highlighting the local remedies requirement, the exception under Article 17, and enforcement of UAE-seated awards in India. Panelists, including Farhad Sorabjee and Kiran Sequeira, noted the BIT’s conservative features—such as the ban on third-party funding—and advocated revisiting India’s Model BIT to better support outbound investments. Nitesh Jain presented key proposals under the Draft Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, including stricter timelines, recognition of emergency awards, and the controversial introduction of Appellate Arbitral Tribunals. The discussion concluded with Shanelle Irani’s analysis of the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Gayatri Balasamy v. ISG Novasoft Technologies*, which permits courts to modify arbitral awards, raising questions about enforceability under the New York Convention.

IWIA WEBINAR: KICKSTART YOUR JOURNEY IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION –



An Interactive Webinar:
**Kickstart your Journey in
International Arbitration**

Register Now!



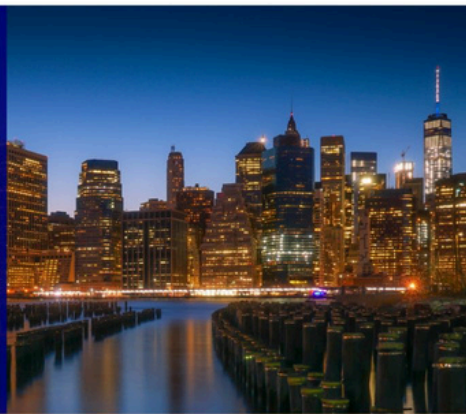
Saturday, 31 May 2025



5:00pm IST | 7:30am EDT



Live Webinar | Zoom



Meet the Speakers:



Khara Tusa Kelsch
Panelist

Practice Development
Coach, Apex Coaching



Sanchari Chakraborty
Panelist

International Arbitration
Practitioner, SC&A Legal



Tanushree Nandan
Moderator

Legal & Personal Branding
Expert, FRACAS

Supported by:

#CAREERS
IN ARBITRATION



On 31 May 2025, IWIA hosted a webinar offering aspiring students and young professionals practical guidance on entering and growing in the field of international commercial arbitration. Featuring Khara Tusa Kelsch and Sanchari Chakraborty and moderated by Tanushree Nandan, the session covered importance of foundational skills, mentorship, and effective networking—especially across borders. Panelists shared honest career insights, emphasizing perseverance, strategic choices, and visibility through writing, internships, and moots. A live Q&A enabled engaging dialogue on navigating niche areas like investment arbitration.

IWIA WEBINAR: DECODING RECENT JUDGMENTS OF THE INDIAN SUPREME COURT: GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS FOR ARBITRATION

On 5 June 2025, IWIA hosted a webinar featuring Senior Advocate Ritin Rai in conversation with Chitra Rentala, Dispute Resolution Partner at Trilegal. The session explored how key Supreme Court rulings are influencing arbitration strategy, drafting practices, and cross-border enforceability. Mr. Rai highlighted the growing alignment of Indian arbitration jurisprudence with global standards, supported by legislative reforms and judicial encouragement. The discussion emphasized the need for clear drafting, proactive case management, and institutional frameworks to make arbitration an effective remedy for both large and smaller commercial disputes. The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, offering practical insights for professionals navigating India's evolving arbitration landscape.



Indian
Women in
International
Arbitration

Decoding Recent Judgments
of the Indian Supreme Court:
Global Implications for Arbitrations

Register Now!



Thursday, 29 May 2025



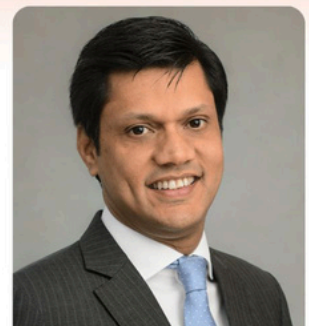
5:00pm - 6:00pm IST



Live Webinar | Zoom



Chitra Rentala (moderator)
Partner (Dispute Resolution)
Trilegal



Ritin Rai (expert)
Senior Advocate
The Supreme Court of India

IWIA PANEL DISCUSSION: CULTURAL DIMENSIONS IN CROSS-BORDER ARBITRATION: NAVIGATING DIFFERENCES FOR EFFECTIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION



Arbitration Across Borders

Held on 26 June 2025 (Dubai -UAE)

Cross Jurisdictional Arbitration Dialogue



The session held on 26 June 2025 in Dubai brought together arbitration practitioners for a vibrant cross-jurisdictional dialogue on arbitration practices in the UK, UAE, and India. The discussion was marked by sharp insights and engaging exchanges. The panel featured distinguished speakers Robert Sliwinski, Kunal Vajani, and Nikhat Sardar Khan and was moderated by Surabhi Lal. The conversation explored comparative procedural frameworks, institutional preferences, and evolving strategies in managing cross-border arbitration. The event concluded with an interactive discussion and networking session, leaving attendees with valuable perspectives on navigating international arbitration across legal systems.

STAY CONNECTED WITH
THE IWIA COMMUNITY

