

From the President's Desk

Dear ILA Members and Friends,

India has a dream of becoming a developed, first-world nation by 2047. But let me ask a simple question: Can a country truly become a developed nation when millions of its citizens must wait years, sometimes decades, for justice?

I firmly believe that the next great revolution in India must come from the legal profession.

Lawyers played an extraordinary role in winning India's independence. Now, we must play an equally important role in building a stronger, fairer, and more prosperous India. Justice should not be a privilege of the wealthy. It must be accessible, affordable, and timely for every Indian.

When we founded the Indian Lawyers Association in 2018, our vision was simple: bring India's legal fraternity together, uplift our profession, mentor young lawyers, promote integrity, and become a powerful voice for legal reform. Today, with approximately 110 chapters and a goal of 400 chapters by 2030, we have an extraordinary opportunity to make a difference.

But ILA must be more than an organization that holds conferences and webinars. It must become a movement for change.

This October, I encourage every ILA member to do something meaningful. Attend a chapter event. Mentor a young lawyer. Help someone who cannot afford legal representation. Share an idea for improving our courts. Speak up about outdated laws, procedural delays, and barriers to justice.

As we celebrate Gandhi Jayanti this month, let us remember that meaningful change begins with courage, conviction, and action.

India does not lack brilliant lawyers, judges, or legal scholars. What we need is the collective determination to turn good ideas into meaningful reforms.

If lawyers helped India win its freedom in 1947, surely lawyers can help India become a world-class nation by 2047.

Together, let us make ILA a force for progress, professionalism, and justice.



Navneet S. Chugh

Founder, Indian Lawyers Association (ILA)



INDIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2026

A MONTH OF NATIONAL DIALOGUE

ILA NATIONAL WEBINARS

ONLINE WEBINAR
HAS INDIA'S RESERVATION SYSTEM GONE TOO FAR?
IS 2027 THE YEAR TO END IT?
MERIT, EQUALITY & THE FUTURE OF A DEVELOPED INDIA

RESERVATION, MERIT & EQUALITY
12 SEPTEMBER 2026

ONLINE WEBINAR
BIGGEST OBSTACLE IN BECOMING A FWN BY 2047:
DELAYED JUSTICE. CAN WE FIX IT?
Can India eliminate chronic judicial delays by 2047—or will delayed justice remain the biggest obstacle to becoming a FWN?

DELAYED JUSTICE
26 SEPTEMBER 2026

FEATURED PARTNERSHIP | SEPTEMBER 2026

ILA & IMF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Institutional collaboration announced in September 2026



ILA NATIONAL WEBINARS

Reservation System Webinar

12 September 2026



The poster features the Indian Lawyers Association logo at the top center. Below it, a grid of eight speakers is displayed in two rows of four. To the right of the grid is a larger portrait of the moderator. The background is a dark blue gradient with a faint architectural pattern.

INDIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Speakers:

- P. WILSON**
Senior Advocate
Member of Parliament - Rajya Sabha
- Sonia Mathur**
Senior Advocate
Supreme Court of India
- C.S. Vaidyanathan**
Senior Counsel
Supreme Court of India
- Huzefa Aziz Ahmadi**
Senior Advocate
Supreme Court of India
- Mahalakshmi Pavani**
Senior Advocate
Supreme Court of India
- Abhishek A Rastogi**
Founder
Chambers of Abhishek A Rastogi
- Ravi Prakash Mehrotra**
Senior Advocate
Supreme Court of India
- Pranay Joshi**
Panel Lawyer for State
of Madhya Pradesh

MODERATOR

Navneet Chugh
CPA, Attorney, Managing
Partner – Chugh LLP;
Founder– ILA

ONLINE WEBINAR
HAS INDIA'S RESERVATION SYSTEM GONE TOO FAR?
IS 2027 THE YEAR TO END IT?
MERIT, EQUALITY & THE FUTURE OF A DEVELOPED INDIA

Has India's Reservation System Gone Too Far? Is 2027 the Year to End It?

ABOUT THE WEBINAR

Merit, Equality & the Future of a Developed India

12 September 2026

India's reservation system was created to address historical disadvantage and promote social justice and equal opportunity. Decades later, debate continues over whether it has achieved its intended purpose, whether inequality still justifies its continuation, and whether the framework should be reconsidered for a changing India.

The webinar brought together legal and policy perspectives to examine the constitutional foundations of reservation and the future of affirmative action in India.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Constitutional foundations of reservation and affirmative action.
- Historical disadvantage, social justice and equality of opportunity.
- Merit, economic criteria and equal access to opportunities.
- Whether the existing framework should continue, be reformed or be fundamentally reconsidered.

CONCLUSION / CENTRAL QUESTION

The central question was how India should balance constitutional equality, social justice and merit as it moves towards becoming a developed nation. The webinar was framed as a balanced discussion of competing legal and policy perspectives rather than a predetermined position.

ILA NATIONAL WEBINARS

Delayed Justice Webinar

26 September 2026

INDIAN
LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

presents

ONLINE WEBINAR

BIGGEST OBSTACLE IN BECOMING A FWN BY 2047: DELAYED JUSTICE. CAN WE FIX IT?

Can India eliminate chronic judicial delays by 2047—or will delayed justice remain the biggest obstacle to becoming a FWN?



Nappinai N S
Senior Advocate
Supreme Court of India



Surya Prakash B S
Programme Director
DAKSH



Ratan K. Singh
Senior Advocate & Arbitrator
International Member
Keating Chambers



Sujoy C. Datta
Partner, Aekom Legal
Advocate on Record, Hon'ble
Supreme Court of India



Jaideep Gupta
Barrister at Law
Senior Advocate
Supreme Court of India



Chander Uday Singh
Senior Advocate.
Chambers of Chander
Uday Singh



Narmadha Sampath
Senior Advocate & Mediator.
Madras High Court
Supreme Court



MODERATOR

Navneet Chugh
CPA, Attorney, Managing
Partner - Chugh LLP;
Founder- ILA

Biggest Obstacle in Becoming a FWN by 2047: Delayed Justice — Can We Fix It?

ABOUT THE WEBINAR

26 September 2026

The webinar examined chronic judicial delays and whether procedural, institutional and technological reforms could improve access to timely justice by 2047. The discussion focused on practical proposals to reduce case backlogs and strengthen the effectiveness of India's justice delivery system.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Adjournments: Strict limits on unnecessary continuances.
- Frivolous litigation: Punitive costs and financial penalties for misuse of court processes.
- Smart case management: AI-driven dockets and automated case-flow management.
- Time-bound justice: Enforceable statutory time caps for trials.
- Criminal case backlog: Wider use of plea bargaining and compoundable offences.
- Alternative dispute resolution: Mandatory pre-litigation ADR.
- Digital courts: Paperless, transparent and technology-driven court processes.

CONCLUSION / CENTRAL QUESTION

The central question was whether these proposed reforms could help India eliminate chronic judicial delays by 2047, or whether delayed justice would remain a major obstacle to national development. The discussion highlighted the need to examine procedural reform, technology and institutional accountability together.

ILA and Indian Mediation Federation Enter into MoU

A new institutional relationship announced in September 2026.



In September 2026, the Indian Lawyers Association (ILA) and the Indian Mediation Federation (IMF) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, marking a new institutional collaboration between the two organisations.

ABOUT IMF

IMF describes its vision as establishing India as a leading mediation jurisdiction recognised for trust, accessibility, professional excellence and international engagement. Its mission focuses on strengthening institutions, advancing standards, developing capability and fostering domestic and international collaboration.

A Unified Platform

IMF brings together mediators, legal professionals, institutions, businesses, academia and communities to promote mediation as an amicable dispute-resolution mechanism.

Core Focus

The federation highlights awareness, advocacy, stronger standards, professional capability and collaboration across India's mediation ecosystem.

Shared Legal Ecosystem

The MoU creates an institutional bridge between ILA's professional legal network and IMF's mediation-focused platform. Further programme details can be communicated through future ILA updates.

ILA Alwar Chapter Pro Bono Clinic

Serving people who may otherwise be unable to afford legal assistance.

The ILA Alwar Chapter, under the leadership of President Advocate Dr. Gitesh Khannaa, has launched a Pro Bono Clinic in Jaipur in association with K.K. Khanna & Associate Advocates – Legal Tech Pros.

The initiative is designed to extend free legal assistance to people who cannot afford legal support.

SERVICES HIGHLIGHTED

Legal advice & guidance

Applications & document support

Rights & entitlements

Family & civil matters

Other legal assistance

DAILY • 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Pre-appointment helpline: +91-8440092000

INDIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION ALWAR CHAPTER
Justice | Integrity | Service

K.K. KHANNA & ASSOCIATE ADVOCATES
— LEGAL TECH PROS —

PRO BONO CLINIC
INDIA'S FIRST FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES

— RUN FOR THE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T AFFORD JUSTICE —

Because Justice Should Not Be a Privilege, But a Right.

📍 Organized in Jaipur by ILA Alwar Chapter
President Advocate Dr. Gitesh Khannaa

in association with
K.K. Khanna and Associate Advocates
— Legal Tech Pros —

Serving the People

LEGAL ADVICE & GUIDANCE | APPLICATIONS & DOCUMENT SUPPORT | RIGHTS & ENTITLEMENTS | FAMILY & CIVIL MATTERS | OTHER LEGAL ASSISTANCE

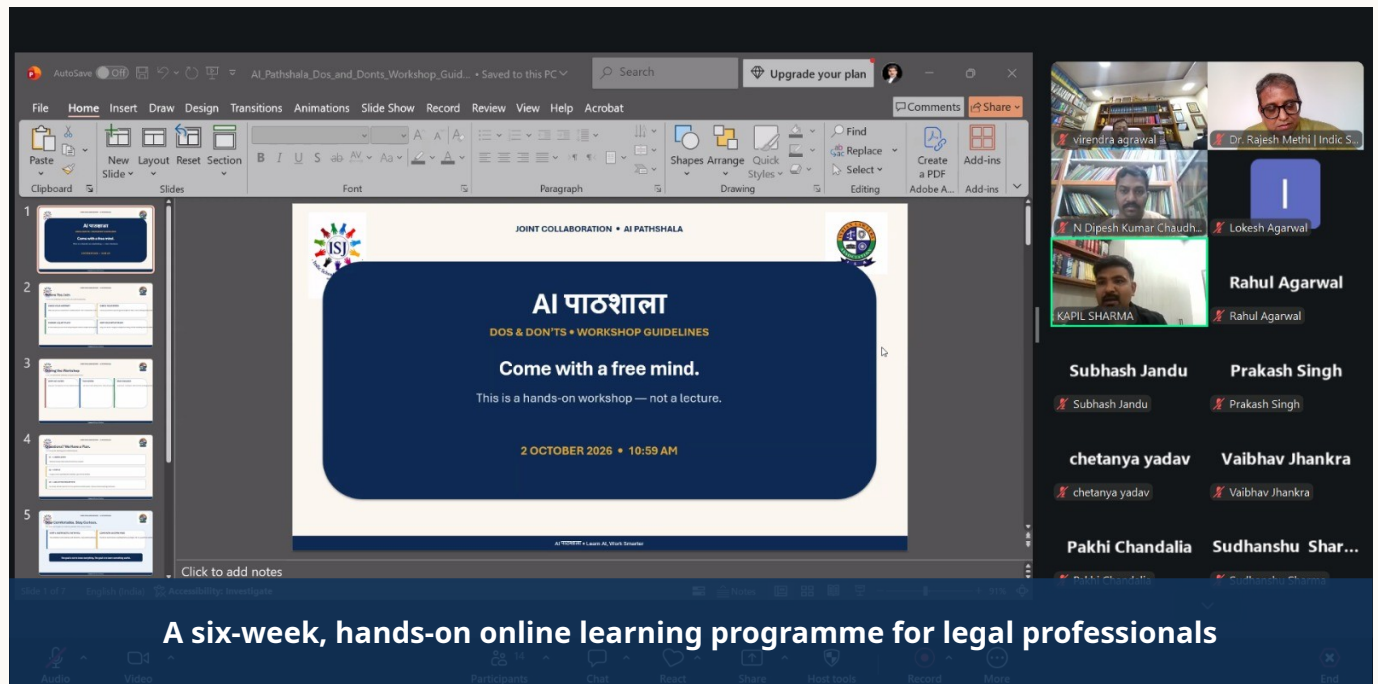
ON DAILY BASIS BETWEEN 4 P.M. TO 6 P.M. | For Pre Appointment Call Helpline **+91-8440092000**

Serving the People

“Because justice should not be a privilege, but a right.”

ILA Jaipur Chapter Launches “AI पाठशाला”

Empowering legal professionals to learn AI and work smarter.



The ILA Jaipur Chapter has launched “AI पाठशाला for Legal Professionals”, a practical learning initiative designed to help lawyers and legal professionals understand and effectively use Artificial Intelligence in day-to-day professional practice.

Strategic Guidance

State Governor - Rajasthan
Indian Lawyers Association (ILA)
Providing strategic assistance and guidance to the programme through the Indic School of Jurisprudence (ISJ).

Project Director

Mr. Kapil Sharma
President, ILA Jaipur Chapter
Leading the project and the chapter’s professional learning initiative.

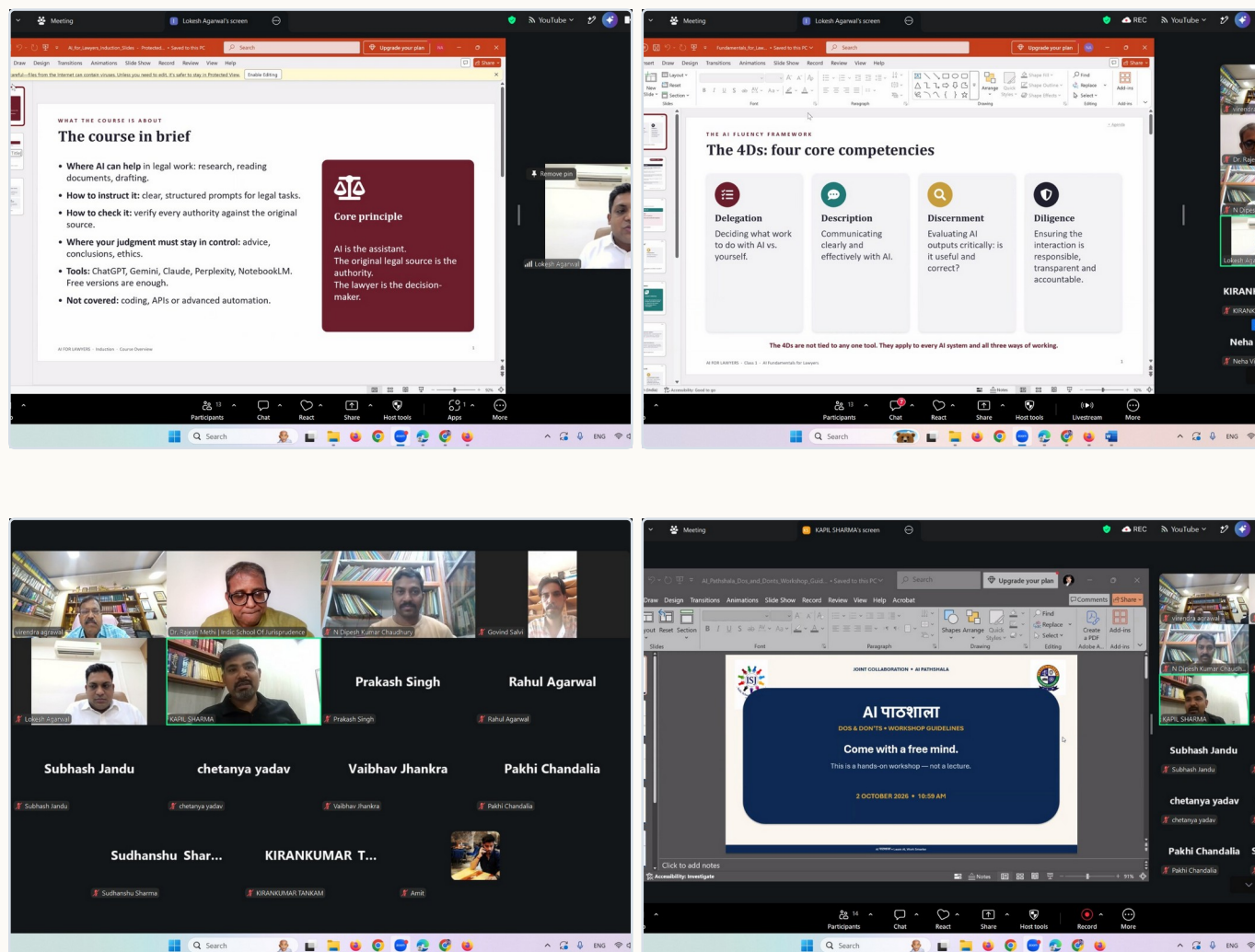
Pilot Faculty

Mr. Lokesh Agarwal
President-Elect, ILA Jaipur Chapter
Conducting sessions with a practical focus on AI tools and workflows for legal practice.

The initiative is being undertaken with the Indic School of Jurisprudence (ISJ).

Practical AI Fluency for the Legal Profession

The programme focuses on application, judgment, verification and responsible professional use.



The programme is not structured as a conventional lecture series. It is designed as a hands-on workshop covering practical applications of AI in legal research, drafting, documentation, professional productivity and workflow design.

LEGAL RESEARCH

DRAFTING

DOCUMENTATION

PRODUCTIVITY

AI WORKFLOWS

Participation has included in-house counsels, Deputy Registrars, Legal Heads of PSUs, senior lawyers and other legal professionals seeking to strengthen their understanding of emerging AI tools.

Core principle: AI should assist legal work — professional judgment, ethics, verification and responsibility remain with the lawyer.

New Board Appointments

Welcoming experienced professionals to strengthen ILA's chapter network.



DR. DEEPIKA S

ILA NOIDA BOARD

Founder - Institute for
Alternative Dispute
Resolution &
Soluzione Law
Associates

The Indian Lawyers Association welcomed Dr. Deepika S as a Board Member of the ILA Noida Chapter in September 2026. ILA looks forward to her active participation and valuable contribution to the Chapter.

**Chapter
Leadership**

Mr. Satyajit Gupta
Vice President - Associate GC & Head of India
Legal, Global CSR Head
Leading the ILA Noida Chapter

Welcome to the ILA Noida Board.



**DUSHYANT
KUMAR
MAHANT**

ILA DELHI BOARD

LL.M. (IPR-UQ Class of
2005)
CopyrightX (Harvard
Law School)
Founding Partner,
Mahant & Mahant
Advocates

The Indian Lawyers Association welcomed Mr. Dushyant Kumar Mahant as a Board Member of the ILA Delhi Chapter in September 2026. His experience in intellectual property and legal practice adds further depth to the Chapter's professional network.

**Chapter
Leadership**

Mr. Satwinder Singh
Founder & Managing Partner, Aekom Legal
Leading the ILA Delhi Chapter

Welcome to the ILA Delhi Board.

Adv. Mehul Bansal Appointed as Punjab President

Recognition in the field of juvenile justice advocacy.



ADVOCATE MEHUL BANSAL

ILA Amritsar Board Member

Advocate Mehul Bansal has been appointed as the Punjab President of the Juvenile Justice Advocates Association.

ILA congratulates Mr. Bansal on this new leadership role and wishes him success in contributing to the field of juvenile justice and legal advocacy.

LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • LEGAL ADVOCACY

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MOMENTUM

ALWAR

Pro Bono Clinic in Jaipur

JAIPUR

AI पाठशाला for Legal Professionals

NOIDA

Dr. Deepika S joins the Board

DELHI

Dushyant Kumar Mahant joins the Board

AMRITSAR

Member recognition: Adv. Mehul Bansal

Advocate Gagan Oberoi

President, ILA Chandigarh Chapter | Notable High Court judgment



PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT

High Court quashes FIR and consequential proceedings

Judgment pronounced: 22 July 2026

Case: CRM-M-43549-2017 (O&M)

Before: Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Manisha Batra

Advocate Gagan Oberoi represented the petitioner in proceedings under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

CASE OUTCOME

The Punjab and Haryana High Court allowed the petition and quashed the FIR registered under Sections 376, 328, 417 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code, together with consequential proceedings. The Court found that the material did not prima facie establish that the alleged promise of marriage was false from its inception or made solely to obtain consent.

LEGAL PRINCIPLE

The Court reiterated that a mere breach of a promise to marry does not, by itself, establish the offence of rape. The judgment distinguished a promise dishonest from the outset from a long-standing relationship that subsequently fails.

ILA congratulates Advocate Gagan Oberoi on his successful representation in the matter. The judgment dates to July 2026 and is highlighted here as a member achievement; the parties' identities are omitted from this newsletter account.

MEMBERS / ACHIEVEMENTS & RECOGNITION

Adv. Hitesh Ramchandani Featured in IIDRC Panorama Magazine

ILA Thane Chapter President | Counsel, Arbitrator & Mediator

IIDRC MONTHLY MAGAZINE PANORAMA AUGUST 2026

SECTION FIVE • EXPERT LENS ON ADR NEWS 05

Expert Lens: What the Chandrachud Appointment Signals for Investment Arbitration Hitesh Ramchandani on the Oschadbank Treaty Dispute



Adv. Hitesh Ramchandani
Counsel | Arbitrator | Mediator

Adv. Hitesh Ramchandani is a Counsel, Arbitrator and Mediator with over 13+ years of experience, specialising in contractual disputes and Alternative Dispute Resolution. He has presided as Sole Arbitrator in numerous Arbitration matters and has successfully mediated several disputes. He is empanelled as an Arbitrator and Conciliator with the Hon'ble Bombay High Court and as an Arbitrator with the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court for the Chandigarh Arbitration Centre. Internationally, he is empanelled with the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, London Court of International Arbitration, Asian International Arbitration Centre, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Thailand Arbitration Centre and among others

“The growing participation and recognition of Indian Arbitrators... marks another step towards India becoming a leading international hub for Arbitration.”

Appointment of Former CJI Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud as Russia's Nominee Arbitrator in the Oschadbank Investment Treaty Dispute.

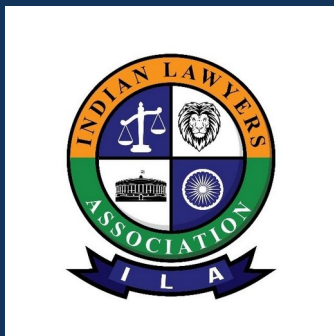
The appointment of Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, former Chief Justice of India, as the Arbitrator nominated by Russia in the Oschadbank investment treaty dispute is a significant development in the field of International Arbitration. The matter raises three important issues in Arbitration: Arbitrator independence, the influence of geopolitical tensions, and the expanding role of Indian Arbitrators.

Arbitrator Independence and Party Appointments

One of the first questions that arises in a party appointed Arbitration is whether an Arbitrator can remain completely neutral. In my view, the answer is yes. The fact that an Arbitrator is appointed by a particular party does not mean that the Arbitrator acts for that party. Party appointment is part of the Arbitral process, while independence and impartiality are continuing duties of the Arbitrator.

Advocate Hitesh Ramchandani was featured in the Expert Lens on ADR News section of IIDRC Panorama Magazine, August 2026 (Volume 7). His contribution examined what the appointment of former Chief Justice of India Dr. D. Y. Chandrachud as Russia's nominee arbitrator in the Oschadbank investment treaty dispute signals for investment arbitration.

The feature reflects his continued engagement with developments in international arbitration and mediation. ILA congratulates him on this professional recognition.



INDIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2026 • MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Stay connected. Stay informed.

More updates, initiatives, opportunities and stories from across the Indian Lawyers Association community are coming every month.

PARTICIPATE

Join ILA programmes, chapter initiatives and professional conversations.

CONNECT

Engage with ILA chapters and the wider legal professional community.

FOLLOW

Keep up with ILA events, chapter developments and monthly updates.

www.indialawyers.org

Indian Lawyers Association (ILA)

Justice • Integrity • Professional Excellence • Service