

MONTHLY



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2026

REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

The ADR (Appropriate Dispute Resolution) landscape continues to evolve, driven by changing commercial expectations, technological advancements and a growing recognition that effective dispute resolution is integral to economic development, access to justice and institutional confidence.

September 2026 has been a particularly engaging month for the ADR community, with important developments both in India and internationally. The ongoing reform initiatives in Hong Kong, the review of arbitration and mediation rules by the London Court of International Arbitration, and UNCITRAL's deliberations on investor-State dispute settlement reflect a common pursuit of greater efficiency, fairness and institutional credibility. Equally encouraging is the expanding international recognition of mediation as an effective mechanism for resolving disputes through dialogue and consensus.

In India, the continuing discourse on institutional arbitration, the appropriate role of government in promoting arbitration, and the mainstreaming of mediation underscores the need for a more coherent and supportive ADR ecosystem. The launch of the Indian Mediation Federation (IMF) is a welcome development towards building professional standards, institutional cooperation and greater public awareness of mediation. The Learned Attorney General of India's call that the Government of India should reconsider its norms restricting the use of arbitration in high-value public procurement disputes is timely and most welcome. Speaking at a CII conference some time back, I had said that proscribing arbitration for high-value disputes involving government undertakings is like throwing the baby out with the bath water. On the contrary, the Government should be exploring institutional Med-Arb options for resolving disputes.

For IAMC Hyderabad, the month has been marked by meaningful engagement with the wider ADR community. Our collaboration with the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) Malaysia, participation in India ADR Week, and contributions to conferences and capacity-building programmes reflect our commitment to strengthening institutional arbitration and mediation. Our engagement with the India Digital ADR Summit also reinforced an important principle: technology must serve the fundamental values of dispute resolution, including procedural fairness, party autonomy, confidentiality and the preservation of human judgment.

As we look ahead, I believe the future of ADR lies not merely in making existing adjudicatory processes faster or more efficient, but in fostering a fundamental shift in how disputes are approached. While arbitration remains an essential mechanism for the authoritative determination of disputes, mediation offers the opportunity to move beyond adversarial positions towards collaborative, interest-based and sustainable outcomes. Both processes must develop as complementary pillars of a mature dispute resolution system.

At IAMC, our endeavour is to contribute to this transformation through institutional excellence, professional capacity-building, international collaboration and the promotion of a culture in which disputes are managed constructively rather than merely contested.

I hope this edition provides our readers with valuable insights into recent developments and encourages continued reflection on the future of dispute resolution.

Warm Regards,

A. J. Jawad

CEO & Registrar, IAMC Hyderabad

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Hong Kong Launches 1-Month Consultation to Reform Arbitration Ordinance

The Hong Kong Department of Justice has launched a one-month consultation on proposed amendments to the Arbitration Ordinance (Cap. 609), following a review of 25 issues by its Working Group on Arbitration Law Reform. The proposals cover speed and convenience, confidentiality, scope, and fairness and justice, and include allowing tribunals to summarily dispose of manifestly meritless claims, defences or jurisdictional issues, recognising electronic awards and signatures, and making the law of the seat the default law governing the arbitration agreement. The proposals also provide for a longer period to challenge awards involving fraud or corruption, removal of the automatic stay on enforcement, and a statutory framework for arbitration of internal trust disputes. The consultation closes on 27 October 2026, with an amendment bill targeted for early 2027. [Read more](#)

3. Cambodia and Thailand Begin UN-Backed Conciliation on Maritime Dispute

Cambodia and Thailand commenced compulsory conciliation proceedings under Article 298(1)(a)(i) and Annex V of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) concerning their maritime boundary dispute. At the first meeting of the five-member Conciliation Commission in Singapore from 14-16 September, the parties adopted the Rules of Procedure and delivered opening statements on 15 September setting out their respective positions. The proceedings concern the interpretation and application of Articles 15, 74 and 83 of UNCLOS, relating to maritime delimitation, with the Permanent Court of Arbitration acting as Registry. [Read more](#)

5. LCIA Launches 13-Committee Overhaul of Arbitration and Mediation Rules

The London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) on 11 September announced 13 committees to work on revisions to its Arbitration Rules and Mediation Rules. The review covers AI and information security, expedited and emergency arbitration, tribunal constitution and challenges, joinder and consolidation, costs and third-party funding, awards and publication, and the integration of mediation with arbitration. The committees' recommendations will inform draft revised Rules, which will be released for further community feedback. [Read more](#)

2. Delhi HC Restrains London Arbitration in UN Military Cargo Dispute

In *Sarr Freights Corporation & Anr. v. Argo Coral Maritime Ltd.*, the Delhi High Court restrained a London-seated LMAA arbitration arising from a contract for transporting military cargo for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Sudan. The Court found that while the earlier Fixture Recap contained an "English law and London arbitration" clause, the subsequently executed Booking Note constituted the parties' final agreement, expressly superseding prior arrangements, and incorporated only Clauses 20-41, while the arbitration provision was in Clause 43. Holding that prior negotiations and correspondence could not introduce an arbitration clause absent from the final written agreement, the Court rejected the plea to rectify the omission and granted an anti-arbitration injunction restraining further LMAA proceedings. [Read more](#)

4. UNCITRAL Tables Draft Statutes for Permanent ISDS Tribunal and Appellate Tribunal

At its 10th Intersessional Meeting from 7-9 September, UNCITRAL Working Group III considered draft statutes establishing a Permanent Tribunal for International Investment Disputes and a separate Permanent Appellate Tribunal. The proposed first-tier tribunal would hear investor-State disputes and determine questions concerning its jurisdiction, while the appellate tribunal would review specified final decisions of the first-tier body. The draft framework also addresses the appointment, tenure and disqualification of tribunal members, proceedings, applicable law, decisions and their enforcement, with the appellate mechanism setting out proposed grounds for review. The proposals remain under negotiation as part of UNCITRAL's ongoing ISDS reform process. [Read more](#)

6. Uzbekistan Becomes 24th State Party to Singapore Convention on Mediation

UNCITRAL announced on 2 September that Uzbekistan had acceded to the Singapore Convention on Mediation, becoming the 24th State Party to the Convention. Uzbekistan deposited its instrument of accession on 28 August, with the Convention set to enter into force for the country on 28 February 2027. The Convention provides a framework for recognising and enforcing international settlement agreements resulting from mediation, subject to its scope and applicable conditions. [Read more](#)

DOMESTIC NEWS

1. Attorney General Calls for Reconsideration of Government's Restrictions on Arbitration

Attorney General R. Venkataramani has said that the Government should reconsider its norms restricting the use of arbitration in high-value public procurement disputes. Speaking at the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre's Arbitration Week, the Attorney General disclosed that he has been engaging with the Government to review the June 2024 Office Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Finance. The memorandum provides that arbitration should not be routinely included in large procurement contracts and, as a norm, should be limited to disputes valued below ₹10 crore, with higher-value disputes requiring recorded reasons and approval at senior levels. Venkataramani noted that the memorandum is capable of being revised or withdrawn. [Read more](#)

3. Contractual Interest Bar Excludes Pre-Reference Interest Under Section 31(7)(a)

The Supreme Court has held that an arbitral tribunal is denuded of its power under Section 31(7)(a) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to award pre-reference interest where the contract expressly excludes interest on delayed payments. In North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. v. Astra Construction Pvt. Ltd., the Court drew a distinction between the contractual clause considered in State of U.P. v. Harish Chandra & Co. and the present Clause 54 of the GCC, which separately barred interest arising from delayed periodical or final payments. Relying on Sayeed Ahmed & Co. v. State of U.P. and Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. v. THDC-II, the Court held that this additional and independently worded prohibition constituted a complete bar on the Tribunal's jurisdiction to award pre-reference interest. The Court accordingly set aside the Meghalaya High Court's decision restoring the interest awarded by the Tribunal. [Read more](#)

5. SC: Arbitration Clause May Bind Party to Integrated Instrument in Composite Transaction

The Supreme Court has held that an arbitration clause contained in a Loan Agreement can be incorporated into a Personal Guarantee where the instruments form part of an interconnected transaction. In National Skill Development Corporation v. Surya Wires Pvt. Ltd., the Court applied Section 7(5) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, noting that the Personal Guarantees were expressly treated as "Facility Agreements" and formed an integral part of the Loan Agreements. As the Guarantees were also mandatory pre-disbursement conditions, the Court held that the arbitration clause stood incorporated into them and bound the guarantor to arbitration. The Court set aside the High Court's decision excluding the guarantor from the arbitral proceedings. [Read more](#)

2. Supreme Court Reinforces Tribunal's Kompetenz-Kompetenz in "Excepted Matters"

The Supreme Court has held that whether a claim under a works contract falls within an "excepted matters" clause is a question of arbitrability and jurisdiction falling within the Arbitral Tribunal's competence under Section 16 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. In M/s GVV Constructions Pvt. Ltd. v. Union of India, the Court held that if a court exercising Section 11(6A) jurisdiction cannot pre-determine the contractual basis on which the Tribunal is to decide such a claim, a writ court exercising Article 226 jurisdiction cannot impose such a restriction either. The Court relied on the statutory policy of minimal judicial intervention under Section 5 and the kompetenz-kompetenz principle, holding that the Tribunal must first determine whether the termination dispute falls wholly or partly outside its jurisdiction. [Read more](#)

4. Indian Mediation Federation Launched with Six-Point Focus and Advisory Board

The Indian Mediation Federation (IMF) was formally launched on 18 September 2026 at the PACT-Poovayya Commercial Mediation Conclave in New Delhi, held against the backdrop of the Mediation Act, 2023 and themed "Making Mediation Mainstream." The Federation has identified six areas of focus: unifying the mediation ecosystem, increasing awareness, developing professional and ethical standards, supporting mediation policy, expanding the adoption of mediation, and professional development for mediators. An Advisory Board comprising professionals from the legal, corporate, government, accountancy and mediation sectors was also announced, including former Law Secretary P.K. Malhotra, former Chief Information Commissioner Bimal Julka, CAMP Mediation Institute founder Laila Ollapally and IAMC Registrar A.J. Jawad. [Read more](#)

IAMC EVENTS

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AUG 2026 **IAMC CEO & Registrar Joined FTCCI Corporate Laws, IBC & ADR Committee**

IAMC CEO & Registrar, Mr. A.J. Jawad, was inducted as a Member of the Corporate Laws, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) for 2026–27. FTCCI is the apex body representing industry, trade and commerce in Telangana, and has been protecting their interests for the last 109 years. It also plays a constructive role in policy formulation for the State’s industrial progress.
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AUG 2026 **IAMC Hyderabad Signed MoU with Asian International Arbitration Centre**

IAMC Hyderabad entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) during Singapore Convention Week 2026. The MoU was signed by IAMC CEO & Registrar, Mr. A.J. Jawad, and AIAC CEO, Datuk Danesh Chandran, at a ceremony presided over by Dato’ Mary Lim, President of the AIAC Court of Arbitration. It establishes a framework for cooperation in arbitration and mediation, including joint training and conferences, knowledge-sharing and reciprocal access to hearing facilities. The collaboration is intended to strengthen institutional cooperation between the Indian and Malaysian ADR ecosystems.
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SEP 2026 **IAMC Participated in India ADR Week 2026**

IAMC CEO & Registrar, Mr. A.J. Jawad, participated as a speaker at India ADR Week 2026, organised by the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA), on its opening day in Bengaluru. The session, “Institutional Arbitration in India: What’s Working, What Isn’t?”, was hosted by the Arbitration Bar of India and brought together representatives from IAMC, IAC and ICA to examine the functioning of institutional arbitration in India. Discussions focused on institutional bottlenecks, improving arbitral processes, and measures to strengthen user confidence in institutional dispute resolution.
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SEP 2026 **IAMC Supported International Conference on Arbitration, Technology and Global Justice**

IAMC Hyderabad supported the International Conference on “Arbitration, Technology and Global Justice”, organised by the School of Law, Rayat Bahra University, Mohali, in collaboration with the India International Arbitration Centre. The hybrid conference brought together legal professionals, arbitrators and academicians to examine the intersection of technology and international dispute resolution. IAMC CEO & Registrar, Mr. A.J. Jawad, delivered the Keynote Address, contributing to discussions on the evolving role of technology in arbitration and global justice.
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SEP 2026 **IAMC Participated in 15th Annual Legal Era India Conclave**

IAMC Deputy Registrar, Ms. Sunayana Kandala, participated as a panelist at the Hyderabad edition of the 15th Annual Legal Era India Conclave 2026. The discussion examined the changing role of technology in dispute resolution, including the use of digital infrastructure for end-to-end arbitral case management. The panel also highlighted the role of multi-tier dispute resolution clauses, under which negotiation and mediation may be used to narrow disputes before arbitration.

IAMC EVENTS

- 12 SEP 2026** **IAMC Participated as Academic Partner at India Digital ADR Summit 2026**
IAMC Hyderabad participated as an Academic Partner at the India Digital ADR Summit 2026, organised by the International Digital Dispute Resolution Centre at the National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar. The Summit focused on AI and technology in ADR, digital case management, online dispute resolution, cross-border disputes and the future of commercial mediation. IAMC CEO & Registrar, Mr. A.J. Jawad, moderated a roundtable on “Building India’s Digital ADR Architecture: Institutional, Regulatory and Technological Priorities”, which examined AI regulation, cybersecurity, institutional control over technology and the preservation of human judgment in digital ADR. The panellists were Justice M.R. Shah and Justice Rajesh Bindal, both Former Judges of the Supreme Court of India; Justice Soniabehn Gokani, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat; Mr. Ratan K. Singh, Senior Advocate and Founding Chairman, Society of Construction Law; Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, RMIT Dispute Management Centre, Melbourne; Ms. Neeti Sachdeva, CEO and Registrar, MCIA; Mr. Jan Kunstyr, Legal Director, Sherrards Solicitors, UK; and Mr. Navin Kumar Singh, CEO, India International Arbitration Centre.
- 18 SEP 2026** **IAMC CEO & Registrar Served as Trainer at SYAR Online Mediation Training Programme**
IAMC CEO & Registrar, Mr. A.J. Jawad, served as a Speaker and Trainer at the SYAR Online Mediation Training Programme 2026. The three-day programme focused on developing practical mediation and negotiation skills through case studies, role-plays and live mediation simulations. Sessions covered the pre-mediation phase, preparation and planning, mediation proceedings, caucusing, BATNA/WATNA/ZOPA, and techniques for overcoming impasse and facilitating settlement.
- 21 SEP 2026** **IAMC CEO & Registrar Served as Trainer at AMIKA 40-Hour Mediation Training Programme**
IAMC CEO & Registrar, Mr. A.J. Jawad, served as a trainer at the 40-Hour Mediation Training Programme organised by the AMIKA Arbitration and Mediation Council. His sessions examined the philosophy and psychology underlying mediation, with particular emphasis on how subjective perceptions, cognitive biases and emotional triggers influence disputes. The training also explored the role of emotional awareness and mediator self-awareness in moving parties beyond rigid positions towards meaningful resolution.
- 23 SEP 2026** **IAMC CEO & Registrar Served as Resource Person at National Arbitration Capacity-Building Programme**
IAMC CEO & Registrar, Mr. A.J. Jawad, served as a Resource Person and Speaker at the 2nd National Online 15-Day Capacity Building Training Programme on “Arbitration: Theory, Practical Application & Drafting”, organised by the Sambhav Initiative. The programme provides structured training in arbitration agreements, invocation and arbitrability, interim measures, evidence and witness examination, arbitral awards, enforcement and appeals, while also covering institutional and international arbitration and practical drafting skills.

EDITORIAL TEAM :

This newsletter contains summaries of recent developments compiled from publicly available sources and is intended for educational and informational purposes only. Readers are encouraged to refer to the linked original publications for complete information.

EDITOR:
TANISHA PRASAD
EDITORIAL RESEARCHER:
KRITIKA PANDA