

# 8<sup>th</sup> ICC India Conference on International Arbitration

New Delhi, India | 27-28 February 2026



## PROGRAMME

### Saturday 28 February 2026

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10.00 – 11.00 *Registration and morning coffee*

11.00 – 11.05 **Welcome address**

11.05 – 11.20 **Opening remarks**

11.20 – 12.20 **Session 1 - Shifting winds: Risk management and economic strategies for India's businesses amid geopolitical haze**

With constant shift in global political alliances and economic power balances, Indian businesses find themselves navigating an increasingly complex operating environment. As a result, disputes arising from cross-border investments, long-term infrastructure projects and technology collaborations have grown more nuanced and more strategically consequential. This chat will explore how Indian corporates can build resilience as the ground beneath global commerce continues to move.

Panellists will discuss how commercial strategy, risk allocation, and dispute resolution frameworks must adapt to the realities of friend-shoring, protectionist trade policies, sanctions exposure, and increasing regulatory unpredictability.

12.20 – 13.00 **In focus: Revamping the ICC Arbitration Rules - towards enhanced clarity and efficiency**

Work is underway to revise the ICC Rules of Arbitration. This session will provide a preview of the ICC Arbitration Rules revision process, highlighting key changes and the reasoning behind them.

13.00 – 14.00 *Networking lunch*

14.00 – 15.15 **Session 2 - Is silence golden? Pitfalls and practical insights of arbitration involving defaulting parties**

Defaulting parties pose one of the most persistent practical challenges in arbitration. Whether through non-appearance, refusal to participate, tactical silence or partial engagement. Such conduct tests the tribunal's ability to balance procedural fairness with efficiency and exposes the final award to enforcement risk if not handled with care. This session will shed light on how arbitrations can and should proceed in such cases, from the practitioners' and arbitrators' perspective, without compromising due process or enforceability.

## Saturday 28 February 2026 (Cont.)

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15.15 – 15.45 *Coffee Break*

15.45 – 16.45 **Session 3: Oxford-style debate: Two steps forward, one step sideways: can India's arbitration modernization co-exist with the continuing uncertainty under the BCI rules?**

India's arbitration ecosystem stands at a pivotal moment. On one hand, the recent and proposed amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act reaffirm the country's commitment to modernising its dispute resolution architecture strengthening institutional arbitration, enhancing transparency, and aligning practice with global best standards. On the other hand, the Bar Council of India's evolving rules on the entry and practice of foreign lawyers and foreign law firms have created a parallel track. Some may view this as a pragmatic opening and others as a revolving door that risks regulatory ambiguity.

16.45 – 16.50 **Closing remarks**

17.00 – 18.30 *Cocktail reception*