



# GNLU-GAIL Conference on Arbitration in Oil and Gas Disputes

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# Programme Schedule

24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Saturday

## 09:00 – 10:00 A.M. Registration for Delegates and Speakers

**Note:** All Delegates and Speakers are requested to arrive early and be seated by 9:55 am.

## 10:00 – 11:15 A.M. Inaugural Session

- Opening Address
- Special Address
- Keynote Address
- Sectoral Address
- Closing of Inaugural Session

## 11:15 – 11:30 A.M. Tea Break

## 11:30 – 13:00 P.M. Session 1: Past, Present and Future of Arbitration and Conciliation Act (ACA), 1996

A glimpse into the historical development, current status, and potential future trajectory of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act (ACA), 1996, showcasing its enduring significance in the realm of alternative dispute resolution in India. Key legal developments relating to Emergency Arbitrations, Challenges and Enforcement of Awards followed by a discussion on how the emerging viewpoints on these issues may shape the arbitration practice in the coming decade (2024-2034).

### Topics to be discussed:

- Pro-enforcement, shifts and amendments to ACA 1996
- Judicial Pronouncements that establish Indian Arbitration in Global Context
- Taming the unruly horse of public policy under Indian Laws
- Indian Court's Perspective on Arbitral Appointments
- Emergency Arbitrations; Challenges & Enforcement of Awards
- Key future amendments to the ACA 1996 - What's Next?

## 13:00 – 14:00 P.M. Networking Lunch

# Programme Schedule



24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Saturday

14:00 – 15:30 P.M.

## Session 2: Arbitration and Court Assistance in Litigation

The perpetual choice between Arbitration and Litigation represents a fundamental decision in the realm of dispute resolution. While litigation is the traditional avenue involving the resolution of conflicts through the court system, arbitration offers an alternative path that allows parties to settle disputes outside of formal court proceedings. This session promises to shed light on the advantages, and challenges, Comparing strengths and weaknesses in Ad-hoc Arbitration V. Institutional Arbitration and Commercial Litigation and evolving trends in both arbitration and court assistance in litigation.

### Topics to be discussed:

- Arbitration-related litigation proceedings towards efficient resolution of disputes
- Court assistance in arbitrations for arbitrator appointments and interim measures
- Comparing strengths and weaknesses in Ad-hoc Arbitration V. Institutional Arbitration and Commercial Litigation Assistance

15:30 – 15:45 P.M.

Tea Break

15:45 – 17:15 P.M.

## Session 3: ADR: Future of Oil & Gas (O&G) Disputes

This session will spotlight ADR as alternative avenues for resolving O&G and renewable energy disputes, assessing their implications on O&G disputes and how they shape the contractual landscape in this critical sector. The adaptability of these methods and their potential to foster collaborative solutions will be a focal point of this session.

### Topics to be discussed:

- Evolution of arbitration involving O&G disputes
- Challenges in the resolution of O&G disputes
- O&G Investment Treaty Arbitration [BITs/MITs/ECT (Investor-State Dispute)]
- Mediation and Med-Arb Resolution in O&G and renewable energy disputes.
- Renegotiation clauses in International Petroleum Agreements and their effect on O&G disputes
- Contemporary issues involving Concession Agreements in O&G

# Programme Schedule



25th February 2024 - Sunday

10:00 – 11:15 A.M.

## Session 4: Special Issues involving Oil & Gas (O&G) Disputes

This session will highlight specific issues involving O&G and renewable energy disputes, shipping & maritime and assessing their contract management, key commercial issues involving O&G sector and how they inter-play in pre-dispute management navigating the contractual obligations.

### Topics to be discussed:

- Contract Management
- Disagreements Between Project Partners (Production Sharing Contract)
- Price Reviews in Long-Term Supply Agreements
- Supply or Pay / Take or Pay
- Regasification / Terminal contract disputes
- Pre-Dispute Management

11:15 – 11:30 A.M.

Tea Break

11:30 – 13:00 P.M.

## Session 5: Challenges in Commercial & Maritime Arbitration

Commercial & Maritime Arbitration stands as a pillar of alternative dispute resolution, offering parties a flexible and neutral forum to settle disputes arising from domestic business transactions and shipping sector. However, this mechanism is not without its challenges. Our panel discussion seeks to unravel these challenges, spanning from procedural intricacies and jurisdictional complexities to broader issues influenced by India's growth story with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives. Our esteemed panelists will navigate through the evolving landscape of commercial arbitration.

### Topics to be discussed:

- Arbitration agreements – What to avoid in 2024?
- Third-party funding in Commercial Arbitration
- Indian Legal Position on Joinder & Consolidation
- Charter Party Disputes in Wet Cargo
- Maritime Sector Related Issues

13:00 – 14:00 P.M.

Networking Lunch

# Programme Schedule



25th February 2024 - Sunday

14:00 – 15:30 P.M.

## Session 6: Technology and Arbitration

In this session, we will unravel the transformative impact technology has had on the field of arbitration, fintech and crypto dispute, use of technology in arbitration. Online dispute resolution and its future and challenges, use of AI in Substantive Disputes Resolution, role of technology in maintaining confidentiality of ADR proceedings. Followed by a discussion on how the emerging viewpoints on these issues may shape the arbitration practice, domestically and internationally.

### Topics to be discussed:

- Fintech and Crypto dispute
- Use of technology in arbitration
- Online Dispute Resolution (ODR); its future and challenges
- Use of AI in Substantive Disputes Resolution
- Role of technology in maintaining Confidentiality of ADR proceedings

15:30 – 15:45 P.M.

## Tea Break

15:45 – 17:15 P.M.

## An Arbitrator's Perspective: Beyond What Meets the Eye

Arbitrator's perspective on recent trends in arbitrations related to the Oil and Gas Sector and commercial transactions.

During the session, the Speakers will convey a diverse range of insights and perspectives from their experiences, offering a comprehensive understanding of the topic at hand. Through their expertise and experiences, they aim to illuminate various facets of the subject, providing valuable and multifaceted viewpoints beyond what meets the eye. Attendees can anticipate a rich and dynamic exchange of ideas as the Speakers articulate their thoughts, enriching the session with depth and breadth of knowledge.

17:15 – 17:30 P.M.

## Closing Remarks

## Case Counsel Report

## Who Can Participate:

Legal professionals specializing in ADR practice, Government and PSU legal officers, academicians, students and researchers in the field of ADR.

## Important Dates:

Date of Conference- 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Registration:



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**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS AND MANY MORE TO JOIN**



**Honourable Justice  
Ahsanuddin Amanullah**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India



**Dr. Lalit Bhasin**  
FCI Arb, Managing Partner  
Bhasin & Co



**Ratan K. Singh, FCI Arb**  
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Osborne Partners Ltd



**Shashank Garg**  
Advocate,  
Chambers of Shashank Garg

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**Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar**  
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Director, Gujarat National Law University  
Provost & Director (I/C) Gujarat Maritime University

## Patron:



**Mr. A. Venkatesan**  
Deputy General Manager (Law)  
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## Conference Convenors:

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