



# BAI NATIONAL RULE OF LAW CONVENTION – 2026

“Legal Reform Roadmap to a  
\$10 Trillion Bharat”



## The Bar Association of India

11-12 APRIL, 2026

NEW DELHI

*Supported by:*



The Indian Law Foundation



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## WELCOME MESSAGE

On behalf of the Bar Association of India, I extend a warm welcome to each of you to the BAI National Rule of Law Convention 2026 — convened on 11 and 12 April at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

This year's Convention is themed “Legal Reform Roadmap to a \$10 Trillion Bharat.” The theme is deliberately chosen. India's economic ambitions are well articulated; what is less often examined is the structural relationship between legal architecture and economic performance. This Convention proceeds from a single, clarifying proposition: that law is not an accessory to economic growth but its foundational infrastructure. Like physical infrastructure, a well-functioning legal system enables productive activity. Like deficient infrastructure, legal and regulatory dysfunction imposes hidden and compounding costs — raising risk premiums, depressing returns, and deterring the long-horizon capital that transformative growth requires.

The agenda over these two days has been designed with this in mind. Six working sessions address the dimensions of reform most material to India's growth trajectory: the institutional architecture of the rule of law; regulatory rationalisation and the shift from litigative to trust-based governance; digital justice and the deployment of technology as judicial infrastructure; specialised judicial and professional capacity; the design of a credible dispute resolution ecosystem; and the evolution of contract law to embed commercial good faith in infrastructure and manufacturing arrangements.

To ground our deliberations in substance, a comprehensive background paper has been prepared and circulated to all delegates in advance of the Convention. The paper examines in depth the structural misalignments in India's existing legal and regulatory framework — with particular attention to contract law, dispute resolution, and the institutional conditions for investor confidence — and sets out a considered reform agenda for each session. Delegates are encouraged to treat it as the analytical foundation for our discussions. The quality of our deliberations will be proportionate to the preparation each of us brings to the room.

The Convention brings together an exceptional gathering: members of the Supreme Court and High Courts, the Attorney General, the Chairperson of the Law Commission, members of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, the Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog, senior counsel, and practitioners from across the country. The presence of this assembly is itself a statement of the legal profession's commitment to the national project.

BAI has convened this Convention not as a forum for ceremonial consensus but as a platform for rigorous, actionable dialogue. It is our intention that the propositions developed here enter policy discourse and contribute concretely to the reform of India's legal and regulatory infrastructure. The profession has both the expertise and the institutional responsibility to shape that reform from within.

I invite each delegate to engage fully — to test arguments, surface tensions, and contribute the depth of experience that this gathering uniquely assembles. The ideas deliberated over these two days will, I hope, carry well beyond this hall.

PRASHANT KUMAR  
President

## BAI NATIONAL RULE OF LAW CONVENTION — 2026

"Legal Reform Roadmap to a \$10 Trillion Bharat"

11–12 April 2026 | New Delhi

### Theme Note

#### *Law as Economic Infrastructure: Reducing Value Destruction, Enabling Growth*

India's ambition to become a **\$10 trillion economy** rests not only on capital formation, policy direction, and entrepreneurial energy, but equally on the quality and reliability of its legal and regulatory architecture. Law, in this framing, is not a constraint on commerce — it is its **foundational infrastructure**. Like roads, ports, and power grids, the legal system either enables efficient economic activity or, through its failures, imposes hidden and compounding costs upon it.

A significant — and still insufficiently acknowledged — drag on India's growth arises from economic value destruction embedded within legal and regulatory dysfunction. Delays in dispute resolution, enforcement uncertainty, overlapping regulatory mandates, and unpredictability in state action collectively raise risk premiums and the cost of capital. They depress internal rates of return, render viable projects uncompetitive, and impair the confidence of both domestic and foreign investors.

For a country that seeks to anchor global supply chains and position itself as a preferred destination for long-horizon capital, these structural inefficiencies are not merely inconvenient — they are a competitive liability. Peer jurisdictions offering legal certainty and efficient dispute resolution attract capital at systematically lower cost. India cannot afford to cede this advantage.

This Convention proceeds from the premise that **reducing legal and regulatory value destruction is itself a growth strategy** — not a peripheral concern of legal reformers, but a central imperative for economic policymakers, the judiciary, and the legal profession alike. By reimagining law as a proactive instrument of value preservation, trust-building, and risk minimisation, the legal ecosystem can become a decisive accelerant of India's economic transformation.

The six working sessions that follow examine this transformation across interconnected domains: rule of law and institutional credibility; regulatory rationalisation; technology and digital justice; judicial and professional capacity; dispute resolution architecture; and the evolution of contract law to match the demands of a manufacturing-led economy. Each session is designed not merely to diagnose but to generate actionable propositions for reform.

The Bar Association of India convenes this Convention in the conviction that the legal profession has a direct and material stake in India's economic transformation — not merely as service providers to commerce, but as architects of the institutional framework within which commerce operates. The agenda before us is not technical in the narrow sense. It is a question of what kind of economy India wishes to build, and what kind of legal system that economy requires.

The proposition that **law is economic infrastructure** carries a corollary: that the legal profession, the judiciary, and the institutions of governance bear co-responsibility for economic outcomes. A legal ecosystem that generates predictability, fairness, and efficiency is not merely good for lawyers — it is good for India. The reform agenda surfaced in these sessions is the profession's contribution to the national project.



## INAUGURAL SESSION

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2026**

<b>Registration   Tea &amp; Coffee</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>09:30 – 11:00</b>
<b>Inaugural Session</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>11:00 – 12:15</b>
<b>Exposition of theme</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Mr. Prashant Kumar</b> President, BAI
<b>Guest of Honour</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Mr. R. Venkataramani</b> Attorney General for India
<b>Guest of Honour</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Prof. S. Mahendra Dev</b> Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
<b>Guest of Honour</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Mr. Suman Bery</b> Vice-Chairperson, Niti Aayog
<b>Chief Guest</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant</b> Chief Justice of India
<b>Response by</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Mr. Amarjit Singh Chandhiok</b> President-Elect, BAI
<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Mr. J.S. Marahatta</b> Treasurer, BAI
<b>Conduct of proceedings</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Mr. Amarjit Singh Bedi</b> Hony. General Secretary, BAI

***Rule of Law as a Pillar of Economic Growth-1: Reducing Regulatory Overload and Arbitrariness, Moving from Litigative Governance to Problems Solving Trust Enhancement***

The proliferation of regulatory mandates — across central, state, and sectoral tiers — has created an environment of compounding compliance burdens and institutional overlap. The cost is not merely administrative. Regulatory excess generates regulatory arbitrage, chills investment, rewards incumbency over innovation, and produces a culture of litigative governance in which compliance becomes a matter of managing risk rather than pursuing productive activity.

Arbitrariness compounds these costs. When similar conduct attracts inconsistent regulatory treatment — across sectors, geographies, or time — the implicit cost of doing business rises. Enterprises must reserve for unpredictable regulatory outcomes, a cost ultimately borne by consumers and reflected in reduced competitiveness.

This session examines the architecture of trust-based governance: the simplification of regulatory frameworks, rationalisation of overlapping mandates, risk-based compliance design, and the creation of stable, consultative regulatory processes. The goal is not deregulation, but intelligent regulation — clear, consistent, contestable, and proportionate to the economic activity it governs.

<b>Chair</b>	:	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar</b> Judge, Supreme Court of India
<b>Speakers</b>	:	<b>Mr. Krishnan Venugopal</b> Senior Advocate  <b>Mr. Balbir Singh</b> Former Additional Solicitor General of India  <b>Dr. Aditya Sondhi</b> Senior Advocate  <b>Mr. Pratap Venugopal</b> Senior Advocate
<b>Session Rapporteur</b>	:	<b>Mr. Samrat Upadhyay</b> Advocate
<b>Session Coordinator</b>	:	<b>Mr. Mukesh Kumar Singh</b> Joint General Secretary, BAI
<b>Lunch Break</b>	:	<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>

***Rule of Law as a Pillar of Economic Growth–2: Predictability, Fairness, Transparency and Accountability***

Economic confidence is, at its core, a wager on legal credibility. Predictability reduces transaction costs. Fairness builds the institutional trust on which long-term investment depends. Transparency disciplines discretion. Accountability ensures that state and private actors alike remain answerable to established norms. Together, these attributes constitute the rule of law — not as an abstract ideal, but as a measurable input to economic performance.

India's transition to a \$10 trillion economy requires systemic and visible legal reliability. Investors — whether domestic or international, in equity or debt, in greenfield or M&A — assess not merely market opportunity but enforcement certainty and regulatory consistency. The cost of legal unpredictability is priced into every transaction premium, every delayed commitment, every deal that does not happen.

This session examines the institutional design choices, patterns of judicial consistency, and mechanisms of regulatory coherence that can embed the rule of law as a genuine multiplier of economic value. It draws on comparative experience from jurisdictions that have successfully leveraged legal reform as an economic strategy, and invites concrete propositions for India's own reform pathway.

<b>Chair</b>	:	<b>Mr. C.S. Vaidyanathan</b> Vice President, BAI
<b>Speakers</b>	:	<b>Mr. Shyam Divan</b> Vice President, BAI  <b>Mr. A.K. Ganguli</b> Senior Advocate  <b>Mr. Sunand Sharma</b> Former Chairman, Alstom / GE, India
<b>Session Rapporteur</b>	:	<b>Mr. Yashvardhan Singh</b> Advocate
<b>Session Coordinator</b>	:	<b>Dr. Akash Kaushik</b> Joint General Secretary, BAI
<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>	:	<b>15:45 – 16:00</b>

***Judicial Reforms for High Growth Economy-1: Digital Justice, AI and Data as Infrastructure***

The delivery of justice is itself a form of infrastructure. When it is slow, opaque, or inaccessible, it imposes costs that ripple through every sector of the economy. Contract enforcement becomes uncertain. Property rights lose their practical value. Dispute avoidance gives way to dispute accumulation. The aggregate cost — in foregone investment, stalled transactions, and locked capital — is substantial.

Digital systems and artificial intelligence offer transformative tools for justice delivery: case management automation, AI-assisted legal research and drafting, predictive analytics for docket management, and digital access to proceedings for parties across geographies. These are not merely efficiency improvements — they are instruments of inclusion and legitimacy.

This session explores the integration of data-driven systems into judicial and quasi-judicial processes while preserving the due process guarantees that underpin legitimate adjudication. It examines international best practice, the Indian experience to date, and the regulatory and institutional conditions under which technology can be deployed to deliver justice at scale.

<b>Chair</b>	:	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subramonium Prasad</b> Judge, High Court of Delhi
<b>Speaker</b>	:	<b>Mr. Bibhu Prasad Tripathy</b> Senior Advocate
		<b>Dr. Harish B. Narasappa</b> Senior Advocate
		<b>Mr. Sanmit Ahuja</b> MD and CEO, Bharat Technology and Impact Accelerator and Director - Climate and Energy Transition Finance Initiative (CETFI)
		<b>Mr. Amarjit Singh Bedi</b> Hony. General Secretary, BAI
		<b>Ms. Sharada Naganand</b> Advocate
<b>Session Rapporteur</b>	:	<b>Ms. Chinngaikim Haokip</b> Advocate
<b>Session Coordinator</b>	:	<b>Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rawat</b> Ex-Co Member, BAI
<b>Dinner at Margosa &amp; Silk Cotton Lawn</b>	:	<b>19:00 onwards</b>

Registration | Tea & Coffee : 09:00 – 10:00

Working Session - IV : 10:00 – 11:30

***Judicial Reforms for High Growth Economy-2: Enhancing Specialized Judicial Capacity & Legal Professional Capacity***

Complex economies generate complex disputes. Infrastructure financing, intellectual property, digital commerce, financial services and markets, insolvency, environmental liability — each domain requires adjudicators and legal practitioners with deep sectoral fluency. Generalist courts, trained primarily in civil and criminal procedure, are structurally ill-equipped to handle the technical and evidentiary demands of specialised commercial litigation.

The consequences are predictable: delayed decisions, inconsistent outcomes, unpredictable enforcement, and, ultimately, the migration of high-value disputes to foreign arbitral seats and international courts. India loses not only the economic value of those disputes but the institutional experience that develops only through sustained engagement with complex commercial cases.

This session addresses the design and resourcing of specialised judicial capacity — including commercial courts, sectoral tribunals, and the training infrastructure that supports them — alongside the parallel question of legal professional development. A high-growth economy requires not only specialist judges but specialist counsel, and the Bar must invest in the depth of expertise that complex economic disputes demand.

**Chair** : **Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Hari Shankar**  
Judge, High Court of Delhi

**Speakers** : **Mr. Amarjit Singh Chandhiok**  
President-Elect, BAI

**Mr. Jaideep Gupta**  
Vice President, BAI

**Mr. Mohit Mathur**  
Vice President, BAI

**Dr. Anindita Pujari**  
Vice President, BAI

**Ms. Babita Rayudu**  
Executive Director (Legal Affairs), SEBI

**Session Rapporteur** : **Mr. Shaileshwar Yadav**  
Advocate

**Session Coordinator** : **Mr. Vyomesh Warunjikar**  
Advocate

**Tea & Coffee Break** : **11:30 – 11:45**

***Arbitration Mediation and Dispute Avoidance Ecosystem: Building Institutional Trust, Credibility & Framework of Visible Excellence and Impartiality***

India's aspiration to become a global hub for dispute resolution remains work in progress. The gap between aspiration and reality reflects structural deficits in institutional credibility, perceptions of neutrality, quality of arbitral awards, and the efficiency of enforcement. Capital flows to jurisdictions whose dispute resolution frameworks it trusts; absent that trust, disputes migrate — and with them, fees, expertise, and institutional authority.

The architecture of a credible dispute resolution ecosystem encompasses institutional design (independence, governance, transparency), procedural quality (speed, procedural rigour, reasoned awards), and the cultivation of a culture of dispute avoidance — through well-drafted contracts, pre-dispute mediation, and structured negotiation mechanisms that preserve relationships and economic value.

This session examines the conditions under which India can build internationally credible dispute resolution institutions, the governance safeguards necessary to ensure their neutrality, and the contractual and statutory mechanisms that can shift the culture from adversarial litigation to collaborative problem-solving.

<b>Chair</b>	:	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anish Dayal</b> Judge, High Court of Delhi
<b>Speakers</b>	:	<b>Mr. S.S. Naganand</b> Vice President, BAI  <b>Mr. Vikramjit Banerjee</b> Additional Solicitor General of India  <b>Mr. Nitin Thakker</b> President, Bombay Bar Association  <b>Dr. Uday Prakash Warunjikar</b> Vice President, BAI
<b>Session Rapporteur</b>	:	<b>Ms. Aashna Bhargava</b> Legal Consultant, Law Commission of India
<b>Session Coordinator</b>	:	<b>Mr. Pravartak Suhas Pathak</b> Governing Council Member, BAI
<b>Lunch Break</b>	:	<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>

### *From Constitutional Morality to Commercial Good Faith: Preserving Economic Value in Infrastructure & Manufacturing Contracts*

India's existing contract law framework bears the imprint of its Victorian English origins: a regime structured around breach, remedies, and compensation, oriented toward the clean severance of failed obligations rather than the preservation of ongoing value. In short-term, discrete commercial transactions, this framework functions adequately. In long-horizon infrastructure and manufacturing contracts — where relationships extend over decades, circumstances change materially, and the costs of termination are catastrophic — it generates systematic value destruction.

Continental legal traditions, and the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts, proceed from a different premise: that good faith, cooperation, and relational adaptation are inherent obligations of contracting parties, not merely optional embellishments. Indian public law already reflects this intuition — the doctrines of mala fides, fairness, and legitimate expectation are embedded in constitutional jurisprudence under Article 12. The anomaly is that these public law commitments have not been systematically extended to the private and quasi-private contractual relationships that govern infrastructure financing and PPP structures, notwithstanding the centrality of public interest in such arrangements.

This session examines the case for embedding relational contracting principles, commercial good faith obligations, and structured dispute prevention mechanisms into India's contractual and regulatory framework. It considers the implications for PPP design, infrastructure financing, and the Make in India agenda, and asks whether a legislative or judicial evolution toward good faith contracting would reduce value destruction, enhance investor confidence, and accelerate progress toward a \$10 trillion economy.

<b>Chair</b>	:	<b>Mr. Prashant Kumar</b> President, BAI
<b>Speakers / Panelist</b>	:	<b>Industry Experts / Specialists</b>  <b>Mr. Subhash Sharma</b> Advocate  <b>Mr. Aseem Prakash</b> Campus Director, TISS  <b>Prof. (Dr.) Kamlesh P. Joshipura</b> Former Vice Chancellor, State Universities Gujarat
<b>Session Rapporteur</b>	:	<b>Ms. Surbhi Chauhan</b> Legal Consultant, Law Commission of India
<b>Session Coordinator</b>	:	<b>Mr. Amulya Dhingra</b> Ex-Co Member, BAI
<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>	:	<b>16:00 – 16:15</b>

**Closing Ceremony** : **16:15 – 17:00**

<b>Introductory Remarks</b>	:	<b>Ms. Rachana Srivastava</b> Vice President, BAI
<b>Address by</b>	:	<b>Mr. Prashant Kumar</b> President, BAI
<b>Address by Guest of Honour</b>	:	<b>Mr. R. Venkataramani</b> Attorney General for India
<b>Address by Chief Guest</b>	:	<b>Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari</b> Chairperson, Law Commission of India
<b>Concluding Remarks by</b>	:	<b>Dr. Anindita Pujari</b> Vice President, BAI
<b>Introduction of Awardees</b>	:	<b>Mr. Saurabh Mishra</b> Joint General Secretary, BAI
<b>Presentation of Lawyers of India Day Awards by</b>	:	<b>Chief Guest &amp; Other Dignitaries</b>
<b>Response by</b>	:	<b>Awardees</b>
<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	:	<b>Mr. Yakesh Anand</b> Vice President, BAI
<b>Session Rapporteur</b>	:	<b>Ms. Srija Choudhury</b> Advocate-on-Record

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**End of the Conclave**

## PROFILE OF SPEAKERS



### **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant**

Chief Justice of India

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Born on 10 February, 1962 at Hisar (Haryana) in a middle class family. Graduated from Government Post Graduate College, Hisar in 1981. Earned Bachelor's degree in Law in 1984 from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. Started practicing Law at the District Court, Hisar in 1984. Shifted to Chandigarh in 1985 to practice in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Specialised in Constitutional, Service and Civil matters. Represented a number of Universities, Boards, Corporations, Banks and also the High Court itself. Earned distinction of being appointed the youngest Advocate General of Haryana on July 7, 2000. Designated as Senior Advocate in March, 2001. Held the office of Advocate General, Haryana till his elevation as a permanent Judge to the Punjab and Haryana High Court on January 09, 2004. Was nominated as a Member of the Governing Body of National Legal Services Authority on February 23, 2007 for two consecutive terms till February 22, 2011. Presently a Member of various Committees of Indian Law Institute – a deemed university under the aegis of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Earned another distinction of standing First Class First in his Master's degree in Law in 2011 from the Directorate of Distance Education, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. Has also organised and attended various prestigious National/International Conferences. Assumed charge of the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh with effect from 5 October, 2018.

Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 24 May, 2019. Was Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority [NALSA] and Chairman of Supreme Court Legal Services Committee [SCLSC].

Sworn in as the Chief Justice of India on 24 November, 2025.

Due to retire on 09 February, 2027.



### **Mr. Suman Bery**

Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog

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Shri Suman Bery is currently Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, in the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister. An experienced policy economist and research administrator, Shri Bery took over as NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson from 1 May 2022. At the time of his appointment, Shri Bery was a Global Fellow in the Asia Programme of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars in Washington D.C.; and a non-resident fellow at Bruegel, an economic policy research institution in Brussels. He was also a member of the Board of the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, New Delhi.

From early 2012 till mid-2016, Shri Bery was Royal Dutch Shell's global Chief Economist based in The Hague. In this capacity, he advised the board and management on global economic and political developments. He was also part of the senior leadership of Shell's global scenarios group. During his time

at Shell, he led a collaborative project with Indian think tanks (later published) to apply scenario modeling to India's energy sector.

Before his appointment at Shell, Shri Bery served as Director-General (Chief Executive) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in New Delhi—one of India's most respected institutions of empirical socioeconomic research. During his tenure, NCAER greatly extended its global links and was recognized as one of India's leading think tanks by the independent global Think Tank Initiative. In his decade leading NCAER, Shri Bery was at various times member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council; of India's Statistical Commission; and of the Reserve Bank of India's Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy. He commented extensively in the media on economic issues, and contributed a monthly column to an Indian business newspaper.

Prior to NCAER, Shri Bery was with the World Bank in Washington D.C., which he joined through the Young Professional Programme. His career at the World Bank spanned research on financial sector development and country policy and strategy, notably in Latin America and the Caribbean. His country experience included Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru. His experience on financial sector reform in Latin America led to an appointment as Special Consultant to the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between 1992 and 1994.

His professional writing includes contributions on the political economy of reform, financial sector and banking reform, and energy trends and policy. He has a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, and an undergraduate degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Magdalen College, University of Oxford.



### **Prof. S. Mahendra Dev**

Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

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Prof. S. Mahendra Dev is presently Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). He was the Director and Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in Mumbai for 12 years during 2010-2022. Prior to this position, he was Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, Ministry of Agriculture from 2008 to 2010. He was Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, D.C. He was also member of the Board of IFPRI for seven years from 2013 to 2019. He was member and Acting Chairman of the National Statistical Commission, Government of India. He got the prestigious Malcolm Adisesaiah Award in 2016. He was Director, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, India for 9 years from 1999 to 2008. He is member of executive committee of International Economic Association. He did Ph.D. from the Delhi School of Economics and post-doctoral from Yale University, USA.

He is Chairman of the Institute for Development Studies, Andhra Pradesh and Distinguished Professor at ICFAI Faculty of Social Sciences, Hyderabad. He was independent director in Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank. He is currently the Association President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Marketing.

He was Association President of the Indian Economic Association for three years 2018 to 2021. He was conference President of the Indian Econometric Society (TIES), Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Indian Society of Labour Economics, and Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI).

His main areas of interest are development economics, agricultural economics Macroeconomics. He has around 150 research publications in national and international journals in the areas of agricultural development, poverty and public policy, inequality, food security, nutrition, employment guarantee schemes, social security, farm and nonfarm employment. He has written or edited 23 books. His well cited publication is “Inclusive Growth in India: Agriculture, Poverty, and Human Development” published by Oxford University Press. His book “Perspectives on Equitable Development” was released by the former Prime Minister of India.

He has been a consultant and adviser to many international organizations, such as UNDP, World Bank, International Food Policy Research Institute, UNESCO, ILO, FAO, ESCAP, UNICEF, DFID, and OECD. He has been a member of several government committees in India, including the Prime Minister's Task Force on Employment chaired by Dr. Montek Ahulwalia, advisory committee for the National Commission on the Enterprises in the Unorganized sector, member of the Committee on Financial Inclusion chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan, member of the Expert Group on Poverty chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Terms of Trade on Agriculture constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture. He was member of several working groups for 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Five-Year Plans in India. He is also member of several committees of NITI Ayog. He has received honors for eminence in public service. He got awards for best teacher in economics and outstanding contribution to education. He received honorary doctorate (D.Litt) from the Acharya Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh.



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### **Mr. R. Venkataramani**

Attorney General for India & Hony. Chairman (Ex-Officio), BAI

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R. Venkataramani is an Indian constitutional lawyer and Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court, currently serving as the 16th Attorney-General for India since 1 October 2022. He studied Physics at Loyola College, Chennai, and obtained his law degree from Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Puducherry. Enrolled with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in 1977, he began his practice at the Supreme Court in 1979 and was designated as a Senior Advocate in 1997. Over the years, he has served on the Law Commission of India (2010, 2013) and represented Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh as Special Senior Counsel. Mr. Venkataramani has also been involved in notable cases, including acting as receiver in the Amrapali housing case and appearing in significant matters such as the hijab controversy and issues concerning court employees' service conditions.



## **Mr. Prashant Kumar**

President, The Bar Association of India

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Prashant Kumar, an economist turned lawyer is currently the President of the Bar Association of India and has been a past President of LAWASIA. He is Convenor of India Committee and Founder Member of BRICS Legal Forum and a Member of the Board of Directors of International Legal Assistance Consortium, Stockholm.

He has appeared in landmark constitution cases involving powers of Governor, dissolution of State Assembly, Use of Contingency fund, disqualification of members of legislature and matters relating to independence of judiciary. He heads a boutique law firm Trinaya Legal.

He prepared and appeared in writ petition of the Bar Association of India challenging the Constitutional validity of National Judicial Appointments commission, which was stuck down after a hearing lasting 45 days

He was also instrumental in bringing the challenge to swearing in of a minority Government by governor in state of Karnataka, resulting in the first ever midnight hearing by Supreme Court of India on a constitutional matter.

He has done many pro bono cases, including the writ petition which resulted in judiciary directing military to step in to put an immediate control of communal situation in Muzaffarpur communal riots and then monitoring the relief and rehabilitation work.

He regularly appears as a counsel in international and domestic arbitrations.

He has been representing Bar Association of India in the International Legal Assistance Consortium, Sweden, since 2011, and has served on Council and since 2016, as a member of Nominations Committee. He is Member of Academic Board of Swiss Academy of International Law, Geneva, Visiting Professor, Lanzhou University, China,, Visiting Professor, New Law Institute, Brazil. He regularly speaks at various international conferences and reputed platforms.

He was the member of LAWASIA fact finding mission to Pakistan on judicial crisis in 2008, he was the only international observer for trial of 43rd Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, he was detained and deported from Male as part of observer mission to Maldives when government arrested Chief Justice, he addresses convention on Nepal's constitution making where other key speakers were the President of Nepal, Speaker of Parliament, Chair of Constituent Assembly, Chief Justice and leaders of ruling and opposition parties. He has twice co-chaired the Presidents of Law Associations of Asia (POLA) Summit in Sri Lanka and Mongolia besides being convenor of 2015 Summit in India and has played a key role in devising the Agenda for the Summit since then.

Currently he is intensely involved in the project to establish Dispute Resolution Institutions Network for the Emerging Economies and BRICS, which is in advanced stages of being launched.



### **Mr. Amarjit Singh Chandhiok**

President-Elect, The Bar Association of India

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Amarjit Singh Chandhiok is a Senior Advocate practicing in the Supreme Court and High Courts in India.

He is former Additional Solicitor General of India and former Principal Counsel, European Union Commission. He was President of the Delhi High Court Bar Association six times. Currently he is the President Elect of the Bar Association of India, President of INSOL India and Council for Conflict Resolution – Maadhyam.

Apart from being an expert on civil laws, Amarjit is also recognized as a leading insolvency lawyer apart from being an expert in mediation and arbitration.

Amarjit was instrumental in creating and implementing many policies and projects for the benefit of the Bar. He advocated the necessity of creating a legislative sanction in this regard and thus, the Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001 came into being. He played a vital role in creating various infrastructure facilities for members of the Bar in Delhi.

He has received many awards and recognitions, including two doctorate degrees (Honoris Causa).

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### **Mr. Amarjit Singh Bedi**

Hony. General Secretary, BAI

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Amarjit Singh Bedi is an Advocate-on-Record at the Supreme Court of India with 25+ years' litigation experience, a gold medallist for topping the AOR exam, and a partner at KJ John & Co.

He regularly appears before the Supreme Court, High Courts (including Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Gauhati, Punjab & Haryana, Orissa, Goa Bench etc), and is specialising in Securities law and appearing for SEBI, BSE etc.

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### **Mr. J.S. Marahatta**

Treasurer, BAI

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Mr. Jaswant Singh Marahatta is an Advocate practising before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and also appears before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and NCRT. He was enrolled with the Bar Council of Delhi in the year 2002 and has since been engaged in active legal practice across diverse areas, including civil, commercial, constitutional, and criminal matters.

With over two decades of professional experience, Mr. Marahatta has handled a wide range of disputes and has developed substantial expertise in client counselling, dispute management, and settlement negotiations. His exposure to court proceedings and dispute resolution processes has enabled him to appreciate the importance and effectiveness of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms, particularly mediation and conciliation.

He has advised clients on pre-litigation settlements and has participated, as counsel, in mediation proceedings conducted under court-annexed mediation centres. These experiences have strengthened his interest in mediation as a structured and effective means of achieving expeditious and amicable resolution of disputes.



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar**  
Judge, Supreme Court of India

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Did schooling and college at Bengaluru and studied degree at National College and completed Law from Bengaluru University. During student days, was active as Students Union Leader and was Vice President of Bangalore University Students Action Committee.

After being enrolled in the year 1987 as Advocate, was appearing in Trial Courts, for about 3 years. From the year 1990 onwards shifted practice to High Court and started practicing independently. Appointed as Additional Central Government Standing Counsel at High Court of Karnataka in the year 1999. Had been appointed by Government of India as Member of Regional Direct Taxes Advisory Committee in the year 2002.

In the year 2005 appointed as Assistant Solicitor General of India. Has conducted cases covering Constitution of India, Central Excise Act, Customs Act, Code of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure Code, etc.

Had also conducted number of Election Petitions pertaining to Assembly & Parliamentary Constituencies. Had also been practicing on Taxation side as Standing Counsel of Income Tax Department for 11 years.

Was Legal Advisor to various Statutory Corporations and Companies.



**Mr. Krishnan Venugopal**  
Senior Advocate

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Krishnan Venugopal is a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India. He has argued cases before the Supreme Court, the High Courts and various statutory tribunals on a broad range of legal issues involving commercial law, anti-dumping law, arbitration law, economic regulation,

environmental law, electricity, mining regulation, competition law, constitutional and administrative law, etc.

Mr. Venugopal has an academic and professional interest in international trade law, industrial policy and domestic economic regulation. He has represented India before WTO panels and the WTO Appellate Body in a number of international trade disputes, especially against the United States and the European Union.

Mr. Venugopal graduated with a B.A. (Hons.) in History and an LL.B. from Delhi University and won an Inlaks Scholarship to pursue graduate studies at the Harvard Law School. He is also admitted to the New York Bar.

Mr. Venugopal was the main contributor to the Supreme Court of India's project on the Restatement of Indian Law on Legislative Privilege and has written several journal articles. He has also delivered lectures at the National Judicial Academy on constitutional law and international trade law and at the National Law Schools on a variety of subjects.



### **Mr. Balbir Singh**

Former Additional Solicitor General of India

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Mr Balbir Singh is a former Additional Solicitor General of India and is currently practising as a Senior Advocate. He appears mainly before the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts and statutory tribunals. He has expertise in Commercial disputes, including corporate, commercial, international tax, IBC, PMLA, etc., and has appeared in many significant disputes before the several seven/nine-judge Constitutional Benches. In a career spanning 28 years, he has led the arguments before the Supreme Court in matters involving double tax treaty disputes, enforcement of International Arbitrations, the appointment of the Election Commission, Anti-defection, trade disputes involving an anti-dumping dispute, challenge to resolution plans under IBC, Competition law, PMLA etc. He is well known for understanding complex commercial and accounting disputes.

The Delhi High Court designated Mr Singh a Senior Advocate at the age of 42 in 2015. In 2020, the government appointed him to act as the Additional Solicitor General of India (ASGI) in the Supreme Court. As the ASGI, he represented the Government of India, including various ministries and PSUs, in several landmark cases between 2020 and 2023.

Mr Singh pursued his legal studies at Punjab University, Chandigarh, where he graduated in 1997. His early legal career involved a decade-long association as a Senior Partner in one of the leading law firms in India, where he advised multinational corporations on various corporate, commercial, taxation, arbitration, intellectual property and regulatory aspects. He is appointed as an Independent Director on the Board of multiple international corporations, including a few Japanese corporations.



## **Dr. Aditya Sondhi**

Senior Advocate

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Dr Aditya Sondhi is a Senior Advocate practising before the Supreme Court of India. He has served as Additional Advocate General for the State of Karnataka from April 2016 to April 2018 and has been appointed Amicus Curiae in several matters of public importance. He appears regularly before various High Courts in the country.

Dr Sondhi has taught constitutional law, arbitration and professional ethics at the National Law School of India University, from where he graduated in 1998. He has also taught a specially curated credit course on "Courts and National Security" and has contributed to the Oxford Handbook on the Indian Constitution. He was invited to appear before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs instituted in connection with criminal law reforms in 2023.

Dr Sondhi has lectured widely in India, as also in the UK at Oxford University, London School of Economics, SOAS, King's College London and Bristol University. He holds a PhD from Mysore University and has published three books of non-fiction with Penguin (India), including his most recent Poles Apart, which examines the relationship between military and democracy in India and Pakistan.

Dr Sondhi appears in matters of criminal and constitutional law, with a special interest in human rights advocacy. He has appeared pro bono in several death penalty cases before the Supreme Court of India including Munna Pandey v State of Bihar, which lays down cardinal principles of a fair trial. He has instituted the Beena Sondhi Scholarship for an LLM in Human Rights, Conflict and Justice at SOAS, University of London in memory of his late mother. He hosts Podcaste a podcast for conversations around caste.

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## **Mr. Pratap Venugopal**

Senior Advocate

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Pratap Venugopal is a Senior Advocate designated by the Supreme Court of India and a leading practitioner in complex commercial litigation and arbitration, with over three and a half decades of experience at the highest levels of the Indian legal system.

He regularly appears before the Supreme Court, Delhi High Court and major tribunals, and is widely recognised for his strategic advocacy in high-value, precedent-setting disputes. His practice spans international and domestic arbitration, securities regulation, corporate and commercial law, and public law litigation, with particular expertise in disputes involving infrastructure, financial markets, and other highly regulated sectors.

Mr Venugopal has acted for an exceptional range of clients, including India's foremost financial regulators, central and state governments, public sector undertakings, and leading domestic and international corporations. His work frequently engages with issues at the intersection of regulation, commerce, and public policy, often in matters of national and institutional significance.

An Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court since 1999, he previously served as Managing Partner of KJ John & Co., where he built and led a highly regarded disputes practice for over three decades.



## **Mr. Samrat Upadhyay**

Advocate

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With a distinguished legal practice of about half-a-decade, Mr. Upadhyay dedicated advocate excels in high-stakes litigation before the Honourable High Court of Gujarat, where he routinely handles civil and criminal appeals, tax references, miscellaneous applications, and more, alongside seasoned appearances in specialized forums like the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), State and District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (SCDRC/DCDRC), NCLT, and subordinate courts including MACT, Civil, and Criminal Courts. As a visiting lecturer and legal researcher, he blends academic rigor—holding a B.A.LL.B., LL.M. in Constitutional Law, and pursuing a Ph.D.—with practical excellence as Panel Advocate for various government, semi-government bodies and leading cooperative banks. Energetic, ambitious, and ever-learning, he drives socio-legal upliftment through para-legal volunteering and trial advocacy, poised for far-reaching impact in India's dynamic legal landscape.

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## **Mr. C.S. Vaidyanathan**

Vice President, BAI

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C. S. Vaidyanathan commenced his legal practice in June 1974 in the chambers of eminent Senior Advocates Mr. M. K. Nambyar and Mr. K. K. Venugopal in Madras, and later shifted to Delhi in January 1979 alongside Mr. Venugopal upon his appointment as Additional Solicitor General. He became an Advocate-on-Record in the Supreme Court of India in August 1979 and was designated as a Senior Advocate in February 1992. He served as the First Additional Solicitor General of India from April 1998 to October 1999, during which he represented the Government of India in several sensitive and high-value matters, particularly in taxation. Over the years, he has built an extensive and distinguished practice primarily before the Supreme Court of India and the Delhi High Court, while also appearing regularly before various tribunals including TDSAT, NCLAT, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, and Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals, as well as commissions such as the Justice Verma Commission and the Justice Jain Commission.

He has participated widely in international legal forums including those of the International Bar Association, UIA, World Jurists Association, Lawasia, and SAARCLAW, and has held key positions in the UIA, including Advisor to the President (1997–2000) and Regional Secretary for South Asia. His practice spans a broad spectrum of areas including constitutional law, administrative law, arbitration (including international arbitration), patents, competition law, insolvency (IBC), environmental law, and infrastructure disputes involving sectors such as telecommunications, broadcasting, power, mining, and airports. He has appeared in several significant inter-state river water disputes, including the Cauvery, Ravi-Beas, Narmada, Vamsadhara, and Krishna matters, as well as in election symbol and disqualification cases. Notably, he represented Ram Lalla in the Ram Janmabhoomi case, appeared in the Rama Sethu matter, and argued for the inclusion of Samskritam as a subject in CBSE schools.

In addition to his legal practice, he holds several prominent positions in cultural and professional institutions. He is presently the President of Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Delhi, President of the Shanmugananda Sangeeta Sabha, Delhi, Chief Patron of Gayatri Fine Arts, Delhi, Trustee of SOS Children's Villages India, Vice President of the Bar Association of India, and Deputy Chairman of the Delhi Kendra of Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan.



### **Mr. Shyam Divan**

Vice President, BAI & Former President, LAWASIA

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Shyam Divan, Senior Advocate practices before the Supreme Court of India. His areas of practice cover constitutional law and most branches of civil litigation including banking, securities law, arbitration, administrative law and environmental law.

He received the 2021 International Privacy Champion Award from the Electronic Privacy Information Center for his role in a set of privacy protection cases.

He is the co-author of Environmental Law and Policy in India (3rd Edition, forthcoming 2022) and author of the chapter on Public Interest Litigation in the Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution (2016).

Mr. Divan is Vice President, The Bar Association of India and Former President, LAWASIA.



### **Mr. A.K. Ganguli**

Senior Advocate

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Mr. A. K. Ganguli is a distinguished Senior Advocate having been designated in 1986 and is a leading authority in the fields of Constitutional and Commercial law apart from laws relating to Arbitration. An acknowledged expert in Constitutional law, Mr. Ganguli also possesses deep expertise in inter-state water disputes, having been associated with multiple water disputes tribunals of national importance. His contributions in this domain have significantly influenced legal discourse and policy considerations.

With an illustrious career spanning several decades, Mr. Ganguli has conducted numerous domestic and international arbitrations, serving both as counsel and arbitrator. He has represented a wide spectrum of clients, including multi-national conglomerates, public sector undertakings, and Governments in complex commercial arbitrations. He is empanelled as an arbitrator with leading international institutions, including the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) besides being a part of Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) and India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC).

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Ganguli is the author of the acclaimed book “Legal Landscape

– Dynamics of Evolution,” which offers valuable insights into the evolving contours of law and justice.

He is the President of the India Chapter of the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA).



## **Mr. Sunand Sharma**

Former Chairman, Alstom / GE, India

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Mr. Sunand D. Sharma, Former Chairman of Alstom India & South Asia and senior leader at General Electric (GE), is a distinguished corporate professional with over four decades of experience in the energy, infrastructure, and industrial sectors. He led Alstom's operations in India and South Asia from 2006 to 2014, playing a pivotal role in expanding its presence in power generation and transport infrastructure, including major metro and energy projects. Prior to this, he held key leadership positions at GE, contributing to global industrial and energy initiatives.

Mr. Sharma has also been actively associated with leading industry bodies such as the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and served as President of the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce & Industry, strengthening bilateral business relations. An engineering graduate from NIT Warangal and a mathematics graduate from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, he is a recipient of the prestigious French honour, the Knight of the Legion of Honour. Post his executive career, he continues to serve as a strategic advisor and board member across several organisations, contributing his expertise in corporate governance, infrastructure, and global business strategy.

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## **Mr. Yashvardhan Singh**

Advocate

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Yashvardhan Singh is an Advocate practising before the Supreme Court of India and is currently working in the chambers of Senior Advocate Shyam Divan. He graduated Rank 1 in his LL.M. from the National Law School of India University. He previously served as a Judicial Law Clerk to Justice Hrishikesh Roy, assisting in constitutional and public law matters. His work focuses on commercial law, constitutional law, and issues relating to democratic rights and civil law.

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## **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Subramonium Prasad**

Judge, High Court of Delhi

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Justice Subramonium Prasad graduated in B.Com. (Hons.) from Delhi University. His Lordship acquired his LLB degree from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University in the year 1990. Justice Prasad cleared the Advocate-On-Record exam in 1996 and started his independent practice. His Lordship became the Standing Counsel for the State of Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court of India in 2003, a post he held till 2006. His Lordship was also the standing counsel for the custodian appointed under the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992, dealing with cases pertaining to the 1992 stock exchange scam. In October 2012, Justice Prasad was appointed as the Additional Advocate General for the State of Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court of India. Justice Prasad was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court of India in April 2015.

Over his career spanning 28 years, Justice Prasad has worked on several high profile matters, and has been involved in several reported judgements of the Supreme Court on various subjects like Constitutional Law, Tax, Corporate and Commercial Law, Criminal Law, Election Law, Service Law and Inter State River Water Disputes.

Justice Prasad was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court on 4.06.2018. His Lordship was transferred to Delhi High Court as an Additional Judge on 13.03.2020 and confirmed as a Permanent Judge of the Madras High Court on 17.03.2020.



### **Mr. Bibhu Prasad Tripathy**

Senior Advocate

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Mr. Bibhu Prasad Tripathy is a Senior Advocate of Orissa High Court, Cuttack. He is an alumnus of the National Law University of Bangalore. He is a committed Bar leader, an elected member of Odisha State Bar Council and acting President of All Odisha Lawyers' Association. He has served as a resource person for Judicial training programme across India. He is a "Professor of Practice" in law in many Law Universities. His practice reflects a rare blend of litigation excellence, academic depth and public service.

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### **Dr. Harish B. Narasappa**

Senior Advocate

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Dr. Harish Narasappa is a designated senior advocate of the High Court of Karnataka.

Harish has advised clients on complex litigation and arbitration matters, both domestic and cross border. Harish appears before various courts and tribunals in India on a range of constitution, commercial, tax, foreign investment, competition, banking, insolvency, and company law matters.

Harish regularly appears in many domestic and international arbitrations. Harish has been appointed as arbitrator both in ad-hoc and institutional arbitrations.

Harish is the co-founder of Daksh, a Bengaluru-based independent, not-for-profit organization which works at the intersection of data, technology and law.

Harish is also the co-founder of ADRes Now, an online arbitration platform.

Harish has been a member of various committees constituted by the Niti Aayog and the Supreme Court e-Committee in connection with digitisation, data and privacy.

Prior to being designated as a Senior Advocate, Harish co-founded Samvād: Partners, one of India's leading law firms. Harish also worked in London with the international law firm, Herbert Smith (now Herbert Smith Freehills).

Harish is the author of the book titled “Rule of Law in India – A Quest for Reason” published by Oxford University Press. He is also the joint editor of Daksh's four pioneering publications – “State of the Indian Judiciary – A Report by Daksh”, “Approaches to Justice – A Report by Daksh”, “Justice Frustrated”, and “Constitutional Ideals- Development and Realisation Through Court-Led Justice.”

Harish is an alumnus of the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, having graduated as a multiple gold medallist in 1996 and later having received his Ph.D in 2016 for a thesis on the Rule of Law in India. A Radhakrishnan Scholar, Harish completed his BCL from Oxford University in 1997. Harish has also received a BA Philosophy (External) from the University of London.



### **Mr. Sanmit Ahuja**

MD and CEO, Bharat Technology and Impact Accelerator and  
Director - Climate and Energy Transition Finance Initiative (CETFI)

Mr. Sanmit Ahuja is a leading professional in the domain of climate finance, technology commercialisation, and impact investing, currently serving as the Managing Director & CEO of Bharat Technology and Impact Accelerator (Bharatia) and Director of the Climate and Energy Transition Finance

Initiative (CETFI).

He is recognised for his work in designing and scaling high-impact, technology-driven solutions, particularly in sectors such as energy transition, sustainability, climate resilience, and infrastructure development. At Bharatia—an impact accelerator headquartered in New Delhi—he leads initiatives focused on commercialising advanced technologies and deploying first-of-a-kind (FOAK) projects across emerging markets.

In his capacity as Founding Director of CETFI, Mr. Ahuja plays a pivotal role in developing innovative financial structures and blended finance instruments to mobilise large-scale capital for climate and energy transition projects, especially in the Global South.

He has been actively involved in international collaborations and policy dialogues, including partnerships across Europe (e.g., India–Slovenia and India–Iceland technology and climate initiatives), aimed at accelerating technology transfer, investment corridors, and sustainable development platforms.

Mr. Ahuja is also known for convening high-level roundtables and industry forums involving financial institutions, policymakers, and global stakeholders, focusing on areas such as green hydrogen, biomass economy, climate infrastructure, and preventive healthcare systems powered by data ecosystems.



## **Ms. Sharada Naganand**

Advocate

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Sharada Naganand after completing her BA LLB from University Law College, Bangalore University in 2010, Sharada Naganand went on to complete her LL.M. in International Law and Human Rights at New York University. She was a Partner at JUSTLAW Advocates from 2014 to 2025 after which she went on to set up an independent practice with both litigation and non litigation specialties. She has appeared before the High Court of Karnataka, the Supreme Court of India as well as various other Tribunals and Courts across the country. Her areas of practice include Intellectual Property Law, Constitutional law, Commercial Law, Trusts, Family law, Company Law, Data Protection Law and Contracts as well as mediations and settlement negotiations among others. She was recognized by Who's Who Legal in their Commercial Litigation rankings and has contributed to number of publications in the field of law including the book 'Anomalies in Law and Justice' by Justice RV Raveendran, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India.

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## **Ms. Chinngaikim Haokip**

Advocate

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Ms. Chinngaikim Haokip, Advocate, hails from Manipur and is the first woman from her village and community to enter the legal profession. She is currently associated with Trinaya Legal, where she advises and represents foreign and international clients. She has attended legal conferences internationally, including in France and Japan, and has acquired a working knowledge of Japanese.

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## **Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Hari Shankar**

Judge, High Court of Delhi

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Hon'ble Mr. Justice C. Hari Shankar Born in New Delhi on 4th May 1968, Justice C. Hari Shankar completed his schooling from St. Columba's School and, thereafter, acquired B. Sc. (Hons) in Chemistry from Kirori Mal College and LL.B. from the Campus Law Centre, Delhi University in 1993. He has appeared, as arguing/senior counsel, before several judicial fora, including, but not limited to, the Supreme Court of India, High Courts of Delhi, Calcutta, Gujarat, Bombay, Allahabad, Punjab & Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Himachal Pradesh, the Central Administrative Tribunal, the Customs, Excise and

Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange, the Company Law Board, the AAIFR, the NCDRC, and the National Green Tribunal. His core areas of specialization were indirect taxes, along with allied subjects such as foreign exchange and COFEPOSA, and service law. He was on the Panel of Special Counsel representing the Central Government in the Supreme Court of India, and was also empaneled Counsel for the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping. He was regularly appearing on behalf of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine before the CAT and before this Court. On 20th August 2014, he was designated Senior Advocate by the Delhi High Court. Justice Hari Shankar was appointed permanent Judge of this Court on 15th May 2017.



### **Mr. Jaideep Gupta**

Vice President, BAI

He is a practicing advocate and has been handling commercial and constitutional litigation for over 30 years in the Supreme Court of India and High Courts across the country.

He was born in 1961 into a family of lawyers in Kolkata. His father, Dipankar Prasad Gupta was the Solicitor General of India and a Vice President of the Bar Association of India and Country Counsellor for India in LAWASIA.

After obtaining a first class in Economics from the University in Kolkata in 1981, he read for the Law Tripos in the University of Cambridge and then qualified for the English Bar from Lincoln's Inn in 1985. After completing his education, he started practicing in the High Court of Kolkata and subsequently in the Supreme Court of India. Mr. Gupta worked in the chambers of Sri K.K. Venugopal, Senior Advocate and noted jurist and currently the Attorney General of India. He was designated a Senior Advocate (the Indian equivalent of QC) in 2002. He frequently appeared before international and domestic arbitral and other tribunals.

He has been a regular participant and speaker at the Commonwealth Law Conference since 2011, at the Cambridge Symposium on Economic Crime since 2013 and other international conferences. Mr. Gupta co-authored the Arbitration section of Halsbury Laws of India and have contributed articles to

several legal journals. He has been an accredited Advocacy Trainer with 16 years' experience. He has been actively participating in events organized by the Bar Association of India, LAWASIA, UIA, and IBA for several years. He is currently a Vice President of the Bar Association of India.



## **Mr. Mohit Mathur**

Vice President, BAI

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Shri Mohit Mathur, Senior Advocate, is a third generation lawyer. His father, Shri Dinesh Mathur, also is a leading Senior Advocate and was six times, the President of the Delhi High Court, while his grand father Late Shri Tara Chand Mathur was a legendary Criminal Lawyer of Delhi, both of the pre-partition and post partition eras.

He has been a good student and national scholarship holder during his school and college days. After finishing his graduation in Mathematics Honours from St. Stephens' College, he completed his Law degree from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University, in 1991.

During his initial years, he worked under the tutelage of Shri G. Ramaswamy, the then Attorney General for India.

He was designated as a Senior Advocate by the High Court of Delhi, in 2015.

For the last over 31 years he has proficiently handled cases in various fields, at the Supreme Court and various High Courts in India. He has been regularly handling Criminal cases both at Trials & at Appellate/ Revisional stages. He specializes in special statutes such as Prevention of Corruption Act, Food Safety Acts and White Collar & Economic offences (including Bank & Security Frauds).

He has been associated with prominent cases in the past, such as Presidential Reference in Inter-state Cauvery Water Dispute, Former PM & JMM MPs bribery cases, Jain Diary-Hawala cases, Bofors case, Coal Allocation Corruption Trials & Appeals, besides several other important cases of politicians and bureaucrats. He has been involved in many path-breaking cases, which have led to development of law, such as 'evidentiary value of sniffer dogs in investigation', 'application of law of limitation in special statutes' etc.

He was elected the Honorary Secretary of the Delhi High Court Bar Association during 2011-2014 and was President of the Delhi High Court Bar Association for the period 2019-2022 and was re-elected as the President of Delhi High Court Bar Association on September, 2022 and is the former president of the Delhi High Court Bar Association. He is currently a Vice President of the Bar Association of India.

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## **Dr. Anindita Pujari**

Vice President, BAI

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Dr. Anindita Pujari, designated Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court of India in 2024, has 24 years of experience in civil, criminal, and public interest litigation. She has represented governments, institutions, and individuals in significant cases, and has also contributed to legal education, policy reform, and the cause of gender justice. She served as Secretary of the Bar Association of India for two terms (2018-2023) and is currently its Vice-President. She is also a Senior Executive Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association and has twice been elected to the Supreme Court Gender Sensitisation Committee as a representative of the Advocates-on-Record Association.



**Ms. G. Babita Rayudu**  
Executive Director, SEBI

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Babitha Rayudu is a legal professional with a diverse background in both law and regulatory practices. She has acquired extensive experience in several areas of law, particularly financial regulation with specific expertise in its policy formulation, interpretation of related issues, supervision and associated enforcement practices.

After earning her Bachelor's degree in Law and a Master's in Mercantile Law, followed by a five-year stint at the AP High Court and Central Administrative Tribunal, she joined SEBI in June 1996.

As part of her career progression within SEBI, she exercised quasi-judicial functions from 2004 to 2007 disposing of over 550 cases, while effectively advocating for the pioneering settlement mechanism—the first of its kind by any Indian regulator—to resolve the enforcement proceedings and reduce litigation. During her deputation to IRDAI until 2011, she contributed to its policy formulation, interpretation of insurance laws and was involved in the drafting of key bills, including the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2008 and the LIC (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

In her leadership roles at SEBI, she headed the Legal Affairs Department, advising on policy simplification and interpretation of issues for the securities markets, investor protection, and intersection with laws such as the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, Income Tax Act, Transfer of Property Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam. While heading the Enforcement Department, she overhauled the processes relating to the settlement mechanism, prosecution, and reviewed all the processes and records related to litigation across the Supreme Court, the High Courts, the Securities Appellate Tribunal, and before other fora.

Babitha Rayudu contributed to pivotal committees, including the Takeover Committee, High-Level Committee on Settlement Mechanism, and the Market Conduct Committee, driving redrafts of the Takeover Regulations, SEBI Settlement Regulations, and Insider Trading Regulations. She has represented SEBI before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on securities, insurance, Data Protection, and the draft Securities Market Code consolidating financial laws.

Since taking charge as Executive Director (Law) at SEBI in January 2020, she continues to provide strategic oversight on legislative drafting, regulatory development and enforcement; while upholding SEBI's core mandate of investor protection.



## **Mr. Shaileshwar Yadav**

Advocate

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Shaileshwar Yadav is an Advocate based in New Delhi, practising before the Supreme Court of India. He works on constitutional and public law issues, and writes regularly on judicial accountability and access to justice. His pieces have appeared in Deccan Herald, The Telegraph, Outlook India, and Frontline (The

Hindu).

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## **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anish Dayal**

Judge, High Court of Delhi

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Anish Dayal was born in 1973 at Allahabad (now Prayagraj) and did his initial schooling there at St. Joseph College. He completed schooling from Delhi Public School, Noida, where he was selected as the Head Boy. Thereafter, he graduated in B.Sc.(Hons.) Physics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University and then read for his law degree with M.A. (Hons.) at Churchill College, University of

Cambridge, U.K., as a commonwealth scholar.

He enrolled as an Advocate with the Delhi Bar Council in September, 1995 and had his independent legal practice primarily before the Supreme Court of India and the High Court of Delhi for over 25 years - predominantly in civil, constitutional and commercial law with special focus in areas of media, entertainment and sports law. He was a visiting faculty resource at many law schools in India and authored the Section on Damages (Vol. 9 Halsbury's Laws of India) and of other books on sports and media.

He wrote periodically for newspapers and journals and for some time contributed a regular column on law for Live Mint and The Wall Street Journal. He conceived, curated and was part of the Editorial Board of Quarterly Bar Review, a journal of the Delhi High Court Bar Association. He also devoted his time to policy related issues inter alia on road safety, heritage conservation, environment and sustainability and represented a number of national level athletes on a pro bono basis.

He was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Delhi High Court in March, 2021 and elevated to the Bench on 2nd June, 2022.



### **Mr. S.S. Naganand**

Vice President, BAI & LAWASIA

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Sri S S Naganand, lives in Bengaluru. He hails from a well known family of lawyers.

He took B Com degree in 1977 and LLB with three gold medals from Bangalore University in 1980 and in the same year Qualified as a Chartered Accountant with a national merit rank.

He started practice in 1981 and was designated Senior Advocate by the High Court of Karnataka in 2003. He has an active pro Bono practice.

He is active in many social organisations and is the Chairman of Maharani Lakshmi Ammani College Trust, Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (Trust), Vedanta Bharati and Samskrita Bharathi. Authored an English commentary on Adi Shankaracharya's Prashnottara Rathna Malika and its concise version entitled Viveeka Deepinee which has been translated into ten Indian Languages and recently an English book entitled "Story of the Clan-alegacy untold". Currently he serves as one of the Vice Presidents of Bar Association of India.

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### **Mr. Vikramjit Banerjee**

Additional Solicitor General of India

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Vikramjit Banerjee is a distinguished Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India and presently serves as an Additional Solicitor General (ASG), representing the Union of India in significant constitutional, commercial, and public law matters before the Supreme Court and various High Courts.

Appointed as ASG in 2018, he regularly appears in high-stakes litigation involving complex questions of law and policy. A first-generation lawyer, he has built a formidable independent practice and is widely regarded for his structured advocacy, clarity of thought, and command over constitutional and taxation jurisprudence. Prior to his current role, he served as Advocate General for the State of Nagaland from 2015 to 2018, advising the State on key constitutional and administrative issues. He is an alumnus of National Law School of India University, from where he graduated in 1997, and subsequently obtained his LL.M. from the University of Leicester in 2000. Over the years, he has trained under eminent legal luminaries and has also contributed to academia, reflecting a strong blend of theoretical grounding and practical expertise. As an ASG, he assists the Attorney General and Solicitor General, advises various Ministries, and appears in matters of national importance, earning recognition as a precise, articulate, and strategic counsel before constitutional courts.



## **Mr. Nitin Thakker**

President, Bombay Bar Association

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Mr Thakker is a Senior Advocate practicing at Bombay High Court with a focus on Banking, Commercial, Real Estate and Arbitration. Mr Thakker frequently acts as a Mediator and Arbitrator.

Born in 1947, Mr Thakker did his schooling at St Xavier's Boys' School in Mumbai, followed by graduation from Sydenham College of Commerce. He achieved his law degree from Government Law College, Mumbai and enrolled as an advocate in 1968, joining the Chambers of Mr Anil Diwan. In 1997, he was designated as a senior advocate.

Mr Thakker served as a Vice President of Bombay Bar Association from 2014 to 2021 and has been the President of BBA since 2021. He has been involved in the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) and has been conferred honorary Vice Presidency for life.

Mr Thakker has read papers at various conferences held in India and Abroad. He serves on the advisory committee of the Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Mumbai as well as Bal Apte Law College, Mumbai. He is also a member of the advisory board of the SRDC-ADR magazine published by GNLU, Ahmedabad.

He is deeply involved with social, educational and spiritual causes through various charitable institutions in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

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## **Dr. Uday Prakash Warunjikar**

Vice President, BAI

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Dr. Uday Prakash Warunjikar is having responsibility as Vice President of Bar Association of India. He is actively practicing in Bombay High Court and other Courts for last thirty one years. Apart from legal activities, he is having keen academic interest. He has been awarded Ph.D on "Gender Justice, Human Rights And P.C. & P.N.D.T. Act, 1994 - Critical Appraisal of statutory And Judicial

Perspectives" by Savitribai Phule Pune University India. He is a Vice Chairman of Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa which represents more than 2,55,000 lawyers in both the States. Apart from acting as regulatory authority under Advocates Act 1961, he is regularly participating in activities of LAWASIA on behalf of Bar Association of India. He is a special invites of steering committee of BRICS Legal forum of Bar Association of India. He has been invited by different Judicial Academies and Administrative Academies to train Hon'ble Judges, Public Prosecutors, and Administrative Officer. He is also former president of Consumer Courts Advocate Association of Maharashtra. He has contributed in two books published by Maharashtra Judicial Academy. He has also written books by name "Court awaits Justice" & Social Wellbeing and Judicial System.



### **Ms. Aashna Bhargava**

Legal Consultant, Law Commission of India

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Aashna Bhargava is a Corporate and Commercial Lawyer currently serving as a Legal Consultant at the Law Commission of India. In this role, she is actively engaged in legal and policy research, drafting of Law Commission reports, and contributing to law reform initiatives across multiple areas of law. She holds an LL.M. in Corporate and Commercial Laws and has prior professional experience in legal academia, corporate litigation, regulatory compliance, and dispute resolution, including technology-enabled mechanisms such as Online Dispute Resolution. Her academic and professional interests are primarily focused on legal research, policy development, and corporate regulatory frameworks.

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### **Mr. Subhash Sharma**

Advocate

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Subhash Sharma has been associated with Fali Nariman since 1986, in a professional and intellectual relationship that extends beyond conventional definitions of senior and junior at the Bar. Over nearly four decades, he has remained closely engaged with the evolution of Indian constitutional jurisprudence, contributing through rigorous research, analytical engagement, and sustained dialogue on questions of public law and institutional governance.

His work has involved not only legal preparation and research but also the interrogation and refinement of constitutional principles, the development of legal arguments, and contributions to strategic thinking across complex matters. This long-standing association reflects elements of a traditional guru–shishya framework, yet it also embodies a rare intellectual partnership marked by reciprocity and depth. Within this dynamic, Sharma’s contribution often lay in shaping the moment of clarity itself—serving, in a substantive sense, as the epiphany that preceded and informed the final articulation of constitutional propositions.

In addition to his contributions within the legal domain, Sharma has engaged with broader questions relating to Indian philosophical and civilizational traditions. Through this engagement, he has contributed to situating constitutional ideas within India’s deeper intellectual and cultural heritage, offering perspectives that connect doctrine with enduring concepts of ethics, duty, and societal order. This dimension of his work reflects an approach that views constitutional law not in isolation, but as part of a wider civilizational continuum.

For a significant part of his career, Sharma’s contributions remained largely in the background, with limited independent publication. More recently, he has brought out Fali’s works after his death, reflecting Sharma’s own perspectives and voice and sustained engagement with constitutional law, legal reasoning, and the underlying principles shaping India’s jurisprudential trajectory.

At the Convention, his perspective is expected to contribute to discussions on the evolution of constitutional doctrine, the role of legal reasoning in shaping institutional outcomes, and the interface between law, philosophy, and economic governance in advancing the rule of law.



### **Mr. Aseem Prakash**

Campus Director Hyderabad Campus,  
School of Public Policy and Governance, TISS

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Mr. Aseem Prakash, Campus Director of the Hyderabad Campus, School of Public Policy and Governance at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), is a Professor of Public Policy whose work is anchored in the belief that public policy is an active, institution-building discipline aimed at advancing just, equitable, and sustainable societies. With over two decades of experience, his contributions span institution-building, teaching, research, and executive education, all directed towards strengthening policy thought and practice in India.

He is widely regarded as a pioneer in public policy education, having been a founding member of the team that launched India's first postgraduate programme in Public Policy at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy in 2012. At TISS Hyderabad, he established the School of Public Policy and Governance, designing its academic vision and curriculum, including four postgraduate programmes—MA in Public Policy and Governance (2014), MA in Cities and Governance (2021), Dual Degree MA in Public Policy and International Relations (2024), and MA in Public Policy and Law (2024)—as well as a forthcoming undergraduate programme in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from 2026.

His teaching emphasises developing students as institutional thinkers and practitioners, with courses on ethics, regulatory design, policy frameworks, and policy writing. His research focuses on the interface of state and markets, regulatory governance, social discrimination, and human development, with notable publications including *Dalit Capital* and *The Indian Middle Class* (with Surinder Jodhka). His current research engages with themes such as Universal Basic Income, governance of dignity and death, urban definitions, and municipal finance innovation.

In addition to academia, he actively contributes to capacity-building for senior civil servants and serves in advisory roles across public policy institutions. He holds a doctorate from the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



### **Prof. (Dr.) Kamlesh P. Joshipura**

Former Vice Chancellor, State Universities Gujarat

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Professor (Dr.) Kamlesh P. Joshipura is a distinguished academician and administrator, having served as Vice Chancellor of two Gujarat state universities for three terms. He is currently a Professor of Law at Saurashtra University and a member of the Governing Body of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

With over 31 years in legal academia, he has authored several books and 80+ research papers, with notable work on unorganised sector labour and legislative reforms. He is part of the Gujarat Government's Task Force on implementation of the National Education Policy.

Prof. Joshipura has held key roles in national and state-level committees, including Vice Chancellor selection panels for over 24 universities and the Search & Selection Committee for the Chairman, UGC. He has also contributed extensively to legal awareness, free legal aid, and socio-economic welfare initiatives.

He holds Ph.D. and D.Litt. degrees, with specialisation in Constitutional Law, Insurance Law, Exim Law, Forensic Science, Social Justice, Labour Laws, and Educational Governance. He is associated with several academic bodies, including BHU, GGCU Bilaspur, INFLIBNET (UGC), and the State Security Commission, Government of Gujarat, and serves as Chairperson of the Legal Research Foundation.

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### **Ms. Surbhi Chauhan**

Legal Consultant, Law Commission of India

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Surbhi Chauhan is presently working as a Legal Consultant with the Law Commission of India, where she is involved in legal research and the formulation of policy recommendations on issues of national importance. Her work includes examining complex questions of law, contributing to reform-oriented studies, and assisting in the development of proposals aimed at strengthening the legal and institutional framework.

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### **Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari**

Chairperson, Law Commission of India

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Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari is a distinguished jurist and former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, presently serving as the Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India, having assumed office on 15 April 2025. His tenure as Chairperson is scheduled to continue until August 2027, during which the Commission is entrusted with advising the Government of India on critical legal reforms and legislative modernization.

Born on 15 May 1958 in Udaipur, Rajasthan, Justice Maheshwari hails from a legal background, his father being a practicing lawyer at the Rajasthan High Court. He completed his B.Sc. (Hons.) from the University of Rajasthan and obtained his LL.B. from Jodhpur University, enrolling as an advocate in 1981.



**Ms. Rachana Srivastava**  
Vice President, BAI

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Rachana Srivastava is a Senior Advocate designated by the Supreme Court of India. She has been Additional Advocate General of the State of Uttarakhand in Supreme Court. And remained the Standing counsel for twenty years. She has also represented Delhi government in Supreme Court for many years as the Advocate on Record. she has participated and presented paper in several international conferences including LawAsia, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, BRICS Legal Forum. She is immediate past Vice President of the Supreme Court Bar Association. Currently she is one of the vice presidents of the Bar Association of India.

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**Mr. Yakesh Anand**  
Vice President, BAI

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Yakesh Anand is the Managing Partner of M/s Anand And Associates, a law firm specialising in litigation practice in Delhi. He has over 40 years experience at the Bar. His main field of work is in Corporate and Commercial Laws, Arbitration and Disputes Resolution, General Practice, Environmental Laws, Energy Laws Family Laws and Property Disputes, Infrastructure and Telecommunication Laws. He has conducted various Domestic and International Arbitrations as counsel as well as an Arbitrator.

Presently, he is one of the Vice Presidents of Bar Association of India. Has been Ex Governing Body Member of Indian Council Arbitration, New Delhi for 10 years. Ex-member of Board of Editorial of the quarterly Journal of Indian Council of Arbitration. Member with LAWAISA, IBA, IPBA, SCBA and HCBA.





**Mr. Saurabh Mishra**  
Joint General Secretary, BAI

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Saurabh Mishra is an Advocate-on-Record at the Supreme Court of India with over three decades of experience in litigation, arbitration, and advisory work. His practice spans constitutional law, commercial disputes, infrastructure and construction matters, regulatory litigation, environmental law, and public procurement.

He has represented a wide range of statutory authorities, regulatory bodies, and public sector undertakings before the Supreme Court, High Courts, and various tribunals across the country.

In addition to his court practice, Mr. Mishra regularly acts as an arbitrator and is empaneled with reputed arbitral institutions. He also has extensive experience as counsel in arbitration and related proceedings, particularly in infrastructure, energy, and commercial disputes.

A recipient of the British Chevening Scholarship, he has contributed to legal scholarship through writings and lectures on regulatory, environmental, and commercial law.

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**Ms. Srija Choudhury**  
Advocate-on-Record

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Srija Choudhury is an Advocate-on-Record with over 10 years of experience in constitutional, civil, and commercial litigation before the Supreme Court of India. Represented India at 3rd BRICS Legal Talent Program held by MGIMO University at Moscow, Russia. Represented India at 3rd Training Course China - South Asian Legal Training Base hosted by China Law Society.



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## About The Bar Association of India

*Founded 8th August, 1959 · Inaugurated 2nd April, 1960*

The Bar Association of India was founded on 8th August, 1959. Its origins trace back to 1951, when the Government of India appointed the All India Bar Committee to enquire into the feasibility and desirability of a Unified Bar in India. The Committee, headed by Hon'ble Justice S.R. Das — who later became Chief Justice of India — submitted its report in 1956. On 26th September, 1958, the Law Commission of India, headed by Shri M.C. Setalvad, submitted its 14th Report, likewise recommending the establishment of a Unified All-India Bar.

Chief Justice S.R. Das thereupon requested Dr. K.M. Munshi, then Executive Chairman of the Indian Law Institute, to examine the question. After studying bar associations in several countries — and particularly the role and functions of the American Bar Association — the Indian Law Institute circulated a questionnaire to all stakeholders, including High Court Bar Associations, Advocate Generals, Senior Advocates and numerous local Bar Associations. The replies revealed a widespread desire for the formation of a Unified Bar.

The matter was considered at an All India Law Conference held under the auspices of the Indian Law Institute in March 1959. The Conference resolved upon the foundation of the Bar Association of India and took preliminary steps to found and organise the Association. A draft Constitution was prepared and circulated to Bar members across the country for advice and suggestions. These were considered by the Organisation Committee, which adopted the Constitution accordingly. The Association was registered under the Societies Registration Act on 25th September, 1959.

The Bar Association of India was formally inaugurated on 2nd April, 1960 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, then President of India, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, in the august presence of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Chief Justice of India, the Law Officers of India, all the Advocate Generals and many other stalwarts of the profession, including the Presidents of various High Court Bar Associations whose names are held in high esteem to this day. Shri M.C. Setalvad, the first Attorney General for India, was the Founder President of the Association.

The BAI was structured by its founding fathers as a representative voluntary body and apex federation of the Indian legal profession. Its Governing Council comprises members elected from each State and Union Territory, members elected by District Bar Associations and Law Societies, and ex-officio members — the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, the senior-most Additional Solicitor General, all Advocate Generals, the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and the Presidents

The Association represents the Indian legal profession in all major international organisations of legal professionals, including the International Bar Association (IBA), the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA), Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA), the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA), the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA) and the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC). Nominees of BAI have been elected to the presidency of these organisations. The Association has published its journal, The Indian Advocate, since 1961.

The current President of the Association is Shri Prashant Kumar and the past Presidents of the Bar Association of India are Late Shri M.C. Setalvad, First Attorney General for India, Late Shri C.K. Daphtary, Former Attorney General for India, Late Shri Lal Narayan Sinha, Former Attorney General for India, Shri K. Parasaran, Former Attorney General for India, Slat F.S. Nariman, Senior Advocate & Past President, LAWASIA, Late Shri Anil B. Divan, Senior Advocate & Past President, LAWASIA, Late Shri R.K.P. Shankardass, Senior Advocate & Past President, International Bar Association and Dr. Lalit Bhasin, Advocate & Past President, Inter-Pacific Bar Association.

*“We aim at upholding the Constitution of India, the representative, free and democratic form of government established by it and the promotion of the Rule of Law; we are to endeavour to apply our knowledge and experience in the field of law to the promotion of the public good... The men of the Law cannot afford to stand aside when the country is forging ahead along its newly chosen path.... There are trends in our body politic which seem to make for authoritarianism and draw us toward the rule of a few... It should be the paramount duty of a body composed of men pledged to the smooth and impartial administration of justice and the orderly development of a true democracy to earnestly ponder over these situations and take active and energetic measures to counter them in so far as such action may lie within its power.”*

— Shri M.C. Setalvad, Founding President, Bar Association of India



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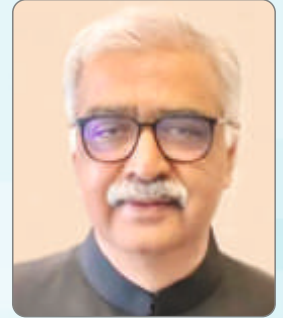
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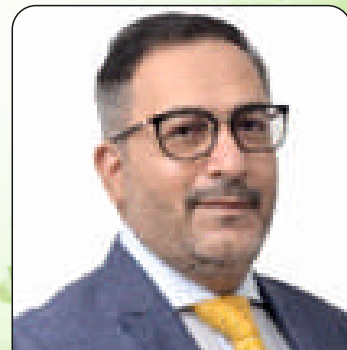
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### Contact details :

#### The Bar Association of India

- 📍 93, Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi - 110 001
- 📍 32, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi - 110 002
- ☎ +91-11-23385902/23782115/20818908
- ✉ barindia1959@gmail.com, info@barindia.in
- 🌐 www.barindia.in 📺 @BAI1959 📺 The Bar Association of India