

SECOND SILF-VIAC CONFERENCE

ON

NURTURING RELIABLE PARTNERSHIPS AMIDST TRADE WARS, SANCTIONS AND GEOPOLITICAL HURDLES

Date: September 12, 2026 (Saturday), 10 am onwards

Venue: The Regency Room, The Lalit Hotel, New Delhi

PROGRAMME BRIEF:

As international commerce becomes increasingly shaped by trade wars, economic sanctions, geopolitical rivalries, and shifting regulatory priorities, businesses are confronted with unprecedented legal and commercial uncertainties. Cross-border transactions today demand greater contractual resilience, careful risk allocation, and reliable dispute resolution mechanisms capable of operating effectively across diverse legal systems and political landscapes. In this evolving environment, international arbitration continues to play a critical role in preserving commercial certainty while adapting to emerging global challenges.

Against this backdrop, the *Second SILF-VIAC Conference* will deliberate on some of the most pressing issues confronting international dispute resolution. Through discussions on jurisdictional conflicts, anti-suit injunctions, forum conveniens, trade wars, sanctions, and the evolving role of arbitration in a multipolar world, the Conference aims to foster meaningful dialogue on strengthening arbitration as a trusted and effective mechanism for resolving complex cross-border disputes from both Indian and international perspectives.

SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS:

1. General Counsels' Association of India
2. Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (India)
3. Confederation of Indian Industry
4. Advantage Austria
5. Bar and Bench (Media Partner)
6. Bar Bulletin (Media Partner)

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE:

09:45am to 10:15am	Networking Breakfast	
10:15am to 11:00am	INAUGURAL SESSION:	
	10:15 to 10:25 am	Opening Remarks by Ms. Manjula Chawla , Managing Partner, Phoenix Legal

	10:25 to 10:35 am	President's Address by Dr. Lalit Bhasin , President, SILF
	10:35 to 10:50 am	Keynote Address by the Guest of Honour, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tejas Karia , Judge, Delhi High Court.
	10:50 to 11:05 am	Special Address by Senior VIAC Board Member, Dr. Alexander Petsche , Managing Partner, Baker McKenzie Vienna.
	11:05 to 11:10 am	Vote of Thanks by Mr. Arush Khanna , Partner, Numen Law Offices, and Ambassador (India), VIAC.
11:10am to 12:10pm	FIRST SESSION: <i>Anti-Suit Injunctions & Forum Conveniens: The Enforcement Dilemma in Cross-Border Disputes</i> This session will explore the role of anti-suit injunctions and the doctrine of forum conveniens in resolving jurisdictional conflicts arising in cross-border disputes. It will examine the challenges surrounding the enforcement of arbitration agreements and arbitral awards when parallel proceedings are initiated before different courts. Drawing on both Indian and international jurisprudence, the discussion will analyse how courts balance party autonomy, judicial comity, and the effective administration of international arbitration. <i>Session Chair:</i> Ms. Ana Stanič, Founder, E&A Law, London, and Board Member, VIAC. <i>Speakers:</i> Dr. Zeina Obeid, Partner, Obeid & Partners, Dubai Mr. Sanjay Patel, KC, Barrister, 4 Pump Court [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
12:10 pm to 12:30 pm	Coffee/Tea Break	
12:30 pm to 01:30 pm	SECOND SESSION: <i>The Future of Arbitration in an AI World: Resolving Technology Disputes and Transforming Dispute Resolution</i> This session will explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping both the nature of disputes and the mechanisms used to resolve them. It may examine	

	emerging technology-related conflicts involving AI systems, algorithms, data governance, intellectual property, and cybersecurity. The discussion will address whether arbitration is better suited than litigation for resolving complex, cross-border technology disputes in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. Speakers will also consider how AI can be integrated into arbitral processes, including case management, document review, legal research, and decision-support tools. Finally, the session will debate the opportunities, ethical challenges, and procedural safeguards necessary to ensure that dispute resolution remains fair, transparent, and effective in an AI-driven world. <i>Session Chair:</i> Prof. Crenguța Leaua, Founder, Leaua Damcali Deaconu Paunescu (LDDP), Bucharest, and Board Member, VIAC. <i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Shujath Bin Ali, Chief Legal Officer, Fourth Partner Energy
1:30 pm to 02:30 pm	Networking Lunch