

FOREWORD

On behalf of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co (SAM), I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Editorial Board of the RGNUL Financial and Mercantile Law Review (RFMLR) and to the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab (RGNUL) for the successful conclusion of the RGNUL - SAM Conclave on Arbitration in Practice, 2021. I am happy to write the foreword for this Issue that is comprised of research of bright young students, selected after extremely rigorous scrutiny by Editors at RFMLR, professionals at SAM and Faculty Members of RGNUL.

In contemporary times, arbitration has become an indispensable part of the legal system in the world, including in India with its ever-expanding reach and many benefits. The popularization of commercial arbitration in both the Indian as well as the international set-up has acted as an impetus for foreign trade, investment and cross-border transactions. It has also expedited the hitherto traditional and long drawn process of litigation domestically and internationally. Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, as one of the leading law firms in India for international and domestic arbitration, was proud to collaborate with RFMLR for the purpose of expatiating and stimulating research on contemporary issues regarding the practical aspects of arbitration in India. The event was conducted with Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) as an Associate Partner, and Bar and Bench as the Media Partner.

The RGNUL SAM Conclave on Arbitration in Practice, 2021 was organised over two days - July 17 and 18, 2021, and comprised of two sessions: The Paper Presentation Session, and The Expert Panel Discussion on the practical aspects of arbitration. I am pleased to note that this two-day virtual event proved to be extremely enriching and insightful for all participants. The Paper Presentation Session witnessed enthusiastic participation from law students from across India who proffered and presented novel, innovative and practical solutions for issues faced by all stakeholders in arbitration.

The Expert Panel Discussion brought together leading arbitration experts from SAM, and other leading industry experts in the field of arbitration who shared practical insights into the evolving opportunities and persisting hurdles likely to shape arbitration in the coming years. The topics covered during the Expert Discussion such as selection of arbitrators, delays in

adjudication, expert witnesses, court intervention and inflation of claims, shed light and initiated discourse on the practical themes of arbitration which are generally left unaddressed.

This Issue is a sincere attempt towards capturing a detailed discourse on genuine roadblocks faced by the industry. The cutting-edge research demonstrated by the authors through their comprehensive papers will prove to be seminal in furthering the aim of providing practical insights into the evolving field of arbitration. We hope the topics discussed under this Issue would be instrumental in bridging the lacunae of literature focusing on the practical aspects of arbitration, and would be of immense help to students and professionals interested or working in the field of arbitration.

I would like to congratulate the Editorial Board on the smooth conduction of the Conclave. I would also like to convey my gratitude and regard to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, faculty of RGNUL, the team of SAM and all participants who have been involved in this special issue on Arbitration in Practice. We look forward to collaborate with RFMLR and collectively move towards disseminating legal knowledge and furthering the discourse on various issues in the legal landscape.

Best Wishes.

Mr. Tejas Karia

Partner, Head-Arbitration

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co