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Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (U.K.), Senior Panel Counsel (Union of India)

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Nationality: Indian

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Admitted as Advocate to practice before Indian Courts: 2006.
- Admitted to the roll of Solicitors, England and Wales: 2009.

CURRENT POSITION

- Managing Partner at AKS Partners (*formerly known as A.K. Singh & Co.*)

AREA OF EXPERTISE

- Arbitration & related court applications
- Commercial dispute resolution
- Aviation disputes
- Injunctions, interim relief
- Domain name disputes
- International commercial arbitration
- Investment treaty disputes
- Software and Technology related disputes
- Supply of goods/ trade related disputes

ARBITRATOR EMPANELMENT

- Arbitrator, Asian International Arbitration Centre ('AIAC')
- DNDR Panellist, Asian International Arbitration Centre ('AIAC')
- Arbitrator, Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration ('MCIA')
- Arbitrator, Delhi International Arbitration Centre ('DIAC')
- Arbitrator, National Internet Exchange of India ('NIXI')

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Arbitrator Appointments (Cases not in Public Domain)

- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) in a dispute between an Indian Distributor and a dealer arising out of a dealership agreement.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by DIAC in a dispute arising out of a marketing agreement.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by DIAC in a dispute arising out of a contract for supply of goods.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by the parties in a commercial dispute initiated by a multi-national Korean company against an Indian company.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by the parties in a commercial dispute between an Indian subsidiary of a German MNC an Indian Company.

Arbitrator Appointments (Cases in Public Domain)

- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by National Internet Exchange of India ('NIXI') in a domain name dispute between Orange Branch Services Ltd., a UK based company and Orange Softworld Private Limited, an Indian entity.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Sony Corporation, Japan based company and Deborah R. Heacock, USA.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Google Inc., a US based company and Pablo Rigo, Argentina.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Udacity Inc., a US based company, and Alex Wang, China.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Dell Inc., a US based company, and Mani Soniya, India.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Zinka Logistics Solutions Private Limited, India based company, and Josephine Swami, India.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between BMW AG, a Germany based company, and Jiayi, China.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Bharti Airtel Limited, India based company, and PNS Limited, India based company.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Arkema France, France based company, and Just Traffic Supervision Consulting, Hong Kong based entity.

- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Santa Fe Moving Services Private Limited, India based company, and Zawsoft, an India based entity.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd., a UK based company and Amy Hill, USA.
- Appointed as a Sole Arbitrator by NIXI in a domain name dispute between Amazon Technologies, Inc, a US based company and Logistics Limited, India based company.

Experience in Mediation cases/Settlement Agreements

- Represented a German multinational clothing and footwear company in a mediation case involving a dispute arising out of a distributorship agreement.
- Represented an American multinational bank in a mediation case involving dispute of recovery of money (substantial quantum).
- Represented a Cayman Island company during settlement talks in a dispute arising out of an investment management agreement.
- Represented an Indian public sector undertaking during settlement talks with a South African contractor in a dispute arising out of a construction agreement.
- Represented an Indian public sector undertaking during settlement talks in a dispute arising out of HVAC contract.

Counsel Experience in International Arbitration Cases

Investor - State Arbitrations

- Acting as counsel by the Claimant in an ICSID Arbitration between a Dutch based entity and Republic of Albania.
- Acting as counsel in a Treaty dispute between an Indian national and Republic of Sri Lanka under UNCITRAL Rules.

International Commercial Arbitrations

- Acting as a counsel in an LCIA arbitration between an Indian construction company and a statutory body in Sri Lanka, in a construction related dispute.
- Acting as a counsel in an ICC arbitration between an Indian public sector undertaking, under the Ministry of Railways and State entity in South Africa, in a railway construction dispute.
- Acting as a counsel in an Arbitration Foundation of Southern Africa (AFSA) arbitration between a South African company and an Indian public sector undertaking, in a construction related dispute.

- Engaged as a counsel to assist in a SIAC arbitration between an Indian company and a Singapore based company, in a dispute relating to sale of goods.
- Acted as a counsel in an arbitration under UNCITRAL rules between a French multinational company and an Indian entity in a dispute arising out of non-supply of power plant equipment.
- Acted as a counsel in an LCIA arbitration between a UK based fund, a Cayman Island company and an Indian investment manager, in a dispute arising out of the investments made in India.
- Acted as an assisting counsel in three SIAC arbitrations between, a UK based company, a Cayman Island company, three German companies and an Indian company.
- Acted as a counsel in an ad-hoc arbitration between an Indian public sector undertaking, under Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and a construction company based in Yemen, in a construction related dispute.
- Acted as a counsel in an ad-hoc international arbitration between a Singapore based multinational company and an Indian public sector undertaking, under Ministry of Civil Aviation, in a dispute relating to supply of explosive detection system at various airports.
- Engaged as a counsel to advise in an ICC Arbitration between an Indian public sector undertaking, under Ministry of Information Technology and Broadcasting and a French multinational company, in a dispute arising out of sale of telephones and IT systems.

Counsel Experience in Domain Name International Arbitrations (in Public Domain)

- Speakasia Online Pte. Ltd. vs Gagandeep Randhawa (WIPO Case No. D2011-1317)
- Speakasia Online Pte. Ltd. vs Ritesh Pal/ MLM Hub (WIPO Case No. D2011-1316)
- Speakasia Online Pte. Ltd. vs Speak Asia/Dikosta Dikson (WIPO Case No. D2012-1672)
- Speakasia Online Pte. Ltd. vs Gagandeep Randhawa (INDRP Case No. 227 of 2011)
- Speakasia Online Pte. Ltd. vs Gagandeep Randhawa (INDRP Case No. 228 of 2011)
- Girnar Software Pvt. Ltd. vs. Manish Enterprises (INDRP Case No. INDRP/712)

Counsel experience in other International Commercial Cases

- Acted as an assisting counsel in an arbitration matter before Supreme Court of Mauritius to assist the Mauritius counsel.
- Acted as a counsel in a commercial dispute between an Indian company and a company based in California.

Counsel experience in Domestic Arbitration Cases (not in Public Domain)

- Representing an IT multinational company against an Indian business house, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to non-payment of the invoices.
- Representing a public sector undertaking (aviation sector) against a consortium of an Indian and a Dutch company, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of invocation of bank guarantees under a license agreement for Chennai and Kolkata airports of India.
- Representing a public sector undertaking (aviation sector) against a consortium of an Indian and a Dutch company, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of invocation of bank guarantees under license agreement for Mangalore, Calicut, Trichy, Trivandrum, Coimbatore airports of India.
- Representing a public sector undertaking (aviation sector) against a construction company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of construction work at Khajuraho airport of India.
- Representing a railway public sector undertaking against an infrastructure and construction company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of construction over bridges and under bridges.
- Representing an IT multinational company against an Indian public sector undertaking (telecommunication sector), in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of provision of IT solutions and non-payment of outstanding dues.
- Representing a public sector undertaking (aviation sector) against a construction company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of re-carpeting of runway, taxiway and apron at Gaya airport of India.
- Representing an infrastructure company against a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Defence, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out construction of housing society for the government employees.
- Representing a public sector undertaking (aviation sector) against an audio manufacturing company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of supply and installation of public announcement system at Ahmadabad airport of India.
- Representing a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Railways against a construction company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of a railway tunnel and bridges.
- Represented a public sector undertaking (aviation sector) against an infrastructure and engineering company in a DAC arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of construction of a terminal building.

- Represented a public sector undertaking (aviation sector) against a construction company in a DAC arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of construction of runway at Ranchi airport of India.
- Represented a sole proprietary firm against computer hardware engineering college in a DAC Arbitration arising out of various lease agreements.
- Represented a public sector undertaking against a consortium of an Indian and a Dutch company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of an agreement to provide ground handling services at various airports.
- Represented a Japanese multinational company in an arbitration arising out of a contract for supply of automotive spares parts.
- Represented a consortium of Indian and Chinese architecture company against a government construction company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of a contract for construction and designing of a smart city.
- Represented Government Textile Company in arbitration an involving dispute with regard to illegal termination of the agreement for development of 11 different textile mills spread all over India.
- Represented an IT multinational company against an Indian company, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to providing IT solutions and hardware.
- Represented a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, against a construction company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to construction of building and civil works.
- Represented an IT multinational company against a government bank, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of an agreement to provide banking services in remote areas.
- Represented an IT multinational company against a government electricity board, Jharkhand, India, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of an agreement for establishing network system, data centers, supply of hardware and software solutions.
- Represented a public sector undertaking (aviation sector) against a construction company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of construction of terminal building at Patna airport of India.
- Represented a public sector undertaking, under Ministry of Agriculture against private company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating a dispute arising out of contract for supply of food products.
- Represented a public sector undertaking, under Ministry of Heavy Industries against a construction company, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of a contract for testing and commissioning of Retrofit ESP with auxiliaries at Panki Thermal Power Station.

- Represented a public sector undertaking, under Ministry of Heavy Industries against a construction company, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of a contract for HVAC work at a commercial complex.
- Represented a public sector undertaking engineering company against a construction company, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of a contract for construction of an agriculture college, Tripura.
- Represented a public sector undertaking (aviation sector) against an air-conditioner manufacturer in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of supply of air conditioners at various airports of India.
- Represented a public sector undertaking against a construction company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of construction of boundary wall at an airport.
- Represented a public sector undertaking engineering company against a reputed builder, in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of a contract for construction of roads.
- Represented an Indian national against a metal company in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of a contract for transfer of property.
- Represented a public sector undertaking against a manufacturer of night vision glasses in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of a contract to supply the goods.
- Represented a construction company against an insurance company in an ad-hoc arbitration arising out an insurance agreement.
- Represented a public sector undertaking against a trolley manufacturer in an ad-hoc arbitration relating to a dispute arising out of a contract to supply the trolleys at various airports.

Counsel experience in Commercial/Arbitration related court cases

Involved in more than 100 Commercial/Arbitration related cases before various courts in and outside India, in last 15 years.

Few of the Reported cases in Indian Courts/Cases in public domain

- K.S. Forge Metal Pvt. Ltd. vs Sachin Gupta & Anr. (207 (2014) Delhi Law Times 25) before High Court of Delhi. (OMP No.49 of 2008, Decided on 04.09.2012) – This was an arbitration case challenging the award of the Arbitrator. The Court set aside the award of the arbitrator.
- Sachin Gupta and Anr. vs K.S. Forge Metal Pvt. Ltd. (2013(3) SCALE 250) before the Supreme Court of India. (Civil Appeal No. 2058 of 2013, Decided on: 01.03.2013) –

Successfully challenged the order of the Division Bench of Delhi High Court, by which it had set aside the arbitral award.

- KSL & Industries Ltd vs National Textiles Corporation
- Jaybharat Textiles and Real Estate Ltd vs National Textiles Corporation
- Eskay K'n'it (India) Ltd vs National Textiles Corporation

Note: The aforementioned three cases were all listed before the High Court of Delhi at New Delhi on the issue of interim measures under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996. O.M.P. 581/2010, O.M.P. 586/2010 and O.M.P. 587/2010.

- Nishant S. Diwan vs. High Court of Delhi through Registrar General and Anr. (W.P. (C) 983/2014) – The judgment decided an important legal issue in respect of reservations for disabled in the Delhi Higher Judiciary.
- Maharaji Education Trust vs Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. & Ors.(2017) 14 SCC 453
- HCL Infotech Limited vs Mahanagar Telephone Limited (08.02.2017) – The judgment dealt with an issue of termination of mandate of an Arbitral tribunal.
- Bhadra International India Private Limited and Ors. vs Airport Authority of India (20.11.2018) – The judgment deals with the law on injunction to invoke Bank Guarantee as an interim measure under Section 9 of Arbitration & Conciliation Act 1996.
- Vishal Infrastructure Limited vs Union of India (19.02.2019) – The judgment relates to the issue of unilateral appointment of an arbitrator by one of the parties.]
- Airport Authority of India vs Virender Khanna & Associates (20.03.2018) – The judgment deals with the law on challenge of the Arbitral award.
- Airport Authority of India vs Smith Detection Pte Ltd. (07.05.2018) – The judgment deals with the law on challenge of arbitral award under Section 34 of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act 1996.
- BGSCTPL – VIL Consortium vs Airport Authority of India (13.02.2019) – The judgment deals with the law on challenge of arbitral award under Section 34 of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act 1996.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Allocation of Cost in International Arbitration” published in the book titled ‘Alternative Dispute Resolution- Indian Perspective’ by Oxford University Press.
- Contributed by way research, while working as a Researcher with British Institute of International and Comparative Law, London, to the book titled as “Damages in International Investment Law” published by British Institute of International and Comparative Law.

- “Law in Service of People” published in annual journal of Asia Pacific Jurist Association.
- “Pitfalls under Back-To-Back Contracts: Are Back-To-Back Contracts a Minefield?” published on Mondaq.
(Available at: <https://www.mondaq.com/india/contracts-and-commercial-law/1015946/pitfalls-under-back-to-back-contracts-are-back-to-back-contracts-aminefield>)
- “Covid-19 and E-Arbitrations: An India Perspective” published on Lexology
(Available at: <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=40e5193a-22d0-411c97e7-222dc434c285>)

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Arguing Counsel, Supreme Court of India, Government of Jharkhand: 2020 – till date.
- Visiting Faculty (Arbitration), Symbiosis Law School, Noida.
- Committee Member of Indian Arbitration Group, ICC: 2017- till date.
- Member of User Council of Singapore International Arbitration Centre, India: 2017- till date.
- Regional Committee Member (Asia) of International Chamber of Commerce, Young Arbitrator’s Forum, Paris: 2015-2017.
- Counsel for Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, India in High Court of Delhi to look after civil, commercial and arbitral disputes: 2013-2015.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Recognized as one of the Top Dispute Resolution Lawyers of India by Asia Legal Business: 2020
- Recognized as top 50 Super Lawyers in India 2020 by Asia Legal Business: 2020
- Acknowledged by Indian Corporate Counsel Association as a Trusted Corporate Lawyer of India: 2019
- Awarded “40 under 40 Rising Star” by Legal Era: 2018
- Awarded as the Best Young Achiever award by India Legal Awards: 2018
- Awarded Arbitration lawyer of the year by Indian National Bar Association: 2018
- Acknowledged by Indian Corporate Counsel Association as a Trusted Corporate Lawyer of India: 2018
- Acknowledged by Corporate Counsel Association of India for distinguished and exemplary services in the Legal Industry: 2018

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- ICC conference on ‘International Commercial Arbitration’, Singapore, 2014
- Conference on ‘International Commercial Arbitration in Asia’, New Delhi, 2014
- Young Arbitrator’s Conference on ‘International Commercial Arbitration’ hosted by National Law University, Delhi, 2015
- Global Arbitration Conference on ‘International Commercial Arbitration’ hosted by Queen Mary College, London, 2015
- Conference on ‘Changing Dynamics in International Arbitration in India’, organized by Symbiosis Law School, Noida, 2015
- ICC Young Arbitrator’s Conference on ‘International Commercial Arbitration’, hosted by Symbiosis Law School, Noida, 2015
- Conference on ‘Changing Trends in International Arbitration’, hosted by King’s College, London in New Delhi, 2015
- Conference on ‘Ideas on International Commercial Arbitration’, organized by Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2015
- Conference on ‘Allocation of Costs in International Arbitration’, organized by International Chamber of Commerce and hosted by National Law University, New Delhi, 2016
- Conference on ‘Evolution and Adaptation: The Future of International Arbitration’, organized by International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA), Sydney, 2018
- Conference on “International Commercial Arbitration, organized by Asia Pacific Jurist Association (APJA), India & Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2018
- Inaugural Lecture (‘ABC2’ Lecture Series) on Law on Arbitration: The ‘Written Form’ Requirement of the Arbitration Agreements, organized by Indian International & Domestic Arbitration Centre (IIDAC) and Symbiosis Law School, Noida, New Delhi, 2018
- Mini Conference on International Arbitration in Asia themed ‘The Malayan Tiger’s Journey to India: A New Dawn of Alternative Dispute Resolution’, organized by Symbiosis Law School, Noida and Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), New Delhi, 2019.
- Virtual Conference on ‘India Disputes’ organized by Informa Connect, 2020

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

- Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Commercial and Corporate Laws, at Kings College, University of London, London, 2006-07.
- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B). (Hons.), from Chaudhary Charan Singh University (Meerut University), 2003-06.
- Bachelors in Commerce, from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, Delhi University.
- Post Graduate Diploma in Cyber Law from Indian Law Institute, Delhi, 2006.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Bar Association of High Court of Delhi.
- Bar Association of Supreme Court of India.
- Indo – German Chambers of Commerce, India.
- ICDR Young and International of American Arbitration Association.
- Young Arbitrators Forum of International Chambers of Commerce, Paris.
- Young International Arbitration Group, LCIA London.

LANGUAGES

English and Hindi