HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
RAIPUR

International Conference on

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

GOVERNING DISPUTES: INTERNATIONAL LAW, TREATY FRAMEWORKS & COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

Organized by

SCHOOL OF LAW & BUSINESS | Centre for Commercial Arbitration

SCHOOL OF LAW & GOVERNANCE | Centre for International Law & Diplomacy

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Mahindra™ University
Global Thinkers. Engaged Leaders.

SCHOOL OF LAW, MAHINDRA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD

OCT **10-11** 2026

09:00 AM - 06:00 PM (IST) | HNLU Campus, Raipur

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ABOUT HNLU

Hidayatullah National Law University is recognized for its commitment to academic excellence, interdisciplinary research and socially engaged legal education. Established in 2003, HNLU has emerged as a vibrant hub for critical scholarship, policy discourse and institutional innovation in legal studies. Situated in the culturally rich and ecologically significant State of Chhattisgarh, the University occupies a unique position in engaging with issues concerning indigenous peoples, environmental governance, constitutionalism, sustainable development and intellectual property rights.

The University has consistently fostered dialogues that bridge academia, policy, community engagement and international cooperation. Through its specialized research centres and collaborative initiatives, HNLU seeks to contribute meaningfully to contemporary debates surrounding justice, inclusion, sustainability and rights-based governance.

ABOUT MAHINDRA UNIVERSITY

The School of Law at Mahindra University is committed to preparing future-ready legal professionals through a rigorous, interdisciplinary and practice-oriented approach to legal education. The School offers a diverse range of programmes, including B.A. LL.B. (Honours), B.B.A. LL.B. (Honours), B.Tech. LL.B. (Honours), LL.B. and Ph.D. in Law. Its curriculum integrates law with social sciences, management and technology, while encouraging specialisation in emerging and contemporary areas such as corporate law, constitutional law, criminal law, intellectual property, technology law and space law. Emphasising experiential learning, the School provides students with opportunities for clinical legal education, internships, moot courts, mediation, arbitration and advocacy-based training. With small cohort sizes, personalised mentorship and a faculty that combines academic expertise with practical experience, the School seeks to create an engaging and collaborative learning environment. Its smart classrooms, moot court hall, legal research library and workshops further strengthen its focus on research, innovation and professional skill development.

ABOUT R-HaS

HNLU has restructured and redesigned its research efforts in tune with the contemporary priorities with its novel model christened as R- HAS {Research- Hub and Spoke}. The R-HAS constitutes Five Hubs structured as Schools of Law with interdisciplinary focus. Each Hub designated as a School will comprise of Spokes designated as'Centres' with specific focus on emerging research areas. Each School is headed by a senior faculty with the Centres headed by faculties and assisted by research associates/scholars. The University has allocated an initial seed grant to each School to carry the research activities. Each School will have Research associates who will also have the option of enrolling for the Ph.D. programme as part of their employment.m The Schools/Centers are undertaking sponsored research, advocacy, training and publication in their designated domains.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This Conference aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, adjudicators, and policymakers to engage with some of the most pressing questions at the intersection of public international law and commercial dispute resolution.

The conference proceeds from the recognition that international law and commercial arbitration are no longer parallel universes. Investment treaty arbitration, the fragmentation of international adjudication, the enforcement of awards against sovereign entities, and the emergence of climate and digital disputes have made their convergence not merely academic but urgently practical. Against this backdrop, the conference seeks to examine how existing legal frameworks are holding up, where they are falling short, and what reforms are necessary.

The conference aspires to facilitate rigorous and forward-looking dialogue that bridges doctrinal analysis with policy relevance. By convening voices from across institutions, jurisdictions, and disciplines, it aims to contribute meaningfully to ongoing conversations in international legal scholarship and arbitration practice.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. To foster interdisciplinary dialogue at the intersection of public international law, treaty frameworks, and commercial arbitration.
2. To critically examine the adequacy of existing international legal frameworks in addressing contemporary disputes arising from investment, trade, climate& the digital economy.
3. To provide a platform for engagement among academicians, practitioners, adjudicators, and policymakers on pressing questions of international dispute resolution.
4. To explore the institutional architecture of international adjudication, including the role of courts, tribunals, and arbitral bodies in an increasingly fragmented legal order.
5. To encourage research-driven scholarship and policy-oriented discussion that can inform reforms in international law and arbitration practice.

THEMES & SUB-THEMES

The conference invites scholarly engagement under the following thematic areas:

Treaty Frameworks and the Future of Investor-State Dispute Settlement

- Renegotiation of BITs & the shifting balance between sovereignty & investor protection
- The Multilateral Investment Court proposal: reform or replacement of ISDS?
- Climate-related investor-state disputes and the fossil fuel arbitration surge
- Human rights obligations in investment treaty arbitration

Enforcement of Arbitral Awards Across Jurisdictions

- The New York Convention at 65: enduring strengths and persistent gaps
- Sovereign immunity and state-owned enterprises as enforcement shields
- Public policy as a ground for refusal: consistency or chaos?
- Parallel proceedings and the problem of conflicting awards

Domesticating the International: National Arbitration Frameworks and Their Global Dimensions

- UNCITRAL Model Law & its adoption, adaptation & resistance across jurisdictions
- Enforcement of foreign awards under domestic arbitration statutes
- Judicial intervention in arbitration: pro-arbitration trends & lingering paternalism
- India's arbitration reforms & the ambition to become an international arbitration hub
- Domestic public policy and its expanding role in frustrating international awards

Trade Regimes, Economic Sovereignty, and Dispute Resolution

- The WTO Appellate Body crisis and arbitration
- Regional trade agreements & their dispute resolution mechanisms
- Claims in trade remedy disputes and investment arbitration
- State-to-state arbitration: underused but increasingly relevant

Climate Change, Digital Economy & the Frontiers of International Dispute Resolution

- Data sovereignty, cyber operations & state responsibility under international law
- Arbitrating climate obligations: treaty claims, carbon markets, and stranded assets
- Artificial intelligence in arbitral proceedings: opportunity or threat to due process?
- Crypto-assets & blockchain disputes in cross-border arbitration

Interaction of International Arbitration with Other Commercial Laws

- Arbitrability & insolvency: reconciling bankruptcy proceedings with arbitral claims
- Competition law before arbitral tribunals
- Corporate and securities disputes
- Illegality, corruption, and sanctions as grounds for refusing enforcement
- Consumer protection, employment law, and data privacy concerns

NOTE: Authors are required to situate their submissions within one of the following conference themes. The sub-themes listed are illustrative and not exhaustive.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE (Tentative)

DAY 01 — **10 OCTOBER 2026** — **SATURDAY**

08:00 a.m. to 09:00 a.m.	Registration
09:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Inaugural Ceremony
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Panel Discussion - I
12:15 p.m. to 01:45 p.m.	Technical Sessions - I to II
03:00 p.m. to 04:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion - II
04:15 p.m. to 05:45 p.m.	Technical Sessions - III - IV
06:15 p.m.	Conclusion of Day-1

DAY 02 — **11 OCTOBER 2026** — **SUNDAY**

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Panel Discussion - III
11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.	Technical Sessions - V - VI
03:00 p.m. to 04:30 p.m.	Valedictory Ceremony
05:00 p.m.	Conclusion of the Conference

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE ?

The conference invites participation from:

- Under-Graduate / Post-Graduate Students of Law
- Academicians and Research Scholars
- Policy Experts and Think Tanks
- Legal Practitioners
- NGOs and Civil Society Organizations
- International Organizations and Development Agencies
- Doctoral & Post-Doctoral scholars working in the field of Arbitration

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for Abstract Submission	15th September 2026
Notification of Acceptance of Abstracts	18th September 2026
Last Date for Registration	20th September 2026
Submission of Full Papers	5th October 2026
Conference Dates	10th & 11th October 2026

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE

- Advancement of scholarly discourse at the intersection of international law and commercial arbitration
- Strengthening of India's position as an emerging hub for international arbitration
- Facilitation of networking and collaboration among academicians, practitioners, and policymakers
- Formulation of policy-relevant recommendations on treaty reform and enforcement mechanisms
- Publication of selected papers in a peer-reviewed edited volume

ANNEXURE I - REGISTRATION DETAILS

Type of Delegate	Academicians/Working Professional		Ph.D. Scholars, PG / UG Students	
	Paper Presenters	Attendees*	Paper Presenters	Attendees*
International Delegates	**50 USD**	**35 USD**	**25 USD**	**20 USD**
Domestic Delegates	**Rs. 4,000/-**	**Rs. 2,500/-**	**Rs. 1,500/-**	**Rs. 1,000/-**

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDES

- Access to all Technical & Plenary Sessions
- Conference Kit
- Certificate of Participation/Presentation
- Networking Opportunities with Experts and Delegates
- Lunch, Dinner & Refreshments during Conference Days

NOTE

- Registration fees are **non-refundable** under any circumstances
- Each paper may have a **maximum of two authors**. In case of **co-authorship**, each author has to **individually register**.
- The registration fee **does not include accommodation**. Selected presenters shall be required to make their own accommodation arrangements. For details regarding accommodation facilities available on campus & in the vicinity of the University, kindly refer to **Annexure IV**.
- **No TA/DA shall be provided to the participants**. Participants are required to make their own arrangements towards international / domestic travel & local conveyance for attending the Conference.
- Attendees mean & include participants who will be attending the sessions without making any presentation.
- **Registration Link** & other details regarding **Registration Fee Payment** will be shared with selected paper presenters at the time of notification of acceptance of abstract.
- Interested Participants who wish to attend the conference (without paper presentation) are required to send us an email at icia@hnlu.ac.in. The relevant details will be shared with the interested participants.

ANNEXURE II - GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

1. Content of the Abstract: Authors are required to submit a word document abstract containing details:

(a) Title of the Paper

(b) Author(s) Details i.e., Name / Institutional Affiliation / Designation / Email Address / Contact Number Abstract Body / Content Keywords

2. Word Limit

(a) The abstract shall be between 300–500 words, excluding title and keywords.

(b) Authors must provide 5 relevant keywords

3. Formatting Guidelines for Abstracts

(a) Font: Times New Roman

(b) Font Size: 12 pt

(c) Line Spacing: 1.5

(d) Alignment: Justified

(e) Margins: 1 inch on all sides

(f) File Format: Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) The title of the abstract should be in Bold and Upper Case.

4. Last Date to Submit Abstract - 15th September 2026

5. Abstract submissions shall be made through the Google Form.

Please click the Link given or scan the QR code for accessing the Google Form

https://forms.gle/d4JXWsUccA4wGkcQ9

Authors whose abstracts are accepted shall submit full papers in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. **Presentation at the Conference shall be strictly subject to the submission of the Full Paper within the stipulated deadline. Failure to submit the Full Paper shall result in cancellation of participation, and the registration fee shall not be refunded.**

2. **Originality and Publication Ethics**

   (a) The full paper must be **original, unpublished & not under consideration** for publication/presentation elsewhere.

   (b) Any form of plagiarism, including self-plagiarism, shall result in immediate rejection.

   (c) Authors are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity and ethical scholarship.

3. **Word Limit**

   (a) Full papers should ordinarily range between 4,000–8,000 words, excluding footnotes.

   (b) Exceptional papers exceeding the prescribed limit may be considered at the discretion of the Editorial Committee.

4. **Co-Authorship**

   (a) Co-authorship is permitted for a maximum of two authors.

   (b) Both authors, in case of co-authorship, must register separately for the conference.

5. **Plagiarism Policy**

   (a) Similarity index should preferably not exceed 10%, excluding references and commonly used legal terminology.

   (b) The Organizing Committee reserves the right to reject papers found to contain plagiarism or unethical academic practices.

6. Formatting Guidelines for Full Papers

Main Text		Headings		Footnotes	
Font	Times New Roman	Title	Capital; Bold	Font	Times New Roman
Font Size	12 pt.	Sub-Title	Small Capital; Bold	Font Size	10 pt.
Line Spacing	1.5	Font Size of Title	14 pt.	Line Spacing	Single
Line Alignment	Justified	Font Size of Sub-title	12 pt.	Citation Style	Bluebook (21st Edition), or OSCOLA (Latest Edition)
Margin	1 inch on all sides	Do not number your titles / sub-titles		The citation style chosen must be followed consistently throughout the manuscript.	

7. Mode of Submission of Full Paper shall be separately communicated to selected Paper Presenters separately during the notification of acceptance of abstracts.

8. Presentation Guidelines

(a) Selected authors shall present their papers during technical sessions of the conference.

(b) Presentation slots and session details shall be communicated separately.

(c) Authors are encouraged to prepare concise and engaging presentations highlighting the core arguments and findings of their papers.

9. Selected papers will be published in the form of an edited volume (peer - reviewed) with a Leading publisher.

IV (a) Accommodation at HNLU

(a) Limited Accommodation is available on campus on a chargeable basis.

Place of Accommodation	No. of Rooms Available	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy
University Hostel (Common Bathrooms)	30	Rs. 700/- per night	Rs. 350/- per night
University Hostel	20	Rs. 1,000/- per night	Rs. 500/- per night
University Guest House	15	Rs. 2,000/- per night	Rs. 1,250/- per night

(b) External Participants (i.e., paper presenters & attendees) can book the same on a first-come-first-serve basis.

(c) Details regarding the booking of University Accommodation will be shared with registered paper presenters & participants upon successful registration.

IV (b) Accommodation at Hotels nearby HNLU

(a) The following hotels are located in and around the University campus.

Name of the Hotel	Distance from the University
Mayfair Lake Resort	Approx. 5–6 km
Fairway Golf & Lake Resort	Approx. 6 km
Sayaji Raipur	Approx. 14–15 km
Hyatt Raipur	Approx. 16–17 km
Courtyard by Marriott Raipur	Approx. 15–16 km
Hukum Lalit Mahal	Approx. 13–14 km
Babylon Capital	Approx. 16–17 km

(b) The University is in the process of negotiating special discounted rates for Conference participants.

(c) Details regarding the availing of the discounted tariff, if negotiated, will be shared with registered paper presenters & participants upon successful registration.

HNLU is situated in the educational hub of **Nava Raipur - Atal Nagar, Raipur Chhattisgarh**, and is well connected by air, rail and road networks. Participants may reach the University through the following modes:

BY AIR

The nearest airport is **Swami Vivekananda Airport**, located approximately 10–12 km from the University campus. Regular flights connect Raipur with major Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai. Taxis and app-based cab services are readily available from the airport to the University campus.

BY RAIL

The nearest major railway station is **Raipur Junction Railway Station**, situated approximately 20–22 km from HNLU. Raipur Junction is well connected to major cities across India through regular express and superfast train services. Participants may avail taxis, auto-rickshaws or app-based cab facilities from the railway station.

BY ROAD

HNLU is accessible through a well-developed road network connecting Raipur city and Atal Nagar (Naya Raipur). Regular taxi, bus and app-based transport services are available from different parts of Raipur city to the University campus.

CONFERENCE MENTORS

Prof. (Dr.) V.C. Vivekanandan
Vice Chancellor, HNLU Raipur

Prof. (Dr.) Yajulu Medury
Vice-Chancellor, Mahindra University, Hyderabad

BOARD OF ADVISORS

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Director, School of Law &
Business, HNLU Raipur

FACULTY CONVENORS

Dr. Anita Singh
Assistant Professor of Law & Head,
Centre for International Law & Diplomacy

Dr. Amitesh Deshmukh
Assistant Professor of Law & Head,
Centre for Commercial Arbitration

STUDENT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Mr. Ansh Parashar
Student Convenor, IV-Year, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.)

Mr. Suyash Kapasiya
Student Co-Convenor, IV-Year, B.A. LL.B. (Hons.)

For further Details & Queries, Please Contact

Conference Secretariat
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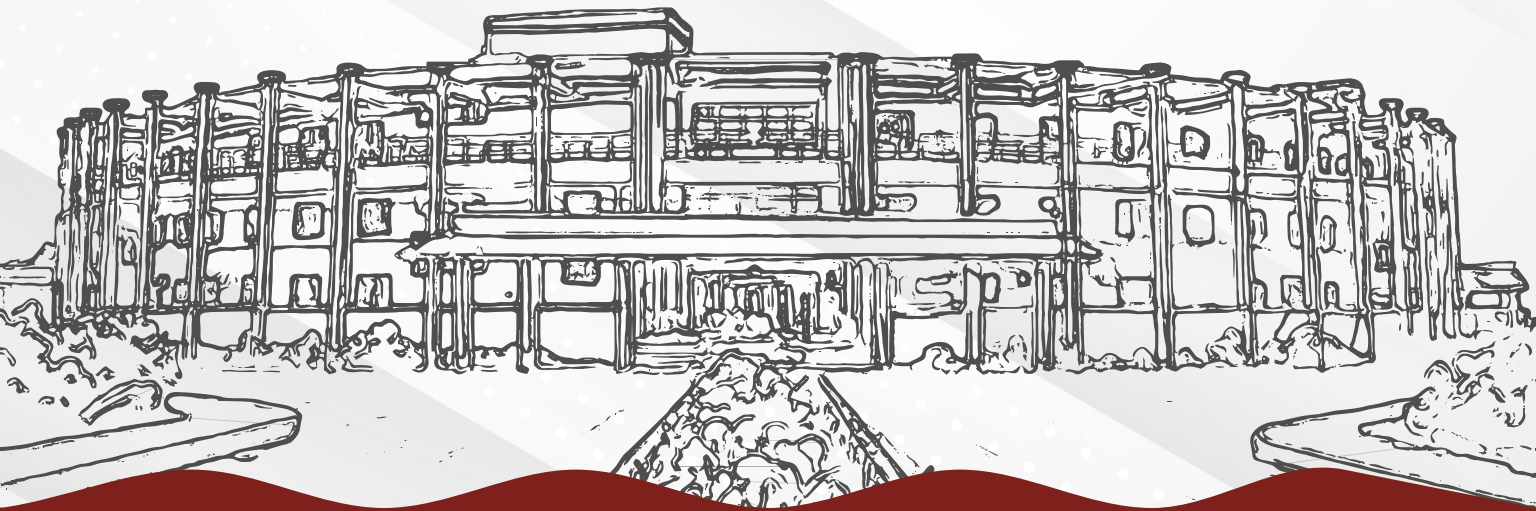
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