CIARB TRUSTEE ELECTION 2026
MIDDLE EAST/INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT REGION

# Building institutions that last



## Neeti Sachdeva

Registrar & Secretary General, Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration

## About me

I am the Registrar and Secretary General of the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA), which I joined at its launch in 2016 as its first full-time Registrar and which has now successfully completed 10 years. Earlier, I clerked at the Delhi High Court, worked at the ICC International Court of Arbitration and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in Paris, served as First Deputy Registrar of LCIA India, and practised dispute resolution at Trilegal and Economic Laws Practice, two of India's leading law firms. I hold an LL.M. in International Commercial Arbitration from Stockholm University, serve on the Board of the Ciarb India Branch, and am Ciarb-approved faculty, teaching Ciarb courses alongside arbitration at leading Indian law schools.

**20**
years in arbitration

**230+**
arbitrator appointments made

**180+**
awards scrutinised

**15+**
matters as arbitrator, appointed by parties and courts

**40+**
arbitral institutions behind India ADR Week

**80+**
law firms worked with, in India and worldwide

## What I stand for

1. **Appointments that build careers.** A clear pathway to first appointments through the Dispute Appointment Service, with transparent criteria.
2. **Training that travels.** Local tutors, local-law modules, regional time zones and fees set with local economies in mind.
3. **Engagement that members lead.** Member-led programmes, mentoring between Fellows and newer members, and recognition for branch volunteers.
4. **Governance members can see.** A plain account to members of what the Board decided, and why, after every meeting.
5. **Growth through collaboration.** Partnerships with institutions, universities and professional bodies across the region, as with India ADR Week.

*"Neeti is a highly committed and results-oriented individual. When she sets her heart on a project or a position, she will invariably see it through to fruition."*

**Francis Xavier SC**, Past President, Ciarb (2020) · Full statements of support overleaf, including from two Past Presidents of Ciarb

**Voting closes Monday 30 November 2026**

Vote using the link sent by Civica Election Services

# Statements of support

**Professor Doug Jones AO** · Past President, Ciarb (2011) · Former Chair, Ciarb Board of Trustees · Companion of Ciarb

"I write this testimonial in support of Neeti Sachdeva's candidature for the position of Ciarb Trustee for the Middle East/Indian Sub-Continent Region. I have known Neeti for quite some time, internationally and through my work as arbitrator in Indian-seated arbitrations, and admired her leadership of domestic and international arbitration in India and beyond. She has played a key role in the establishment and progress of the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration, the growth of which domestically and internationally I have watched with admiration since 2016. Neeti's international network is extensive, and she is widely respected amongst the international and domestic arbitral community in India, and indeed around the world. The contribution which she would be able to bring to the Board of Trustees both as a representative of the Middle East and India, and more generally, makes her an outstanding candidate for the position of Trustee."

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**Francis Xavier SC PBM C.Arb FCIArb** · Past President, Ciarb (2020)

"I have known Neeti now for quite a number of years. My association with her over the years has been through the arbitration community; we have interacted frequently and substantially on arbitration panels at conferences, joint initiatives carried out by arbitral institutions that she was involved in with my firm, and through thought leadership initiatives undertaken by legal organizations. I can attest to the fact that Neeti is a highly committed and results-oriented individual. When she sets her heart on a project or a position, she will invariably see it through to fruition. She is dynamic, judicious and has a remarkable flair for detail in execution. She is a great team player. I would unhesitatingly and strongly endorse Neeti for the position of Trustee."

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**Lalit Bhasin** · President, Society of Indian Law Firms · Immediate Past President, The Bar Association of India · Past President, Indo American Chamber of Commerce

"If there is one person who is deeply committed to the cause of ADR in general and arbitration in particular, it is Neeti Sachdeva. She has pioneered the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration, which is proof of her deep involvement and commitment to make India a hub of arbitration for expeditious, cost effective arbitration.

She has the impeccable credentials and background of working at the International Arbitration Department of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Paris and has also worked with the London Court of International Arbitration. She is one of the eminent office bearers of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators–India and continues to promote arbitration not only in the corporate world but also inculcating values of arbitration among students of law schools extensively.

Her role in CIArb-India is to promote training programs for arbitrators and mediators and several training programs have been successfully completed, thanks to her initiative. She has contributed significantly not only for CIArb-India but also for CIArb as a global institution."

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**Lara Hammoud** · Arbitrator, UAE · Member of the Council, Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration

"As a member of the Council of the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) and international arbitrator, I am delighted to support Neeti Sachdeva's candidature for election as CIArb Trustee for the Middle East and Indian Subcontinent region. Through her leadership as Registrar and Secretary General of the MCIA, Neeti has played an important role in strengthening the institution's standing and credibility within the international arbitration community. Her commitment to institutional excellence, transparent and effective arbitral appointments, and the promotion of best practices in arbitration is commendable. Beyond her institutional role, Neeti has demonstrated a genuine commitment to fostering dialogue, collaboration and stronger connections across the arbitration community, both regionally and internationally. I am confident that her experience, dedication and collaborative approach would make her a valuable addition to the CIArb Board of Trustees."

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**Steven Lim FCIArb** · Arbitrator, 39 Essex Chambers

"India has an important place in the development of international arbitration, both in the Indo-Pacific and globally. This is not only because of the scale of its economy but also the volume and complexity of the cross-border disputes involving Indian parties.

Few practitioners have contributed as significantly to the development and maturation of international arbitration in India as Neeti Sachdeva. As Registrar and Secretary General, she has played a central role in building the MCIA into a pan-Indian institution. MCIA has been at the forefront of the institutionalisation of arbitration in India, advocating the transition from a predominantly ad hoc, court-influenced culture towards institutional arbitration. This change has embedded international best practices, making Indian arbitration more efficient, responsive and internationally attuned. In the process, MCIA has become a key node connecting India's arbitration community and its counterparts around the world. It is an active participant in the cross-border dialogue and exchange of ideas that sustain the vitality of international arbitration and promote the progressive convergence of its principles and practices.

Neeti's experience, vision and drive would make her an invaluable asset to Ciarb's Board of Trustees."