



CONFERENCE

REPORT

**14TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
LAW AND POLICY ISSUES**

&

11TH ANNUAL INBA AWARD

26TH November 2025

INAUGURAL SESSION



The Indian National Bar Association (INBA) successfully hosted the 14th Annual International Conference on Law and Policy Issues, coinciding with the 76th Constitution Day of India. The event, held on November 26, 2025, at Constitution Club of India, brought together distinguished guests, faculty members, professors from various law universities, and law students.

The conference commenced with the lighting of the lamp by Hon'ble Ms. Rekha Palli, Former Justice of High Court of Delhi; Hon'ble Mr. Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Former Justice Allahabad High Court, Ms. Veena Ralli, Mediator Delhi High Court Mediation & Conciliation Centre; and Ms. Vinakshi Kadan Singh, Senior Advisor, Indian National Bar Association & Advocate Supreme Court of India.



This ceremonial gesture marked the beginning of the conference, which aimed to provide a platform for the legal community to discuss and deliberate on several important issues.

| Address by Chief Guest | Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Palli, Former Justice, Delhi High Court | 14th Annual International Conference |

The conference was formally inaugurated with an inspiring and thought-provoking inaugural address delivered by Hon'ble Ms. Justice Rekha Palli, Former Judge, High Court of Delhi.

Justice Palli began by extending a warm good morning to the dignitaries on the dais — Hon'ble Mr.



Justice Sudhir Saxena and Ms. Vina Ralli — and to the distinguished gathering of lawyers, judges, academicians and members of civil society. She humorously acknowledged the sacrifice made by lawyer-attendees who had chosen to “miss court” on a working day to be present at the early-morning session, and expressed her delight at speaking at an INBA's flagship event on the

auspicious occasion of Constitution Day.

Highlighting the significance of the day, Justice Palli remarked:

“It is a day set aside not merely for celebrating the Constitution, but for reaffirming our faith in the principles that shape the very jurisprudence of our nation.”

She commended the Indian National Bar Association for consistently creating vibrant platforms that bring together the bar, bench, academia and civil society for meaningful dialogue. She particularly appreciated the tireless efforts of Ms. Vinakshi Singh, describing her as the “backbone” of the conference who had single-handedly shouldered the responsibility this year, and requested the audience to give her a big round of applause.

Justice Palli emphasized that conferences such as these are not mere calendar events but form the backbone of professional enrichment. She expressed hope that the day-long deliberations would deepen the participants’ understanding of constitutional rights as well as fundamental duties — an aspect she noted is often overlooked in contemporary discourse.

“People only want to know about their rights. With your exchange of ideas, I’m sure you will be richer by the end of the day.”

Drawing from her nearly decade-long tenure on the bench, she described the Constitution as a “dynamic, living, breathing instrument — a vehicle of life” that grows with its people and through every small act of humanity. She stressed that the Constitution’s spirit is reflected both in landmark judgments of constitutional courts and in laws that protect the vulnerable, while simultaneously ensuring that the mightiest remain answerable to the rule of law.

“There was a time when we used to believe that if you have backing or money, you will not be caught by the law. That perception is changing gradually. Ultimately, our Constitution ensures that they remain answerable to law.”

Justice Palli urged the audience to treat the conference not merely as a meeting of legal minds but as an opportunity to engage, reflect and collaborate on law and policy issues that will shape India’s future. She called upon everyone to recommit themselves to the constitutional values of service to humanity, respect for equality and dedication to justice.

In a powerful concluding note, she quoted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

“However good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad if those who are called to work it are a bad lot. The converse is also true — however bad a Constitution may be, if those who are entrusted to work it turn out to be good, the Constitution will prove to be good.”

She reminded the gathering that the working of the Constitution does not depend solely on its text but on the character, integrity and commitment of the people who operate it.

Justice Rekha Palli ended her address on an optimistic note, wishing the participants a fulfilling day of learning and idea-exchange, and reiterated that constitutional democracy is “not a finished project, but an ongoing exercise” whose endurance depends on the daily engagement of citizens.

The inaugural address was received with resounding applause and set an inspiring tone for the rest of the conference proceedings.

| Address by Chief Guest | Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Former Justice, Allahabad High Court | 14th Annual International Conference |



Following the inaugural address by Hon’ble Ms. Justice Rekha Palli, the gathering was privileged to hear from the Chief Guest, **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Sudhir Kumar Saxena**, former Judge of the Allahabad High Court.

Justice Saxena began on a light yet appreciative note:

He congratulated INBA for consistently organising well-attended events and urged more people to join this meaningful mission for society. Speaking on the significance of Constitution Day, Justice Saxena reminded the audience that on 26 November 1949 “we the people” adopted the Constitution, which came into force on 26 January 1950. He proudly observed:

“This living testament of our aspirations has stood the test of time. Look at Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan — constitutions have failed elsewhere, but ours has not only survived; we are becoming stronger and stronger.”

Justice Saxena then placed before the conference a powerful theme for the day’s deliberations — **dignity** of the individual. Quoting a popular couplet that resonates deeply with the Preamble, he said:

“Na nazar jhuka ke jiyo, na muh chhupa kar jiyo. Samvidhan ne haq diya hai sar utha ke jiyo”

He revealed that the concept of dignity has been at the heart of most of his judgments, particularly with regard to the treatment of people in jails, police stations and everyday life. Drawing a poignant example, he said:

*“A traffic constable will abuse the rickshaw-puller but not the car owner. How do we treat those who serve us in different capacities? I still remember the scene from **Lage Raho Munna Bhai** where Sanjay Dutt tells his girl — see how a person treats the waiter; that reveals his character. The driver, the reader, the Class-IV employee — everyone is serving the nation in their own way. We must not feel shy in treating them with equal dignity.”*

Justice Saxena strongly emphasised the enforcement of **Fundamental Duties** under Article 51A. He disclosed that a few years ago he had personally written to the Prime Minister suggesting that the widespread practice of abusing others using the names of their mother or wife should be declared an offence. He stressed:

“If the government simply announces that this will be curbed, the police will stop it, and society will follow. It is not difficult.”

He urged the delegates to centre the day’s discussions and technical sessions around the theme of **dignity** — dignity of every human being, whether a Class-IV employee, a rag-picker, a beggar, or a highly placed individual.

Justice Saxena expressed hope that the resolutions emerging from the conference would bring tangible change in society. He once again thanked Ms. Vinakshi and the entire INBA team for the invitation and for their commendable efforts.

The address, delivered with characteristic passion and concern for human dignity, received prolonged applause and deeply influenced the thematic focus of the subsequent panel discussions and technical sessions throughout the day.

| Address by Chief Guest at the Valedictory Session & 11th INBA Awards | Hon’ble Mr. Justice K.G Balakrishnan, Former Chief Justice of India | 11th Annual INBA Awards |

The day-long deliberations and technical sessions concluded with a grand valedictory ceremony that also featured the prestigious **11th INBA Annual Legal Excellence Awards**.

The chief guest for the evening, **Hon’ble Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan**, Former Chief Justice of India, was warmly welcomed amidst thunderous applause. Justice Balakrishnan began his speaking on the profound significance of **Constitution Day**, the former Chief Justice observed:



“We are gathered here on a wonderful day — Constitution Day. India survives as a stable and strong nation only because of this Constitution. Look at our neighbouring countries — many of them wither away or remain perpetually unstable because of constitutional crises; they cannot even finalise a Prime Minister or Head of State. We are extremely fortunate that our Constitution clearly carves out

the powers as well as the limitations of every institution. The moment any institution transgresses its limits, the Constitution itself provides the remedy.”

He went on to describe the Constitution as an “everlasting, vibrant and continuing document” that is, in many ways, even more important than Independence Day:

“Independence Day is glorious, but the Constitution is the living, breathing charter that governs our daily lives and grants invaluable rights to every citizen. In no other country in the world can an ordinary citizen walk straight into the highest court of the land and seek justice directly — that is the unique strength of our Constitution.”

Justice Balakrishnan expressed happiness that the Indian National Bar Association had chosen Constitution Day to honour distinguished legal luminaries through its annual awards, thereby reinforcing the importance of 26 November.

Turning to the legal profession, he stressed the urgent need for **continuous legal education**:

“Legal education has no limitations; it is a lifelong process. In the United States and several other countries, lawyers are mandatorily required to attend continuing legal education programmes — failure to do so invites disciplinary notices. We in India must also move seriously in this direction. The only challenge is the sheer number of lawyers, but that cannot be an excuse. We must make systematic efforts to provide regular, high-quality training to the Bar.”

In his concluding remarks, Justice Balakrishnan once again thanked INBA for the invitation and extended warm congratulations to all the award recipients for their outstanding contributions to the legal profession and the cause of justice.

The former Chief Justice’s succinct yet powerful address, delivered with his characteristic simplicity and authority, left a deep impact on the gathering and provided a fitting culmination to the Constitution Day celebrations.

The evening then proceeded with the felicitation ceremony and the presentation of the **11th INBA Annual Legal Excellence Awards** to distinguished members of the bench, bar, academia and legal fraternity.

| Interactive Session on “Technology and Reduction of Case Pendency” by Guest of Honor at the Valedictory Session & 11th INBA Awards | Shri Ajay Gupta, Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice | 11th Annual INBA Awards |

The pre-award interactive session was graced by **Hon’ble Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan**, Former Chief Justice of India, and moderated by **Shri Ajay Gupta**, Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India.

Shri Ajay Gupta began by expressing his gratitude to Justice Balakrishnan and the INBA for the audience for the opportunity to speak on a subject very close to his heart — the use of technology to

tackle the massive pendency of over 6.5 crore cases in Indian courts, of which nearly 50 % involve the Union of India as a party.

Key highlights of Shri Gupta's address and interaction:



He highlighted the **Legal Information Management & Briefing System (LIMBS)**, a unified, real-time platform covering Supreme Court, High Courts, district courts, tribunals and arbitration matters involving the Government of India. Over 87 ministries, 3,000 nodal officers and 13,000 empanelled advocates are already using the platform with a common template and 40 KPIs

for monitoring.

While digitisation through LIMBS has brought transparency and data availability, Shri Gupta candidly stated:

“Digitisation alone will not reduce pendency. We now need data-driven decision-making and intelligent automation.”

He invited the audience to suggest three technological solutions and received instant responses on analytical tools, elimination of non-meritorious/repetitive cases, and qualitative segregation of matters.

On the role of **Artificial Intelligence**, he shared ongoing initiatives:

- Auto-generation of actionable points and concise summaries from lengthy judgments/orders
- AI-assisted drafting of replies and counter-affidavits
- Automatic detection and curing of defects in filings
- Formatting documents as per individual court requirements

He stressed the need for **clubbing of similar cases**, removal of inconsistencies in laws and rules, simplification of legal language (“bhasha ko saral karayein”), and robust legal research to prevent prolonged litigation over trivial amounts (e.g., arbitration claims below ₹1 lakh pending for over ten years).

In a direct appeal to the legal fraternity, he said:

“We need more intelligent and proactive inputs from advocates. Many routine tasks — filing, tracking hearing dates, alerts — can be fully automated. Let us together make the system prompt, predictable and citizen-friendly.”

The lively, candid and solution-oriented session ended with Shri Gupta inviting lawyers, academicians and researchers to collaborate with the Department of Legal Affairs on pilot projects and empirical studies to further reduce governmental litigation and overall pendency.

The audience greatly appreciated the rare openness and practical approach displayed by a senior officer of the Ministry of Law & Justice.

14TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAW & POLICY

Panel 1: Cross- Border Mediation: Legal Recognition And Enforcement Challenges



Mrs. Veena Ralli, Mediator, Delhi High Court Mediation & Conciliation Centre moderate the session, and the other panellists were Mr. Amar Kumar Sundram, GC- Senior VP Legal & Chief Compliance Officer at NEC-Corporation India, Dr. Deevanshu Shrivastava, Former Founding Dean & Professor of GL Bajaj Institute of Law, Mr. Mayank Grover Partner at Singhania & Partners, Mr. Anubhav Gupta Partner at Khurana & Khurana and Ms. Swati Sharma Counsel at AZB & Partners. Mrs. Veena Ralli emphasized the importance of mediation in reducing the burden on the judicial system. She highlighted how mediation focuses on the present and future of parties, unlike the traditional legal system. She encouraged the adoption of mediation as an appropriate dispute resolution mechanism, citing its growing popularity and effectiveness.

Panel 2: The Challenges And Opportunities Of International Trade Law In The Era Of Globalization



The panel, moderated by Mr. K Satish Kumar, Group Chief Legal Officer at Intellect Design Arena, brought together Mr. Akash Gupta, Associate Professor and Assistant Director at Jindal Global Law School, Mr. Rajat Bose, Partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., Mr. Gauhar Mirza, Partner at Saraf & Partners, and Mr. Satwik Shekhar, Consultant (Legal) and Assistant Professor at CTIL. The session examined how globalization is reshaping international trade law, highlighting tensions such as geopolitical shifts, digital trade barriers, and evolving WTO reforms, while also spotlighting opportunities like tech-driven trade facilitation, ESG integration, and emerging trade agreements. Mr. Satish Kumar set the stage by underscoring the need for adaptive legal frameworks. Mr. Akash Gupta discussed gaps in academic curricula and research for preparing lawyers to handle cross-border digital

commerce. Mr. Rajat Bose analysed recent WTO dispute trends and the surge of regional trade pacts. Mr. Gauhar Mirza focused on sustainability and ESG clauses in contracts, and Mr. Satwik Shekhar highlighted arbitration and mediation mechanisms for efficient dispute resolution. A lively Q&A followed, offering participants a nuanced view of balancing regulatory compliance with business agility in a rapidly shifting global landscape.

Panel 3: Legal Challenges Of International Business Transactions And Cross-Border Disputes



The panel was moderated by Mr. Harsh Purohit, Professor & Dean at Banasthali Vidhyapith, and featured Mr. Shujath Bin Ali, Chief Legal Officer at Fourth Partner Energy, Mr. Ketan Mukhija, Senior Partner and Head – Corporate at Burgeon Law, Mr. Preet Singh Oberoi, Founder & Managing Director at CPSO Law

Office, Mr. Achint Singh Gyani, Managing Partner at ADG Legal, Advocates & Consultants, and Mr. Siddharth Raja, Senior Partner at Vertices Partners. The session examined the complexities of cross-border M&A, regulatory compliance, dispute resolution mechanisms (including arbitration and mediation), jurisdictional challenges, and the impact of divergent data-privacy and sanctions regimes on international transactions. Mr. Purohit set the context by highlighting the growing need for harmonised frameworks, while the panellists' shared insights from energy contracts, corporate structuring, emerging market risks, and innovative dispute-resolution strategies. The discussion underscored the importance of proactive risk mapping, robust due diligence, and agile legal counsel to navigate geopolitical shifts and digital transformation. A vibrant Q&A followed, offering attendees practical tools to mitigate cross-border legal exposure and enhance transactional efficiency.

Panel 4: Artificial Intelligence And Intellectual Property: Ownership And Liability In AI-Generated Works

The fourth panel discussion was moderated by Rishabh Gandhi, Founder of Rishabh Gandhi and Advocates, and featured Mr. Zameer Nathani, Global General Counsel at DNEG, Mr. Dhruv Kaushal, Associate Director at Deloitte, Mr. Arunav Guha Roy, Partner at Talwar Thakore & Associates, and Dr. Chirag Balyan, Associate Professor at DY Patil School of Law. The session explored the pressing questions of copyright ownership when works are created by AI, liability for infringement, and the



adequacy of existing IP frameworks to address emerging technologies. Rishabh Gandhi set the stage by outlining the rapid rise of generative AI tools and the resulting legal grey areas. Zameer Nathani discussed industry perspectives on contractual allocation of rights in media and entertainment, while Dhruv Kaushal highlighted risk-assessment frameworks used by consulting firms. Arunav Guha Roy examined recent judicial trends and statutory gaps in India and abroad, and Dr. Chirag Balyan provided an academic lens on policy recommendations and curriculum integration. The panel underscored the need for collaborative, cross-disciplinary approaches to shape future regulation. A lively Q&A addressed practical steps for businesses, the role of data sets in IP ownership, and potential legislative reforms.

Panel 5: The Role Of International Criminal Law In Addressing War Crimes And Crimes Against Humanity



The final panel, moderated by Mrs. Juhi Arora, Founder of Juhi Arora & Associates, brought together Mr. Milan Laskar, Standing Counsel for the Ministry of Education, Mr. Pawan Kumar, National Head – Legal at PNB Housing, and Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, Additional Standing Counsel (DDA and Northern Railway Counsel). The session examined how international criminal law frameworks, including the ICC and ad-hoc tribunals, enforce accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity, the challenges of jurisdiction, evidence gathering, and state cooperation, as well as India's domestic obligations under treaties and emerging norms. Mrs. Arora set the context by highlighting the growing relevance of universal jurisdiction, while the panelists shared insights on the interplay between national litigation and international tribunals, the role of legal counsel in advising governments and corporations on risk mitigation, and practical hurdles in prosecuting complex conflict-related cases. The discussion also covered the impact of digital evidence, victim participation, and the need for capacity building in developing jurisdictions. A robust Q&A addressed avenues for strengthening compliance mechanisms and fostering global solidarity in pursuit of justice.

11TH ANNUAL INBA AWARDS

In addition to the conference, INBA also hosted the 11th Annual INBA Awards, which recognized the outstanding contributions of lawyers and legal professionals across various categories. The awards ceremony was a testament to INBA's commitment to promoting excellence in the legal profession. The awards were presented in the presence of Hon'ble K.G Balakrishnan, Former Chief Justice of India and



Shri Ajay Gupta, Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice. The awards ceremony honored various in-house counsels from corporate sectors, general counsels, and distinguished lawyers from different fields. The awardees included DY Patil

School of Law (Emerging Law College of the Year 2025); Clasis Law (Law Firm of the Year 2025); Bar & Bench (Law Portal of the Year 2025); Mr. Goutam Narayan Ghosh (Legal Icon of the Year 2025); Dhruv Kaushal Associate Director at Deloitte (Innovative Chief Counsel of the Year 2025 Data Privacy); Rajeev J. Tripathi VP Legal & FAA at GSTN (Promising Legal Counsel of the Year 2025 Finance); Zameer Nathani Global General Counsel at DNAG (Global General Counsel of the Year 2025); Ketan Mukhija at Burgeon Law (Counsel of the Year 2025 Mergers & Acquisitions); Anubhav Gupta Partner Corporate & Taxation at Khurana & Khurana (Young Lawyer of the Year 2025 Male) & many more.

Overall, the 14th Annual International Conference on Law and Policy Issues and the 11th Annual INBA Awards were a resounding success, providing a platform for the legal community to come together, share knowledge, and celebrate excellence.

SOME GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



