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+44 (0)20 7583 1770

Harish Salve KC

"A name to be reckoned with."
– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2025



Year of call: **2013**
Appointed to silk: **2020**
Degree: **Bachelor of Commerce, LLB (Nagpur University)**

Harish Salve KC is one of the world's leading arbitration counsel.

He is a very experienced and senior lawyer with a global reputation for international commercial arbitration and litigation. His practice also encompasses public international law, human rights, civil fraud, public, energy and tax.

Harish is admitted to the Bar in England & Wales and was appointed a King's Counsel in 2020.

Harish was formerly Solicitor General of India and is a Senior Advocate at the Indian Bar (1992), practicing largely in the Supreme Court of India. In 2015, it was announced that Harish had been awarded one of India's highest accolades, the Padma Bhushan.

EXPERIENCE

Arbitration

Harish is one of the world's leading international arbitration counsel.

Harish has arbitrated commercial cases under ICC, LCIA, SIAC and UNCITRAL rules and has a particular expertise in the area of Bilateral Investment Treaty Arbitrations.

He has been appointed by the ICC and the LCIA as an arbitrator in arbitrations in London, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Delhi. He is an SIAC panel member.

"The client heavily relied upon his expertise and experience, and he guided them well."
– CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

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Cases

Vodafone BV v Union of India

2012-20

Successfully represented Vodafone BV in a Bilateral Investment Treaty arbitration against India over whether the phone company should have withheld $2.2bn in capital gains taxes. The Tribunal consisted of Sir Franklin Berman, Hon'ble Yves Fortier and Dr. Rodrigo Oreamuno.

ArcelorMittal USA LLC v Essar Steel Limited and others

[2019] EWHC 724 (Comm)

Acted for ArcelorMittal USA in a claim for enforcement of foreign arbitral award worth in excess of US$1bn involving applications for search, freezing and information orders in England and various foreign jurisdictions, including Cayman Islands, Mauritius, USA and India, in dispute between two multi-national companies.

Vedanta v Union of India

2015-19

Represented Vedanta, a UK listed company, in a Bilateral Investment Treaty arbitration against India. The Tribunal panel consisted Mr. Michael Hwang, Mr. James Spigelman and Mr. Donald McRae.

Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Limited (India) v. The Government of the Republic of Indonesia

2015-18

Represented the IMFA in an investment treaty claim against Indonesia under the India-Indonesia Bilateral Investment Treaty arising out of a failed coal mining project, which lead to a breach of the India-Indonesia BIT.

RIL Oil and Natural Gas Corporation v Government of India

2011-18

Represented Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) in a $1.7 billion UNCITRAL dispute against the Indian Government.

Ras al-Khaimah Investment Authority (RAKIA) v. India

2016-17

Represented RAKIA in a BIT claim against India arising out of a failed MoU between the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) and RAKIA for bauxite supply, which was allegedly cancelled due to the concerns of the tribal people of that area. The cancellation of the project was alleged to be a breach of the Indian-UAE BIT. The Tribunal comprised of L. Hoffmann, J.W. Rowley and C.K. Prasad.

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McDonalds v Vikram Bakshi

2013-17

Acted for McDonalds in an LCIA arbitration valued at $100m. The dispute is between McDonalds and subsidiary and an Indian franchise.

Emirati State-owned Vehicle v Indian Industrialist

Acting for a well-known industrialist in a $125m+ dispute relating to an investment in India alleging various breaches of warranty.

Cairn Energy Plc & Cairn UK Holdings Limited v Government of India

2016

A UNCITRAL arbitration dispute related to retrospective tax measures adopted by the Indian Government with over $5.5 billion at stake.

Docomo NTT v Tata Industries

2015-16

Acted in a $1bn ICC arbitration dispute over a put option in a share purchase agreement.

Astro and SAEHL v India

2015

Represented Malaysian and Mauritian investors (in the DTH and Radio Sector) in an arbitration arising out of a BIT claim against India.

Devas

2011-15

Acted in an arbitration between an Indian company established by American Shareholders and a Government of India company.

Bharat Aluminium Co vs Kaiser Aluminium Technical

2012 (9) SCC 552

Appeared in the Supreme Court in the case relating to the jurisdiction of Indian courts in relation to international arbitrations.

Public International Law

Harish has a broad and distinguished Public International Law practice representing clients including States and multi-national companies.

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Cases

High Commissioner for Pakistan in the United Kingdom v Prince Muffakham Jah and Others

[2019] EWHC 2551 (Ch)

Appeared for the President of India and the Union of India in a £35 million partition era dispute between India, Pakistan and successors in title to 7th Nizam of Hyderabad.

Jadhav Case (India v. Pakistan)

ICJ, 2019

Acted as lead Counsel for the Union of India before the International Court of Justice which held the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to be in breach of its obligations under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 in failing to provide consular access to an Indian national sentenced to death by a military court in Pakistan. (Judgment dated 17 July 2019)

Cauvery Waters Dispute

2018

Appeared for the Union of India in the Supreme Court relating to the sharing of Cauvery waters.

Marshall Islands v. India

2014-16

Represented India before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in proceedings instituted by the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) against nine States, including India and UK, with respect to nuclear disarmament. The ICJ held public hearings in March 2016 on the question of its jurisdiction and upheld India's objection to jurisdiction based on the absence of a dispute between the parties.

State of Tamil Nadu v State of Kerala (Mullaperiyar Dam)

2014

Appeared for the State of Kerala in a dispute relating to the Mulliperiyar Dam.

Republic of Italy v. Union of India

(2013) 4 scc 721

Appeared for the Italian Government in the Supreme Court of India in the case relating to the Italian Marines.

Narmada Bachao Andolan v Union of India and Others

2000

Appeared for the State of Gujarat in the dispute relating to the Sardar Sarovar Dam.

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Commercial

Harish has a world-class commercial law practice. His expertise in the courts of both England and Wales and India gives him unrivalled experience as lead counsel representing multi-national corporations in multi-jurisdictional litigation.

Cases

Reliance Industries Ltd. v. SEBI

2020

Represented Reliance Industries before the Securities Appellate Tribunal against an order passed by SEBI banning Reliance and its promoter companies from trading in equity derivatives based on allegations of market manipulation strategies undertaken by Reliance amounting to unfair trade practice. (Judgment awaited)

ArcelorMittal India Private Limited v. Satish Kumar Gupta

(2019 (2) SCC 1; 2019 SCC OnLine SC 1478)

Lead Counsel for ArcelorMittal before the Supreme Court of India which upheld the Resolution Plan submitted by ArcelorMittal to buy out the insolvent Essar Steel India Limited under the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

ArcelorMittal USA LLC v Essar Steel Limited and others

[2019] EWHC 724 (Comm)

Acted for ArcelorMittal USA in a claim for enforcement of foreign arbitral award worth in excess of US$1bn involving applications for search, freezing and information orders in England and various foreign jurisdictions, including Cayman Islands, Mauritius, USA and India, in dispute between two multi-national companies.

Union of India v. Vodafone Group PLC

2018

Represented Vodafone before the Delhi High Court in an anti-arbitration suit brought by the Union of India against arbitration proceedings initiated by Vodafone under the Bilateral Investment Treaty between UK and India. The Single judge held in favour of Vodafone in May 2018.

2G Spectrum Cases

2012

Appeared in the Supreme Court of India for the Telecom Cases relating to 2G licences.

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Cyrus Investments Pvt. Ltd. v. Tata Sons Ltd

2017

Represented Tata Sons against a claim brought by a minority shareholder under allegations of oppression and mismanagement. The case involved complex issues concerning corporate governance. The National Companies Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) held in favour of the claimant but the Supreme Court of India has stayed this judgment.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

- Bachelor of Commerce – Nagpur University [1975]
- Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants [1978]
- Bachelor of Legislative Laws (LLB) – Nagpur University [1980]

General Experience

- Member of the Singapore International Commercial Courts Committee appointed by the Singapore Government in May 2013.
- Member of the Court of Arbitration of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre.
- Member of the London Court of International Arbitration.
- Member of the Permanent Court of International Arbitration (nominated by India).

India Practice

- Enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1980.
- Set up independent practice in 1986.
- Designated a Senior Advocate in 1992.
- Solicitor General of India from November 1999 to November 2002.
- Harish was conferred with the Padma Bhushan (the third Highest Civilian Award in India) in 2015.
- Regular Practice as Lead Counsel in the Supreme Court of India, specialising in Commercial laws, taxation, constitutional and administrative law.
- Harish has appeared in almost all High Courts of India in cases relating to his areas of specialisation.

Amicus Curiae Briefs

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- In 1996, appointed Amicus Curiae by the Supreme Court of India in the case relating to the enforcement of the Forest Protection Act 1980, which is an ongoing case.
- In 1996, appointed Amicus Curiae by the Supreme Court of India in a case dealing with the air pollution in Delhi – on account of the orders of the Supreme Court of India made in this case, the bus fleet in Delhi stands converted to CNG.
- Appointed as Amicus Curiae by the Supreme Court of India in a Public Interest Litigation seeking directions for proper investigation of riot cases in Gujarat arising out of the riots in 2002.

VAT registration number: 195378460

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board