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There has been a lot of buzz around General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a new law by the European Union (EU) around privacy of data that came into effect on May 25, 2018. Considering the far-reaching effects that data theft and data breach have in this digital age, here's a write up on the need to safeguard data has become paramount.

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Hon'ble Justice J.S. Verma – India's Gateway to A Collegium System

Hon'ble Justice Jagdish Sharan Verma was an Indian jurist who served as the 27th Chief Justice of India from 25 March 1997 to 18 January 1998. He remains one of India's most highly regarded Chief Justices and eminent jurists. Read on to know more about the eminent jurist who brought India the collegium system.



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Role of Experts in Construction Disputes & Arbitration

■ ROHIT SINGHAL



he construction industry is regarded worldwide, as one of the most conflict and dispute ridden business sectors. The issues typically in a construction dispute are those related to delays in project, prolongation costs and changes in scope; resulting into time and cost overruns.

Globally, in complex construction disputes under arbitration, the independent experts are frequently appointed to provide evidence and to assist the tribunal in its decision-making. A thorough and convincing expert testimony can help in easy resolution of host of issues, related to delays and disruptions, claim quantum and technical disputes.

The expert is usually appointed by the respective parties and in some cases; the arbitration tribunal would make the appointment on its own. Irrespective of the mode of appointment, the primary duty of the expert is towards the tribunal. An expert has to be an independent professional and should carry out proper due diligence to ensure that he/she, or the firm represented does not have any kind of relationship with the parties involved in the dispute as this may impair objectivity and independence.

Experts in construction matters are often used to decipher engineering standards, undertake root cause analysis, analyze schedule delays/perform forensic delay analysis and undertake quantum assessment i.e. valuation of the claims. Forensic delay analysis is one of the most widely used tool to quantify excusable and compensable delays in a construction dispute and majority of construction



arbitrations rely on delay experts for the assessment of the delay disputes.

Key benefits in engaging Experts: -

- Root cause of disputes becomes more comprehensible for the tribunal
- Cost effective as it reduces the arbitration time
- Reduces the truck load data into sizable documents
- Unbiased & impartial analysis makes the decision more factual

The International Bar Association (IBA) rules provide that the arbitrators may require party's experts opining on the same issue to meet, confer and report on the areas on which they agree and disagree. This is one best tool that arbitrators may employ to bring efficiency and clarity to what can be a mess of expert opinion. It is not uncommon for arbitrators to ask parties to have the experts on the same issues testify together in a panel in front of the arbitrators at the hearing. This practice, which is sometimes referred to as witness conferencing or 'hot tubbing', can also help the arbitrators to make efficient use of the experts in a matter by cutting through posturing and building a degree of consensus. [W](#)



Rohit Singhal is an expert in construction arbitrations/disputes and is Managing Director of MASIN. MASIN is a global construction claim management firm, which provides expert services for construction and engineering disputes and arbitration.



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