

Amendment and commencement master

1996 commencement, 2015 reform, 2019 reform, 2021 reform and the 2020 adaptation/retrospective dates.

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India-first professional reference

Source status: Current architecture and amendment footnotes are mapped to the official India Code consolidation marked "As on 1 June 2026". This page is a detailed implementation publication, not a substitute for the signed Gazette, event-date law, applicable High Court rules or matter-specific advice. Open official Act PDF.

Dedicated Finin2min Summary - Chapter in 2 Minutes

- 1996 commencement, 2015 reform, 2019 reform, 2021 reform and the 2020 adaptation/retrospective dates.
- Use a single source-controlled matter file.
- Assign business, legal, finance, tax and document owners.
- Preserve event-date law and procedural chronology.
- Close only after award/settlement, accounting, tax, payment and retention controls are complete.

Section-by-section provision map

Provision / gate	Statutory focus	Finin2min decode	Implementation	Evidence / control
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		August 1996 by G.S.R. 375(E).	effective date before using a template or precedent.	Official India Code consolidation
2015	Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 - Act 3 of 2016	Major reforms to referral, interim relief, neutrality, procedure, timelines, costs, challenge, enforcement and schedules; generally effective 23 October 2015.	Reconcile each amended section and effective date before using a template or precedent.	Official Act footnotes/ current consolidation
2019	Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 - Act 33 of 2019	Introduced Part IA, institutional and procedural changes; provisions have section-specific commencement/effect dates and must not be assumed uniformly operative.	Reconcile each amended section and effective date before using a template or precedent.	Official Act footnotes/ current consolidation
2020	Jammu and Kashmir / Ladakh adaptation orders	Territorial and State-amendment/adaptation changes reflected in current consolidation.	Reconcile each amended section and effective date before using a template or precedent.	Official Act footnotes/ current consolidation
2021	Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021 - Act 3 of 2021	Inserted the fraud/ corruption unconditional-stay proviso with stated retrospective application; substituted section 43J and omitted the Eighth Schedule with effect from 4 November 2020.	Reconcile each amended section and effective date before using a template or precedent.	Official Act footnotes/ current consolidation

Finin2min clause-by-clause decode

1996 - Act 26 of 1996

Enacted 16 August 1996; brought into force 22 August 1996 by G.S.R. 375(E).

Implementation: Reconcile each amended section and effective date before using a template or precedent.

Evidence: Official India Code consolidation

2015 - Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 - Act 3 of 2016

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Finin2min implementation explanation

Create one matter control sheet containing clause, seat, governing law, institution/rules, tribunal, court, claims, counterclaims, limitation, procedural calendar, budget, evidence, settlement authority and source version. Assign business, legal, finance and document owners.

Practical examples and calculations

- 1996 commencement, 2015 reform, 2019 reform, 2021 reform and the 2020 adaptation/retrospective dates.
- Create a transaction-specific chronology, authority matrix, quantum sheet and source register before applying this module.

Quantum framework: separate principal, admitted amount, disputed amount, set-off/counterclaim, contractual/statutory interest, tax, costs, security, payments and mitigation. Preserve a reproducible spreadsheet and source documents.

Practical transaction application

At contract stage, define scope, seat/venue, governing law, institution/rules, tribunal number/appointment, language, notices, interim relief, confidentiality, consolidation/joinder, emergency relief, costs and survival. Link performance, acceptance, price, tax and change-control records to the dispute clause.

Authority, consent and execution controls

Verify legal entity, board/partner/delegated authority, power of attorney, notice authority, arbitrator appointment authority, pleading affidavit, settlement limits and payment/security approval. Preserve changes in directors/partners and insolvency status.

Stamp duty and registration alerts

The arbitration agreement may be in a stamped instrument. Under current Supreme Court law, stamping defects require a curative statutory process and do not by themselves erase the arbitration agreement; however admissibility, impounding, State rates and the underlying transaction still require current jurisdiction-specific review. Awards and settlements may also attract stamp/registration consequences by subject matter and State law.

Evidence and document-retention checklist

Maintain legal hold, originals register, immutable exports, metadata, contract versions, notices/service, procedural orders, pleadings, document production, witness/expert files, transcripts, award, court records, security/payment and source-version hashes. Retention continues through challenge, enforcement and limitation.

- Executed contract and amendments
- Clause/rules version
- Authority and power of attorney
- Notices and service evidence
- Chronology and limitation sheet
- Invoices, delivery and GST records
- Pleadings and procedural orders
- Document production index
- Witness and expert files
- Hearing transcript/record
- Award/settlement and delivery
- Court, security and payment records

Performance, delivery and payment controls

Tie obligations to deliverables, acceptance criteria, change orders, certification, invoices, tax documents, payment milestones, retention, liquidated damages and cure notices. Quantify admitted, disputed, set-off and counterclaim amounts separately.

Breach, loss, mitigation and remedy framework

Stop avoidable loss, preserve evidence, serve contract/statutory notices, offer cure where required, mitigate, secure assets/evidence, quantify causation/remoteness, choose interim relief and maintain consistent civil/arbitration/insolvency strategy.

Limitation and forum controls

Use separate clocks for cause of action, contractual notice/cure, section 21 commencement, section 11 petition, pleadings, award, section 33, section 34, section 37, enforcement, foreign-award objections and insolvency. Confirm exclusion, acknowledgement and court holidays from current law.

Arbitration and mediation interface

Arbitration, conciliation and mediation are distinct. Define when negotiation/mediation pauses or does not pause limitation, how settlements are authenticated, and how court/tribunal proceedings are stayed, withdrawn or converted into an award/settlement order.

Company, partnership, GST and tax overlays

Companies/LLP/partnership law controls authority and liability; GST/income tax affects invoice evidence, damages, interest, withholding and settlements; FEMA governs cross-border payment/award remittance; IBC may impose moratorium and claim filing; accounting standards govern provisions, contingent liabilities and award recognition.

Chapter-specific decision flowchart

Amendment and commencement master - decision flow



At each gate: verify current law, authority, limitation, evidence, quantum, remedy and cross-law overlays.

Finin2min Q&A

Is venue always the legal seat?

No. The clause, institutional rules and surrounding language must be analysed; the legal seat determines curial law and supervisory court.

Does filing a section 34 petition automatically stay enforcement?

No. A separate stay application/order is required under section 36, subject to the current statutory provisos.

Can an interested party unilaterally appoint the sole arbitrator?

Current Supreme Court neutrality jurisprudence makes such mechanisms high risk or invalid; use a neutral appointment process.

Does an unstamped contract make the arbitration clause non-existent?

Current Supreme Court law treats stamping as a curable issue and preserves separability; State stamp procedure and admissibility still require compliance.

Can a section 34 court re-hear the merits?

No. The court applies statutory grounds and current Supreme Court law; it is not a regular appeal.

Does negotiation automatically stop limitation?

No. Use a written standstill where lawful and calculate limitation under the Act, Limitation Act, acknowledgements and exclusions.

Can foreign awards be refused because the court disagrees with the facts?

Ordinarily no. Part II provides limited refusal grounds and excludes a merits review.

Should settlement authority be assumed from litigation authority?

No. Obtain specific board/partner/delegated authority and document tax, payment, release and default consequences.