With Mumbai being the second stop of the YSIAC Advocacy Roadshow after Tokyo, the YSIAC Advocacy Workshop marked the beginning of SIAC’s events in India for 2016. The workshop commenced with an introduction by Mr Pranav Mago, Head (South Asia) of SIAC. Ms Lim Seok Hui, CEO of SIAC and SIMC, welcomed the over 120 delegates and introduced the SIAC Rules 2016, which was the basis of the mock case scenario for the workshop. Mr Cyril Shroff, Managing Partner of the Venue Sponsor, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, delivered the opening address and this was followed by a brief account of the schedule and objectives of the event by Mr Ankit Goyal, Co-chair of the YSIAC Committee.

The panel consisted of Mr Darius Khambatta, Senior Advocate of the Bombay High Court, Ms Sherina Petit, Partner at Norton Rose Fullbright and Mr Alvin Yeo, SC, Chairman and Senior Partner at WongPartnership LLP. The mock scenario laid down issues of jurisdiction and emergency interim relief. The panel had been appointed as an ‘Emergency Arbitrator’ pursuant to an application made by the Claimant for emergency relief under Rule 30.2 and Schedule 1 of the SIAC Rules 2016, to rule on its own jurisdiction and whether or not to grant emergency interim relief, in the form of an injunction against the Respondents from invoking a bank guarantee in its favour. The three jurisdictional objections raised by the Respondents, the applicable test for the grant of interim relief and whether or not the tribunal should grant emergency interim relief were argued by accomplished and eloquent speakers including lawyers, partners, associates as well as counsels.

Mr Udit Mendiratta opened the arguments on behalf of the Respondents by challenging the jurisdiction of the Emergency Arbitrator, citing the pathological nature of the arbitration clause. The counter argument was presented by Mr Sahil Kanuga who used the judgement of the Indian Supreme Court in *Pricol* to support the Claimant’s stance. Mr Madhur Baya continued the arguments for the Respondents on the point of breach of pre-condition to arbitration and the mandatory nature of such condition. Ms Sapna Jhangiani countered by sticking to the limited facts available. The final preliminary argument on the proper parties to the arbitration was presented by Mr Vivekananda N and Ms Shalaka Patil for the Respondents and the Claimant respectively. The counsels were asked a number of questions by the Emergency Arbitrator, truly bringing out the flavour of arbitration proceedings in international arbitrations.
Mr Kabir Singh and Mr Sumit Rai presented arguments on behalf of the parties on the applicable test required for the emergency relief sought. The points presented were thoroughly tested by the Emergency Arbitrator, by examining the authorities cited by the counsels. The final arguments on the question of whether the relief should be granted was presented by Ms Niyati Gandhi and Mr Samuel Leong.

The proceedings were followed by a Q&A session with the panel moderated by Mr Kevin Nash. The panellists remarked on the different styles of advocacy showcased during the workshop which were prevalent in international arbitration. They also shared valuable insights on career paths with the young delegates by giving examples from their own careers.