ODR –India as a Global Hub

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ODR in India

- Advantages of ADR are well recognized
- ADR to ODR is a natural progression
- Challenge is
 - Acceptability in law
 - Affordability of the system
 - Adaptability of the users
 - Risk Perceptions
 - Technical preparedness

Risk Perceptions

- Two types of ODR disputes
 - Dispute is entirely online
 - Can be resolved without the intervention of a physical person
 - Eg: secondlife.com type disputes, online purchase related disputes, Domain name disputes
 - Can be executed on digital properties and does not require access to physical properties
 - Dispute where the impact is offline
 - Resolution needs reference to the Physical person
 - Can be executed only on a physical asset.
 - Eg: a Bank fraud such as Phishing, Disputes in any other business contracts/matrimonial disputes/Employer-Employee disputes

The Threat

- There are three major threats that can be identified for the ODR system
 - Identity threat
 - Privacy threat
 - Admissibility threat

Identity Threat

- How are we sure that the participant is who he declares to be?
 - IP address can be spoofed or masked
 - E-Mail address not properly mapped to a reliable identity

Criticality of ID

- In a digital only dispute
 - Physical ID is not critical
- In a cross society dispute
 - Physical ID mapping to digital ID is critical
 - Final resolution may involve execution of a decree in physical space
 - Eg: Defamation of a physical identity in cyber space and cyber frauds involving loss of physical society cash
 - Acceptance by physical society Courts and Law enforcement is necessary

Biggest Challenge to ODR development is therefore

- How do we map the physical identity of a person to his digital ID in a manner which is acceptable to law enforcement in both societies.
- How do we make the proceedings of an ODR process acceptable to members of Physical society including the law enforcement and judiciary so that the process can be easily ported to the physical world for execution with the assistance of the Police and Courts if required.

The object of this presentation is to bring to the attention of the ODR world that

- India has the necessary legal environment to meet these challenge
- A working solution is already in place to be used today if required
- India can be a global center for ODR

Why ODR is legally acceptable in India

Legal Support to ODR

- India has provided legal recognition to electronic documents
 - Sec 4 of ITA 2008
- India has defined how an electronic document can be authenticated in a manner which is admissible as evidence in any physical court
 - Digital signature on a digital document
 - Section 5 of ITA 2008 read with Sections 3 and 3A
 - Certified paper document
 - Section 65B of Indian Evidence Act

Section 4: Legal Recognition of Electronic Records

- Where any law provides that information or any other matter shall be in writing or in the typewritten or printed form, then, notwithstanding anything contained in such law, such requirement shall be deemed to have been satisfied if such information or matter is
 - (a)rendered or made available in an electronic form; and
 - (b)accessible so as to be usable for a subsequent reference

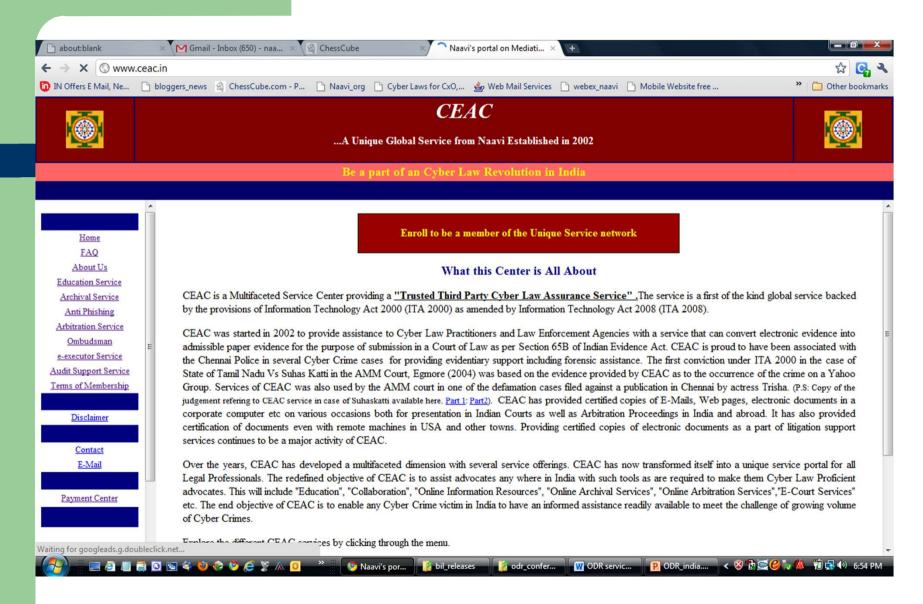
Section 5: Legal recognition of Electronic Signature

- Where any law provides that information or any other matter shall be authenticated by affixing the signature or any document should be signed or bear the signature of any person then, notwithstanding anything contained in such law, such requirement shall be deemed to have been satisfied, if such information or matter is authenticated by means of digital signature affixed in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government.
 - Explanation For the purposes of this section, "Signed", with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, shall, with reference to a person, mean affixing of his hand written signature or any mark on any document and the expression "Signature" shall be construed accordingly.

Admissibility of Electronic Records

- 65B (IEA). (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, any information contained in an electronic record which is printed on a paper, stored, recorded or copied in optical or magnetic media produced by a computer (hereinafter referred to as the computer output)
 - shall be deemed to be also a document, if the conditions mentioned in this section are satisfied in relation to the information and computer in question and
 - shall be admissible in any proceedings, without further proof or production of the original as evidence of any contents of the original or of any fact 'stated therein of which direct evidence would be admissible.

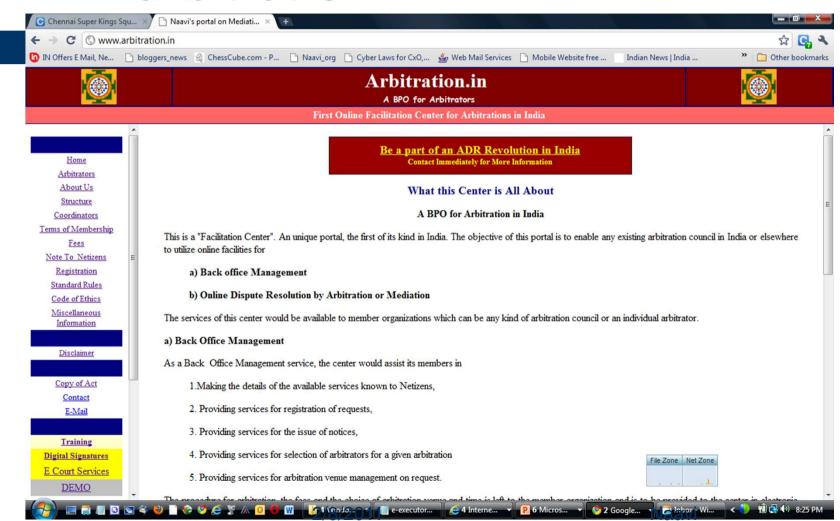
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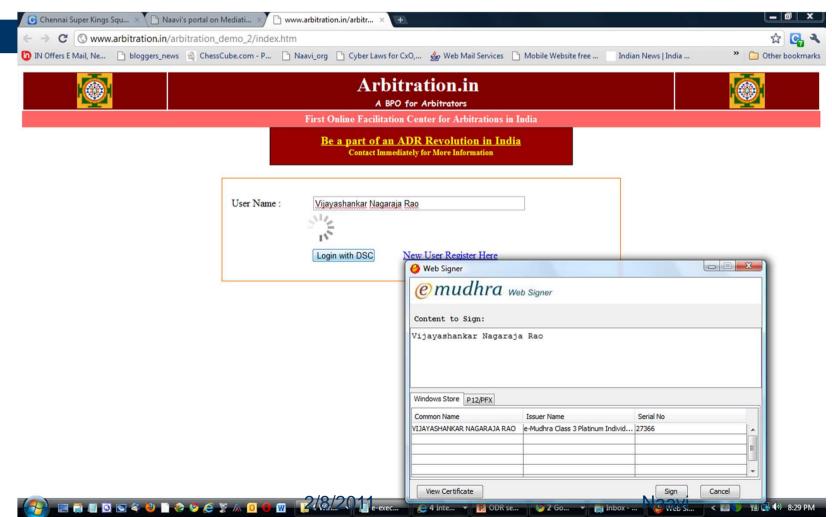
Log in through Digital Signature



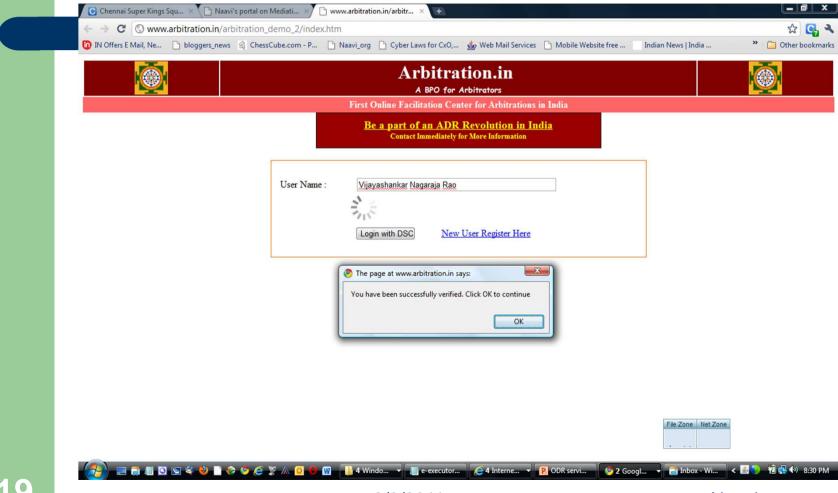




Use an approved digital certificate

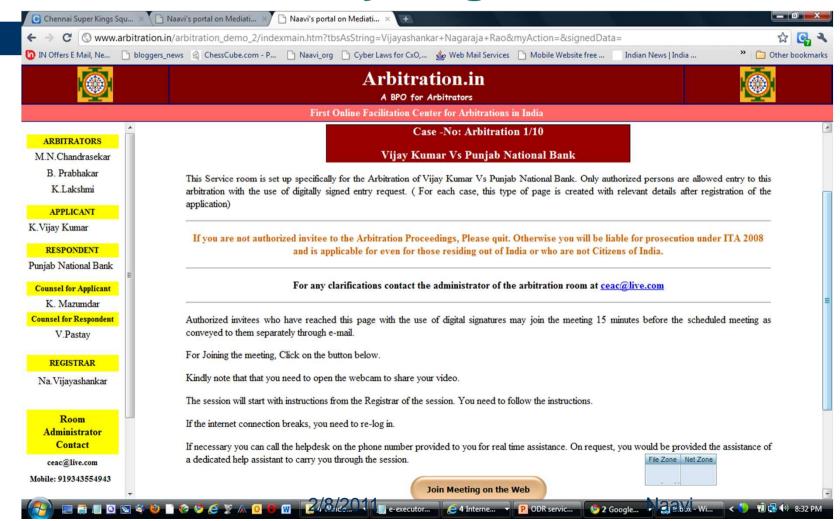


ID verified

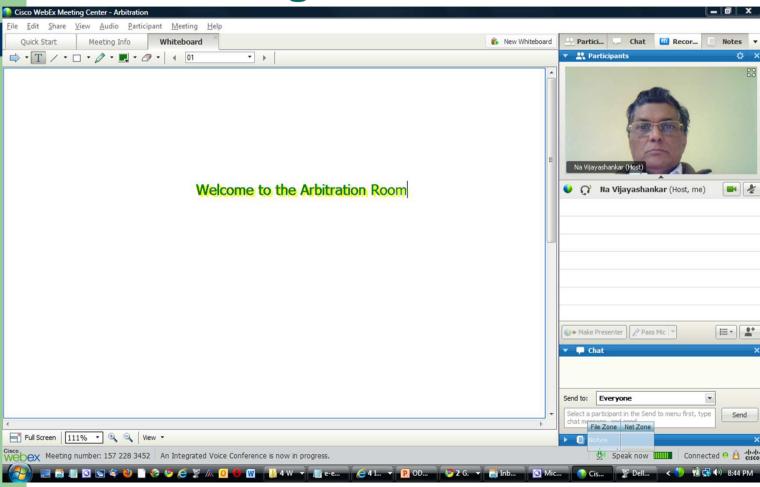


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Arbitration Entry Page



Arbitration Room with video conferencing



Evidence

- Entire proceedings in the arbitration room is supervised by the registrar
- Proceedings are recorded
- Certified as required under Section 65B
- Copy provided to all stakeholders

End Result

- An online arbitration
 - Which identifies participants through digital signatures as per ITA 2008
 - Which records proceedings as provided by ITA 2008
 - A legally admissible arbitration proceedings conducted in cyber space.

Requirements

- Good bandwidth for internet connectivity
- Standard computer with webcam,
 Microphone and speakers
 - On registration, preliminary training provided online
 - Local offices of the service provider may be made available in due course so that people can walk into the nearest service center instead of logging in from their house or office.

An Opportunity

- The legal support available in India for digital signatures and certification of electronic documents opens up the possibility of India providing the service as an outsourced IT enabled service across the globe
 - No other country has this advantage

India as a global center of ODR

- It is therefore possible that India can develop itself as a global center of IDR
 - Vision 2020 of arbitration.in
 - Let us ask ourselves
 -Why not this be our Vision 2011?

Thank you

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