



## LECTURES

### **India and International Arbitration: Emerging trends**

Conference Hall, Government Law College, Thrissur  
08/02/2016 at 10 am

India has had a comprehensive legislation governing both domestic and international arbitration since 1996. However excessive judicial interventions during the arbitral process have plagued the regime, contrary to the objective of the law. Recently, Indian government aiming to make the country a hub of international commercial arbitration updated its arbitration law. The Arbitration and Conciliation (amendment) Act, 2015 adopts the best practices in international arbitration and attempts to plug the loopholes existed in the 1996 Act. Indisputably this reform has boosted the confidence of international arbitration community in the Indian arbitration space. On the other hand, India has been engaged in a wide network of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs), which was initiated by the government early in 1990s as part of the economic liberalisation. At present, the country has signed on to a hundred international investment agreements that include 83 BITs and 17 investment chapters in various Free Trade Agreements. Despite this substantially large BIT scheme, India's encounter with investment treaty arbitration remained absolutely minimal until the end of 2011. However, an investment treaty award against the country and the subsequent BIT claims against the government have thrust India in the limelight of international arbitration. Moreover the maritime arbitration under the UNCLOS 1982 gained more strength in the globalized world. Likewise liberalized and borderless trade creates more scope for international arbitration. Against this backdrop, the CED&L convene a discussion on the issue of 'what now' and 'what next' of India-related international commercial arbitration as well as international investment arbitration.

#### Presidential Address and Chair

**Mrs. Binu Poornamodan Cholayil**  
Principal, Govt Law College, Thrissur

#### Panel Members

**Mr. Imbavijayan**  
International Arbitrator, Director CIArb (India), Member, ICCA, The Hague  
**Mr. Harishankar**  
Research Scholar, National University of Singapore

CED&L Director  
Abhilash Gopinath

Fellows  
Sreenath Nambodiri, Nithin Ramakrishnan