

# Info Capsule

August 1, 2019



THE INSTITUTE OF  
Company Secretaries of India

भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान

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## ***1. Cabinet approves signing of the UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements resulting from mediation by India***

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) resulting from mediation by the Republic of India scheduled to be held at Singapore on 7th August, 2019, or at United Nations Headquarters.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation ("the Convention") on 20th December 2018. The General Assembly authorized that the Convention will open for signature at a signing ceremony to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in Singapore and will be known as the "Singapore Convention on Mediation" (the Convention).

The Convention provides a uniform and efficient framework for the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from mediation and for allowing parties to invoke such agreements, akin to the framework that the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York, 1958) (the "New York Convention") provides for arbitral awards. The Convention defines two additional grounds upon which a court may, on its own motion, refuse to grant relief. Those grounds relate to the fact that a dispute would not be capable of settlement by mediation or would be contrary to public policy.

Signing of the Convention will boost the confidence of the investors and shall provide a positive signal to foreign investors about India's commitment to adhere to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

### **Initiatives to promote ADR Mechanisms in India:**

In order to encourage international commercial arbitration in India, to evolve a comprehensive ecosystem of arbitration the Government is establishing the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) as a statutory body. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, has been further amended and legislative exercise to further amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, is currently underway. These initiatives are being taken with a view to encourage the settlement of commercial disputes, domestic and international, in India through ADR Mechanism of Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation. A new Chapter (IIIA) has been inserted in the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, for mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement in certain category of cases. Therefore, the provisions of the 'Convention' are in line with the domestic laws and the efforts made to strengthen Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms.

The detailed news is available at: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1580826>

## ***2. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019***

The Parliament has passed the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 30th July 2017.

The detailed highlights are available at:  
[https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/Highlights\\_of\\_Companies\\_Amendment\\_Bill\\_2019\\_final.pdf](https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/Highlights_of_Companies_Amendment_Bill_2019_final.pdf)

The Bill as passed is available at:  
[http://164.100.47.5/newsite/newbios\\_search/SessionReport3.aspx?session=249&house=bh&typ=All&year=All&sort=0&stitle=](http://164.100.47.5/newsite/newbios_search/SessionReport3.aspx?session=249&house=bh&typ=All&year=All&sort=0&stitle=)