

NEW BOOK

V. C. Govindaraj and C. Jayaraj, edited *Non Resident Indians and Private International Law* (Indian Society of International Law and Hope India Publications, New Delhi, 2007)

The book is the outcome of a Project on the subject of the Legal Status of Non-Resident Indians and Private International Law given to the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) by the Policy Planning Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Chapter I presents in a nutshell the nature and scope of Private International Law or Conflict of Laws, as it is popularly known. The methodology employed in this research project is to treat dissolution of marriages and their recognition transnationally in respect of NRIs and their Indian spouses as well as subjects like matrimonial property regimes and maintenance/ alimony obligations as an integrated segment of study, constituting Chapter II. Abduction and custody of children and inter-country adoptions form Chapter III. Succession is covered under Chapter IV. Chapter V of our study devoted to examining the existing procedure for service of summons, besides making a searching analysis of the Hague Convention on Service Abroad of Judicial and Extra-Judicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1965, with a view to assessing the feasibility of India becoming a party to it. The rationale behind such a course is to establish an effective mode of service between countries which are parties to the Convention, and also to enter into bilateral agreements with individual states not parties to the Convention for service of summons. This broad-based arrangement will take care of the interests of the abandoned wives of NRIs in matters concerning divorce/judicial separation/restoration of conjugal rights as also enforcement of maintenance/alimony obligations, besides strengthening the matrimonial property regime if its introduction into our country is found feasible. Chapter VI is by way of an epilogue, highlighting briefly the suggestions and recommendations that emerge from the study contained in the foregoing parts and also make suggestions in the nature of administrative and institutional measures for safeguarding the interests of deserted Indian wives. This book will be extremely helpful to the academicians, NGOs, students and lawyers as well as other institutions dealing with international law and human rights.