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CMR UNIVERSITY OPENS ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE FOR STUDENTS

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CMR University opens Alternate Dispute Resolution Centre for students Training in Lok Adalat, Arbitration, Mediation, Conciliation, Mediation-Arbitration

BENGALURU: In an effort to promote Alternate Dispute Resolution practices, the CMR University School of Legal Studies inaugurated a Centre for Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) at its campus in Bengaluru. The ADR Centre will equip young law students in the practice of various ADR mechanisms, such as Training in Lok Adalat, Arbitration, Mediation, Conciliation, and Mediation-Arbitration, and counselling services.

The establishment of the ADR centre is yet another attempt of CMR University and CMR University School of Legal Studies in contributing to societal and community welfare. The centre will not only become a hub of research in knowledge related to ADRS, but also be a hub of activity in resolving disputes and offering simpler alternatives to the public.

The nation has almost 4 crore pending cases at different courts as per September 2020 data. Vacancy of judges has affected the disposal of cases. In 2012, the Supreme Court had approved the Scheme of National Court Management System to provide a framework for case management. The scheme estimated that with an increase in literacy, per capita income, and population, the number of new cases filed each year may go up to 15 crore over the next three decades, which will require at least 75,000 judges. Hence, there is an underlying need for alternative dispute resolution methods.

There is an underlining need for alternative dispute resolution methods. It is in this context that a Resolution was adopted by the Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices of States in a conference held in New Delhi on 4th December 1993 under the chairmanship of the then Prime Minister and presided over by the Chief Justice of India. Thus “**The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996**” came into being. The advantage of ADR is that it is more flexible and avoids seeking recourse to the courts.

High Court judge Justice Shankar Ganapathi Pandit declared the ADR open in a virtual event and said, “It is a novel initiative to entrust the ADR Centre student committee the responsibility for the ADR activities. I wish every success for this venture.”

He quoted **Abraham Lincoln**. “discourage litigation, persuade your neighbours to compromise whenever you can, point out to them how a nominal winner is often a loser in fees, expenses and waste of time. As a peace maker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. He said that ADR has undergone a phenomenal change, evolving from elders of the village sitting under a tree, solving differences to the stage of gaining statutory recognition.

Guest of honour **Justice Budihal R.B, former** judge of High Court of Karnataka, encouraged law students to specialize in specific fields like arbitration and mediation. **Susheela Sarathi**, designated Senior Counsel, High Court of Karnataka, said the university, through this initiative, stands out, and remains the Harvard of all Karnataka Universities in ADR. She also advised students to undergo training to enhance their communication, negotiation and other techniques.

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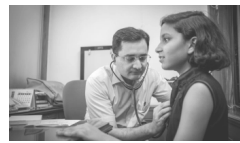
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