

EDITORIAL

It gives me immense pleasure to present Volume 5, Issue 1 (June 2026) of the *CMR University Journal for Dispute Settlement and Arbitration*, published by the Centre for Alternate Dispute Resolution, School of Legal Studies, CMR University. This edition brings together a diverse and intellectually engaging collection of scholarly contributions that explore the evolving dimensions of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in India and across the globe. The articles featured in this volume reflect the increasing significance of arbitration, mediation, conciliation, and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) in addressing the growing complexities of modern legal disputes.

In recent years, justice delivery systems worldwide have faced mounting challenges arising from judicial backlog, procedural delays, escalating litigation costs, and the expansion of international commercial relationships. In this context, ADR has emerged not merely as an alternative to traditional litigation, but as an essential mechanism for ensuring efficient, accessible, participatory, and sustainable dispute resolution. The present volume captures these developments by examining doctrinal reforms, comparative legal frameworks, institutional challenges, and the growing role of technology in dispute resolution.

The long articles featured in this issue examine a wide range of contemporary concerns within ADR jurisprudence.

The short articles included in this volume broaden the scope of ADR scholarship by engaging with issues such as gender justice, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, human rights, procedural efficiency, and online dispute resolution.

This edition also includes scholarly discussions on community mediation as a tool for advancing human rights, the comparative costs of arbitration and litigation in India, and the impact of digital technologies such as blockchain, virtual hearings, and electronic filing systems on arbitral proceedings.

The contributions made in this volume demonstrate the dynamic and interdisciplinary nature of modern ADR scholarship. The articles collectively engage with themes such as restorative justice, commercial mediation, arbitral autonomy, comparative arbitration systems, technology-driven adjudication, digital justice infrastructure, human rights, gender perspectives, and procedural reform. They also illustrate how ADR increasingly intersects with emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, e-sports governance, and global digital commerce.

The editorial team has invested significant effort in bringing out this issue. With the constant guidance and support of Adv. (Dr.) Vidya Selvamony. This publication would not have been possible without the dedicated contributions of our authors, reviewers, editorial board members, and student coordinators, Ms. Hima Bindu S.K. and Ms. Ritika Singh, of the CMR University Journal for Dispute Settlement

and Arbitration. We extend our sincere appreciation to all contributors whose research and scholarly commitment have enriched this edition. Their work reflects the growing academic and practical significance of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in shaping accessible, fair, and effective justice systems.

We are also deeply grateful to the members of the management of CMR University, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in all our academic endeavours.

We hope this volume will serve as a valuable academic resource for students, researchers, practitioners, academicians, and policymakers interested in the evolving landscape of dispute resolution.

As legal systems continue to evolve alongside changing social, economic, and technological realities, scholarly engagement with ADR remains more important than ever. It is in this spirit that the institution proudly presents this edition of the *CMR University Journal for Dispute Settlement and Arbitration*.

Prof (Dr.) T.R. Subramanya

Dean

School of Legal Studies

CMR University

Bengaluru.