

Talk It Out: 'Make the talk work in you'

Time and again, conflicts and serious issues haunt societies due to lack of communication. The need for a dialogue during dispute is important, and the technique of mediation is very effective to the cause.

ADR's 'Talk It Out' campaign aims at encouraging people to sort out differences arising at the personal and professional levels. It aims to develop a culture of settling disputes. By 'talking it out', a person breaks restraining obstacles that bring about disputes. This will help strengthen the social fabric of the country by maintaining peaceful co-existence among communities, families and individuals.



In situations where people are prone to disputes, the campaign intends to ameliorate the strains and undesired consequences. It aims to mobilize people to talk out their differences through mechanisms like Mediation, Arbitration and Conciliation. A massive signature campaign, which will be sent to the Prime Minister and Law Minister, highlighting the need to recognize the importance of the concept of ADR, is envisaged through this initiative of the *Centre for Public Policy Research*.

The petition would call for policy change through legislation, making ADR mandatory in the initial stages of disputes. Brand ambassadors in the form of celebrities, renowned judges, lawyers, social activists and academicians are encouraged to be part of the campaign. The movement will attempt to create a network among like-minded

individuals and institutions in order to create awareness about the concept. Group meetings, programmes, sessions and other events will help bring about the momentum the campaign needs. This national-level project's aim is to bring about a policy legislation that will focus on the positive impact ADR has on the society.



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ADR Centre has been active in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution since 2009. Centre is intending to start franchisees across India. We are looking forward to associate with institutions and individuals as partners. Please mail your details to adr@adrcentre.in.

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National Highways to be 45 m and not 30 m

"The total number of families affected by road accidents each year in the state is three times that of those affected by land acquisition for the current National Highway development".

This shocking finding was revealed by the Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) during a study on the issue of reducing the width of National Highways in Kerala from 45 metre to 30 metre. The project was supported by the Association of Industries and Chambers in Kerala. A memorandum reporting the findings and its repercussions was submitted to the Government of India.



Kochi Heritage Walks

"Remember your history. To forget is to not belong."

So said the environmentalist and naturalist, Charlotte A Black Elk. The words are not poetic; yet they remain poignant. They testify to the heightening sense of cultural and social identity among people across the world. There is a growing realization that the natural and cultural heritage of a country is a legacy bequeathed to its people by both nature and the scores of masses who came before them.

The initial phases of this realization translated into a commercial enterprise, where capitalizing on natural wonders led to a tourism boom and a substantial hike in GDP. However, of late, people are seeing it as being more than a ticket to putting their nation on the globe. They revel in sharing their heritage with their contemporaries from other parts of the world. It is a reaffirmation of who they are and a way to reconnect with their roots.



While men and women across countries remain linked by many a common thing, the vibrancy and diversity of our planet has ensured that each and every part of our continent, from every nation to every town and city, remains culturally and socially unique. Thus, there is no dearth of heritage. One only lacks an understanding of it.

Kochi, the economic capital and cultural melting pot of Kerala, is unique for many reasons, least of all because it was a base of trade and commerce. From kings of lore to European tradesmen, from Jews to Christian missionaries, all manner of people and cultures have left their mark on it. Kochi sports heritage museums, palaces, churches and temples, each of which stand testament to a generation worth of cultural and social diversity.

Shiraz Iqbal

The Niyamgiri hills in north eastern Orissa is one of the last bastions of animism (tribes that believe everything in creation is imbued with a unique spirit; they are fruit gatherers and in addition grow small crops of grain to survive). In November 2007 the Supreme Court of India had rejected a proposal from the British Mining Company Vedanta to mine the Bauxite reserves that lie beneath the sacred hills of Niyamgiri.

Legal Gyan Series -2

Can an employee exempt him/herself from contributing to the Employees Provident Fund?

The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) is a social security scheme, enacted for the industrial worker under the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952. The fund provides mainly for retirement or old age benefits, such as provident fund, superannuation pension, invalidation pension, family pension and deposit-linked insurance. The law maintains that both the employer and employee contribute equally towards the scheme, which is usually redeemable at retirement or death of the employee.

However, Section 17 (2) of the Act, together with Para 27 of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952, provides for exemption from the operation of, all or any of the provisions of the scheme to an individual employee. The concerned employee needs to submit an application to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner in Form-1 that is provided for the purpose. The exemption is granted where the employee is entitled to other benefits in the nature of provident fund, gratuity or old age pension and such benefits separately or jointly are on the whole more beneficial than those provided under the Act and scheme.

While we Kochiites remain unaware of the rich culture and tradition handed down to us, foreign travellers flock by the dozen, armed to the tooth with maps and guides. Even then, most of them only see popular landmarks and so get, but a half-baked view of the city's glorious past. Many parts of Kochi - from its narrow lanes to its bustling market places, its traditional handicrafts to many of its ancient, little-known art forms - remain unexplored.

Heritage Walks, an initiative by Reinventing Cochin aims to remedy this. Kick-starting towards the end of 2010, our trails will encompass not just well-known historical and cultural landmarks, but will also give natives, history buffs and other visitors the chance to familiarise themselves with the historical and metropolitan parts of Kochi. Nature walks, art fests, artisans workshops - our Heritage Walk will be all about what makes Kochi and a Kochiite tick!

Media

Foundation stone laid for Mobility Hub.

The foundation stone for the Mobility Hub in Vytilla was laid by Kerala Chief Minister V S Achuthanandan on June 7, 2010.

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Upcoming Events

- * Talk on Resolving Maritime Disputes for Better Business on July 8, 2010, at Cochin Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- * Online launch of 'Talk it Out' campaign

Testimonials

"Internship in CPPR gave me knowledge about the legal Market in Cochin and its scope"

-HARSHITHA S

Hidayathullah National Law Univeristy ,Raipur

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