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MESSAGE

Justice, it is said, is too serious a matter to be left to the Courts alone. Society has also a responsibility to evolve solutions to its own myriad problems, particularly during turbulent times. Times ahead are replete with stunning changes. Whether they turn out to be for the greater happiness of mankind will depend on the way we are able to harness the forces of change for public-good.

As a person who has had some experience of plodding through their wilderness, of life's experiences I cannot escape the serious premonition that the system of administration of justice, as it now stands, may if not handled with circumspection, well turn out to be a mill-stone around the neck of the next society. The issues that arise at the interface of the colossal and mind boggling exploits of Science and Technology on the one hand and issues of Social security on the other will, indeed need new ways of thinking. Even of democracy it is said that it is not the best form of government, but, indeed, is the worst except for all other systems tried so far.

Despite great strides made in the development of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, there are many obstacles and limitations of ADR that could be called 'cultural'. I have every confidence that the India International ADR Association, with its commitment of ADR philosophy and the leadership behind its initiative, will meet an urgent and important need of providing a global interface.

I have known Sri. Anil Xavier's long and passionate commitment to the philosophy of ADR as a more civilized concept than litigative aggressiveness and as humane man's way of dealing with the inevitable conflicts of modern life.

This Association should also promote innovative ideas to strengthen the concept of dispute resolution globally. This is even more important, particularly in the context of the ever increasing economic interactions, both internally and internationally and their inevitable social and economic impact and repercussions.