In a landmark initiative to elevate mediation standards and position India as a global leader in mediation, Nivaaran, Mediators of the Supreme Court, has announced a mandatory 30-hour annual refresher course for all mediators, trainers, and trainers of trainers, initiating with all members of Nivaaran from 23rd to 26th May, 2025. This pioneering program underscores India’s commitment to fostering excellence in mediation and setting a global precedent for professional development in alternative dispute and conflict resolution and will be inaugurated by Hon’ble Justice Surya Kant, Judge Supreme Court of India on 23rd May, 2025.

The refresher course, designed to ensure mediators remain at the forefront of best practices, will be conducted by Ms. Susheela Sarathi and Mr. A.J. Jawad, Master Trainers and will include rigorous training modules and a mandatory appraisal component. This appraisal will evaluate mediators’ skills, adherence to ethical standards, and ability to handle complex disputes effectively. The initiative aims to maintain the integrity and efficacy of mediation, preventing it from devolving into the adversarial pitfalls seen in traditional adjudication, courts, or arbitration.

“Mediation is a powerful tool for justice, and to lead globally, we must uphold the highest standards,” said R. Santhanakrishnan, President, Nivaaran. This refresher course ensures our mediators, trainers, and trainers of trainers are equipped with cutting-edge skills and remain accountable through regular appraisals. Without this commitment, mediation risks losing its essence and mirroring the inefficiencies of litigation or arbitration.

The 30-hour course will cover advanced mediation techniques, emerging global trends, ethical challenges, and case studies, fostering continuous learning and professional growth. The appraisal system will provide constructive feedback, ensuring mediators maintain neutrality, empathy, and expertise.

By mandating this annual program, Nivaaran aims to set a meaningful example for mediation ecosystems worldwide, reinforcing India’s vision to lead international mediation with professionalism and accountability. Nivaaran, Mediators of the Supreme Court, is dedicated to advancing mediation as an effective, accessible, and ethical means of dispute resolution. Committed to excellence, Nivaaran supports mediation through summer school, webinars, training and initiatives that align with India’s vision to take lead in creating global mediation standards.

R. Santhanakrishnan

President, Nivaaran