

F. No. L/34/2018-2022

Date:02nd December 2022

To,

**The Member Secretary,
All the State Legal Services Authorities**

SUB: LOK ADALAT SCHEDULE FOR 2023

Sir/Madam,

1. The Lok Adalat across the country is organised as per the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 read with National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009 for the subject matter as prescribed under the said Act and Regulations in Courts and Tribunals as defined under Section 2(aaa) of the said Act.
2. In the year 2022, all of us have witnessed greatest ever success in disposal of pre and post litigation cases in all four National Lok Adalats, boosting confidence of litigating public in the Justice delivery system. Time and again, the efforts and role of all functionaries and stakeholders in providing Access to Justice has been lauded by Hon'ble Executive Chairperson, NALSA.
3. The Lok Adalat or People's Court, as a forum for settlement of disputes has been known in India for ages. In Lok Adalat, the disputes/cases pending in the courts of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled amicably. The Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 recognizing its efficacy as an expeditious, economical and speedier system of administration of justice. The award made by Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final & binding on all parties and no appeal lies against the Award before any court.
4. The process of early settlement of disputes at the pre-litigative stage, though, has not yet caught the fancy of private or individual litigation; none the less it has received a tremendous response from the institutional litigants such as Banks & financial institutions, Power Distribution and Public utility sector Companies etc., having a large potential of churning out litigation.

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5. In the year 2023, more subject matter focused Lok Adalats will be organized across the country. The SLSAs/DLSAs are requested to discontinue weekly or daily Lok Adalats, if any. The focus will be on four National Lok Adalat and also on subject specific Lok Adalats. Wide publicity of such Lok Adalat, will be given by the State Legal Services Authorities, subject to available financial resources.
6. Approved Schedule for National Lok Adalat to be held in the year 2023 will be as under:

S. No.	Dates for NLA
1.	11/02/2023
2.	13/05/2023
3.	09/09/2023
4.	09/12/2023

7. The framework to conduct the National Lok Adalat will be as under:
 - I. The cases may be referred as per the procedure as prescribed under the said Act and Regulations;
 - II. At every level, meetings at regular intervals will also be organized with stakeholders and efforts will be made to take everyone on board;
 - III. It is imperative that cases, wherein there is scope for amicable settlement are identified in advance and timely notices be issued to the parties;
 - IV. Followed by preparation of the cause lists and constitution of as many benches as required and to notify on their respective notice boards/ websites;
 - V. Necessary directions be issued to all concerned to conduct pre-lok adalat or pre-conciliation sittings before the scheduled date of National Lok Adalat, so that prior opportunity for negotiations may be offered to the parties to arrive at a compromise or settlement;
 - VI. During the year, no daily or weekly Lok Adalats shall be conducted by any SLSA or DLSA;

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- VII. Adaptation and use of technology or digital platforms in organizing NLA will be promoted;
 - VIII. In the event of pandemic when protocols of public health and social distancing are being followed, it would be difficult to conduct Lok Adalat, it is requested to leverage technology and continue to espouse the improved methodologies with adaptation of technological platforms;
 - IX. NALSA is kept informed at regular intervals of the progress in the preparation of NLA.
8. Normally, following types of cases (pre-litigation and pending) may be taken up for settlement in the aforesaid National Lok Adalat:

(A). Pre-litigation:

All type of Civil and Compoundable Criminal cases, as may be permissible under the Act/Regulations may be taken up. The data and record of registration of cases be maintained by DLSA/HCLSC or TLSC under the directions of SLSA.

SLSA will make all endeavours to promote registration of pre-litigation cases and services of notices through digital platforms/online mode to ease pressure on conventional system.

(B). Pending in the Courts:

All type of civil and compoundable criminal cases including following:

- i. Criminal Compoundable Offences;
- ii. NI Act cases under Section 138;
- iii. Money Recovery cases;
- iv. Motor Accident Claim cases;
- v. Labour dispute cases;
- vi. Disputes related to Public Utility services such as Electricity & Water Bills cases etc. (excluding non-compoundable);
- vii. Matrimonial disputes (except divorce)
- viii. Land Acquisition cases;
- ix. Services matters including pension cases;
- x. Revenue cases, pending before High Court and district Courts;

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- xi. Other civil cases (rent, easmentary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits etc.).
- 9. During the year, Lok Adalats on specific subject matter such as MAC, IPR etc. may also be organised, therefore it is requested that the SLSA in consultation with concerned stakeholders will also plan and organise Lok Adalats for:
 - A. Motor Accident claims/ Land acquisition cases/ family disputes cases in the months of March, July and October 2023 on dates to be notified later either by SLSA concerned or NALSA;
 - B. For IPR matters/ Consumer matters/ also other matters pending before any other quasi-judicial authority on dates to be notified later by SLSA;
 - C. Revenue and other ancillary matters, instituted before state/ district/ taluka authorities on dates to be notified later by SLSA.

Therefore, you are requested to plan and organise Lok Adalats in the year 2023 accordingly. Also, it is requested to place this communication before Hon'ble Executive Chairperson, SLSA and communicate to all concerned.

Warm regards,

(Ashok Kumar Jain)
Member Secretary, NALSA
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