

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

PRESS NOTE

Date: 09.04.2021

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the guidance of its Executive Chairman, Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, is going to organise first National Lok Adalat of the year 2021 on 10th April 2021. Over the course of this year, three more National Lok Adalats will be organised on 10th July, 11th September and 11th December.

The National Lok Adalat is generally organised in all States simultaneously, however, due to the sudden rise in the number of Covid – 19 cases in the country, 16 State Legal Services Authorities have decided to postpone the scheduled National Lok Adalats. Out of these 16 SLSAs, the SLSAs in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Daman & Diu and Dadar & Nagar Haveli have postponed the organisation of National Lok Adalat till further orders. The remaining 11 States have postponed the organisation of National Lok Adalat to a future date as provided in the table below.

S. No.	State Legal Services Authority	Proposed Date of National Lok Adalat
1.	West Bengal	12.06.2021
2.	Meghalaya	17.04.2021
3.	Rajasthan	08.05.2021
4.	Madhya Pradesh	08.05.2021
5.	Tripura	08.05.2021
6.	Uttar Pradesh	08.05.2021
7.	Gujarat	08.05.2021
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	17.04.2021
9.	Ladakh	17.04.2021
10.	Goa	10.07.2021
11.	Andhra Pradesh	08.05.2021

Forecasting the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases, Karnataka State Legal Services Authority preponed its National Lok Adalat to 27.03.2021. The Karnataka SLSA constituted over 960 benches at various districts, wherein over 5.44 lakh cases were taken up out of which more than 3.3 lakh were disposed involving around Rs. 1000 crore of settlement amount.

The remaining 20 States will organise their respective Lok Adalats in accordance with the earlier schedule, i.e., on 10th April. These National Lok Adalats will be held physically and virtually, keeping in the view the Covid situation in the respective States. In view of the ongoing pandemic, NALSA has already instructed all the SLSAs to take precautionary

measures and to follow all the guidelines issued by the public health department of the respective States.

The Legal Services Authorities have developed the capacities to organise pan India Lok Adalats. These Adalats have reached even to the remote districts of the Country. Despite the raging pandemic, the Legal Services Authorities organised two National Lok Adalats in the year 2020, wherein over 12.6 Lakh pre-litigation and more than 12.8 Lakh pending cases were amicably settled.

The Legal Services Authorities also swiftly adapted to Online Dispute Resolution mechanisms and introduced E-Lok Adalats in the month of June, 2020. E-Lok Adalats have received significant response from the general public as the parties can participate from their home/workplace. Till now, 24 SLSAs have organised E-Lok Adalats and the same are to be incrementally introduced in other States.