

its own if it considers the case fit for settlement before Lok Adalat.

### HOW ARE THE DISPUTES SETTLED BEFORE LOK ADALAT ?

1. After a dispute or case is referred to the Lok Adalat, presence of both the parties involved is mandatory and the conciliators will advise both the parties of the pros and cons of the disputes and then bring about compromise between them. If the parties arrive at a compromise, the same will be recorded and necessary order or award will be passed by the Conciliators.
2. If the parties to a dispute fail to arrive at a compromise, the case will be returned to the concerned Court where it will be proceeded with and disposed of on merits.
3. If such a dispute is a Pre-Litigative one (i.e. a dispute which is not yet brought before any Court), in the event of failure of compromise, the parties will be advised to approach the proper Court for resolving their dispute on merits.

*"Settlement of disputes through Lok Adalat ensure speedy disposal, amicable settlement and refund of court fee paid."*

### SALIENT FEATURES OF LOK ADALATS

1. An order or award passed by the Lok Adalat shall be final and no appeal lies against it.
2. Litigants may participate in Lok Adalat either directly or through their advocates.
3. If any litigant needs legal assistance, the same will be provided to him.
4. Since one of the Conciliators would be the Judge, the litigants would get fair and impartial guidance in getting their disputes resolved.
5. Justice through Lok Adalat is inexpensive, as the litigants need not spend anything towards court fees, process fees, postage charges etc.
6. If any case pending in any court is settled in Lok Adalat, parties to it would get refund of court fee paid in that case.
7. The Litigants would get speedy justice.
8. The litigants would get the same justice, which they get in the court concerned.
9. The litigants may get their disputes settled only when they are satisfied with the compromise proposed by the Conciliators. If they are not satisfied, they will be at liberty to proceed with their case before the court concerned.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

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## LOK ADALAT



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# LOK ADALAT

## WHAT IS LOK ADALAT ?

Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms. It is a Forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably. There is no court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat.

It is organized by any Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee/District Legal Services Authority/High Court Legal Services Committee/State Legal Services Authority for the settlement of disputes by way of compromise between the parties.

Lok Adalat consists of two or more conciliators, one of whom shall be a Judicial Officer either in service or retired while other person(s) may be an eminent social worker, or an advocate, or a person of repute especially interested in the implementation of legal services schemes and programmes.

## WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES OF CASES SETTLED IN LOK ADALAT ?

1. Motor Vehicle Accident Compensation cases.
2. Land acquisition cases.
3. Cases pertaining to banks and other financial institutions.
4. Cases by and against Government and other Local bodies such as Panchayat, Municipal Corporation, Electricity Board etc.
5. Matrimonial and maintenance cases.
6. Labour Disputes, Industrial Disputes and the cases under Workmen Compensation Act.
7. Cases under Consumer Protection Act.
8. Criminal cases wherein the offences are lawfully compoundable.
9. Disaster Compensation.
10. Forest Act cases.

*However, criminal cases involving heinous offences such as robbery, dacoity, murder, rape etc., which are non-compoundable offences and civil cases where compromise between the parties is prohibited, or not permitted, by any special law, cannot be settled by Lok Adalat.*

## HOW TO BRING A CASE TO LOK ADALAT FOR SETTLEMENT ?

1. If the dispute has not been brought before any Court, either party to the dispute may submit an application before the Chairman of Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee/District Legal Services Authority expressing his/her desire to have the dispute settled before the Lok Adalat;
2. If the case is already pending before a Court/Tribunal/Authority/Office, it may be referred to Lok Adalat by filing a joint memo by both the parties to it or by filing an application by either party;
3. A Court may itself refer a case to Lok Adalat on

