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# A Study On The Relevance Of Lok Adalat At Present In The Indian Judiciary System

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#### Abstract

The Indian judiciary system the epitome of Justice which has been providing impartial and quality justice for the last 70 years, is currently facing a huge unfortunate downfall because of its heavy pendency of cases. This pendency and an inordinate delay in disposal not only hamper the smooth running of the system but also causing major inconvenience for the people. This critical condition needs an immediate solution which can be an alternative dispute resolution platform where people can resolve their disputes. Here comes the Indian invention ADR platform Lok Adalat, where cases that are pending in courts or which are at the pre-litigation stage are settled amicably. This Lok Adalat is not only trying to provide a helping hand to the Indian judiciary system to overcome the downfall but also providing a helping hand to those distressed people who are exhausted from being in a queue to wait for their justice. This article aims to discover the relevancy of Lok Adalat at present in the Indian Judiciary system. The article also determined to discuss the problems associated with Lok Adalat and discover the possible solutions to those problems.

**Keywords:** Affordable for citizens, Alternative dispute resolution system, Indian Judiciary, Lok Adalat, Right to litigation

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## I. Introduction

Justice has always been a leading priority of our country our preamble and constriction of India is proof of that. In the preamble, the first thing that was assured to people was justice social economic, and political then comes article 14¹ and art. 39-A² which was made underlying the notion of justice and equality. Indian Judiciary system consists of the Supreme Court at the apex, then the High Court, District, and other subordinate courts at the lower level playing a significant role towards the fulfilment of our constitutional goal by providing Justice with an amenability. But currently, the lack of infrastructure, lack of judicial strength, and Rigid complex procedures make the system slow resulting in an inordinate delay in disposal of even some small petty cases. According to William Gladstone 'Justice delayed is justice denied'. the high cost of the court fee is also denying justice to the poor section of people because they can't afford it. These conditions are not at all favourable for a democratic country like India where Justice is the main leading priority. According to the situation's requirement, India invented Lok Adalat a unique contribution to the World ADR³ jurisprudence. With time by viewing its growing popularity, it got a statutory status in 1987 under the Legal Service Authority Act 1987⁴ by promoting Article 39-A of the constitution of India which ensures justice on the basis of equal opportunity to all.

## An Analysis of the Lok Adalat System

Lok Adalat, as suggested by its name it's a people's court, operating as a court for the public. It traces its origin to the Gandhian principle. It fosters a peaceful resolution by resolving cases through negotiation, conversation, and compromise. In the past, we used to apply this method of case resolution through gram panchayats and Nyaya panchayats by engaging conciliators and negotiators. Now we can see the resurgence of this approach of case resolution in the form of Lok Adalat. In the legal case of P.T Thomas v/s Thomas Job, the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Art.14- Equality before law and equal protection of Law

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Art 39A- provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society and ensures justice for all

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> ADR- Alternative dispute resolution system is a platform where people can solve their cases outside the courtroom without a trial. Some common ADR mechanisms are Mediation, Arbitration, and Conciliation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Legal Service Authority Act 1987- this is an act made by the Indian parliament to enforce the provisions of Article 39

Supreme Court elucidated that Lok Adalat is an ancient adjudicating system, which retains its legitimacy even in the current legal landscape. Lok Adalat can be conducted at different levels such as National, State, District, and Taluk, as outlined in sections 3, 6, 9, and 11a of the State Legal Service Authority Act of 1987. There is also mention of the Supreme Court and High Court Legal Service Committee in sections 3A and 8A accordingly in this act. In Chapter VI, section 19 Lok Adalat is directed to convene at intervals and places, with the authority to exercise jurisdiction over areas deemed appropriate. Section 19(2) states Lok Adalat organized for an area shall consist of such number of serving or retired judicial officers and other persons of the area as may be specified by the authorities.

The jurisdiction of Lok Adalat is elaborated in Section 19(5). it can determine any dispute in respect of "I) Any case pending before any court and ii) Any matter which falls under the jurisdiction of but not brought before. So, it not only solves pending cases but also solves cases that are at the pre-litigation stage. It is to be mentioned here Lok Adalat does not exercise its jurisdiction on any case or matter which is not compoundable under any law." (Kukreja, 2019)

Section 20 deals with the cognizance of cases by Lok Adalat. In the context of pending cases "a) If parties thereof agree b) or one of the parties makes an application to the court c) and the courts satisfied that the case is appropriate to be taken cognizance by Lok Adalat then only the case can refer to Lok Adalat. In case of pre-litigation disputes the case can be referred to Lok Adalat by the agency organising it on an application made by any of the parties." If the Lok Adalat remains unsuccessful in reaching a compromise or providing an award, the matter will be sent back to the court from which it was initially received. In case of pre-litigation cases if Lok Adalat couldn't make any award on the ground that the parties couldn't arrive at a solution then the Parties can exercise their legal right and further go the court for the redress. In instances of dissatisfaction with the award given by Lok Adalat, the dissatisfied party involved in the case cannot further appeal against that award. Nevertheless, they possess the right to litigation by initiating a new fresh case. Section 21 of the Legal Service Authority Act narrated that "Every award of Lok Adalat shall be deemed to be a decree of a civil" court which means the award made by the Lok Adalat shall be binding on the parties. Section 22 deals with the power of the Lok Adalat. As per this act the Lok Adalat and permanent Lok Adalat exercise the same power as a civil court can under the code of civil procedure, 1908 <sup>5</sup> that is

- a) "Summoning and enforcing any witness and examining him on oath
- b) The reception of evidence on affidavits
- c) The requisitioning of any public record or document
- d) Such other matters as may be prescribed." (Patil, 2015)

## II. Permanent Lok Adalat

Chapter VIA and Section 22B of the Legal Service Authority Act deal with the establishment of Permanent Lok Adalat. The Legal Service Act 1987 was amended in 2002 and established The permanent Lok Adalat to deal with the cases related to public utility services. The permanent Lok Adalat consist of a chairman who is or has been a district judge or additional district judge or has held a judicial officer higher in rank than that of the district judge and two other persons having adequate experience in public utility services. Just like the Lok Adalat permanent Lok Adalat cannot exercise its jurisdiction in cases that are non-compoundable under any law. Any of the parties can make an application to the Permanent Lok Adalat for settlement of the disputes before bringing the case before any court after the application is made to the Permanent Lok Adalat, no party to that application shall invoke jurisdiction of any court in the same dispute.

Section 22D of this act clarifies that while conciliation between two parties that is during the procedure, of solving the dispute the Permanent Lok Adalat shall be guided by the principle of natural justice, objectivity and fair play and shall not be bound by the code of civil procedure, 1908 and the Indian evidence act, 1872<sup>6</sup> section. 22E states that the award made by permanent Lok Adalat is by majority and is final and cannot be questioned in any original suit. (Legal Services Authority Act, 1987)

### Necessity of the Lok Adalat system

Conflicts and disagreements have entrenched themselves within our society. Over time it is solidifying as an inseparable facet. In parallel with this, there is a discernible surge in public consciousness about legal entitlements. People are becoming more aware and conscious about their legal rights. This rising consciousness compelled them to dissolve their disputes through litigation. It can be perceived as a positive trend because the tendency of individuals to possess their legal rights illustrates a social transition towards a more empowered citizen and underscores a growing reliance on Individuals in our Legal system. Though the surge in litigation is a positive trend but it also presents challenges for the judicial apparatus. Since courts are struggling with growing

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 is a procedural law related to the administration of civil proceedings in India.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Indian Evidence Act, of 1872 contains a set of rules and allied issues governing the admissibility of evidence

caseloads, causing burdens and delays that ultimately obstructing the timely delivery of Justice. Now the concern is there is a discrepancy between the increasing number of cases and our judicial capacity. According to the 2001 census, India had only 14 judges per million people. The Law Commission of India, in its 120th report from July 1987 on judicial workforce planning, recommended 50 judges per million of the population. This recommendation however remained a mere suggestion, no action has been taken up on this recommendation. On December 31, 2021, The Law Minister conveyed to the Rajya Sabha that the judge-to-population ratio, based on the sanctioned judges' strength according to the 2021 census is 21.03. (The Economic Times, Feb 10, 2022) However, this current number is still insufficient in light of the increasing number of cases. According to the National Judicial data grid, more than 4 crores of cases are pending in India right now as of 1st May 2023 out of those more than 68 thousand cases are pending in the Supreme Court, more than 60 lakh cases are pending in the High court and more than 3 crores of cases are in the district and other subordinate courts. These are huge numbers. This number clearly indicates the inadequacy of existing judicial strength to meet the demands imposed by the rising caseload. This deficit has the potential to undermine the timely and efficient disposition of legal cases. Lack of courtrooms, insufficient infrastructure, lack of judges and rigid complex procedures collectively contribute to the delay in the disposal of even minor cases. This complex situation causes pendency and clogging of the legal system. This overburdening of the judiciary makes it difficult to ensure speedy and efficient justice delivery. This unwanted situation causes frustration among litigants and further diminishes public trust in the efficacy of the judicial system. (Noorani, 2006)

In the light of the increasing caseload on courts. It's evident that there is a need for an alternative platform to resolve some cases. This not only lightens the burden of courts but also ensures a speedy and efficient delivery of justice to people. An alternative platform like Lok Adalat aims to alleviating the strain on traditional courts and also streamline the legal process for quicker resolutions, ultimately benefiting both the Judiciary system and people who are exhausted from being in queue, waiting for their justice.

It is widely understood that court expenses are exorbitant, and lawyers charge a huge amount of money from their clients. It is not possible for every section of people to afford that money. Now it has to be ensured that someone's financial constraint should not impede one's right to access justice. Everyone has this right no matter who they are, and what their financial condition is. The Indian constitution, through Article 39a, mandates the provision of free legal aid to those who are financially vulnerable and belong to the weaker sections of society. No condition can deprive them of pursuing their legal right because our Constitution of India has given them the right.

Lok Adalat was established underlying the notion of providing free legal aid to the people. Those who can't afford the high expenses of courts can seek help from an alternative platform like Lok Adalat. It endeavours to save litigants both time and Financial resources. (Kachhwaha, 2017)

## **Advantages of Lok Adalat**

- 1. No court fees: It is universally known that court fees are very high, Lawyers charge a huge amount of money from their clients. Economically vulnerable people may not afford the high cost associated with lawyers. Lok Adalat is cost-effective. There are no court fees. By waiving court fees Lok Adalat guaranteed access to justice for everyone. Irrespective of their financial capacity. The adoption of this approach promotes the legal framework to become more inclusive and encourages individuals to have faith in the legal system of our country. It motivates individuals to pursue resolutions without the added strain of financial burdens. By not imposing court fees, Lok Adalat confirms its dedication to providing a justice platform that is both expeditious and economically viable. (Garg, 2014)
- 2. No strict procedure: Lok Adalat is flexible and informal in nature. It does not consist of strict rigid provisions which are hard to understand for a person who belongs outside the Legal sphere. The absence of rigid procedures paves the way for an approachable and user-friendly atmosphere where involved parties have the opportunity for open communication and negotiation. The free environment encourages them to talk freely without any hesitation. While the lack of strict procedures may seem unconventional, it plays a pivotal role in enhancing the efficiency of Lok Adalat in providing quick and just resolutions. (Prakash)
- 3. Direct interaction with the judge: In Lok Adalat parties have a unique opportunity to directly interact with the presiding judge this dynamic feature of Lok Adalat distinguishes it from conventional court proceedings. This distinctive characteristic establishes a more individualized and direct mode of interaction between the concerned parties and judicial authority unlike regular courts, where communication is held through legal representatives and under standardized protocols. In Lok Adalat creates a space for the concerned parties to openly voice their concerns, articulate arguments and directly seek clarification from the judge. The direct interaction not only facilitates the legal process to become streamlined but also enhances the transparency of the entire system.
- **4. The award of Lok Adalat is Final:** the award of the Lok Adalat is deemed final and binding on the parties involved. An award given by the Lok Adalat becomes final and conclusive which means the decision cannot

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be questioned or further appealed in traditional courts by the involved parties. Though this provision might limit the opportunity of further appeal to the party who decides it as unjust on the positive side this provision contributes to the expeditious resolution of disputes by eliminating the lengthy appellate process. The ultimate nature of Lok Adalat contributes to the primary goal of easing the workload on traditional courts.

- **5. Trying to reduce the burden of courts:** By reducing the backlog of cases, Lok Adalat trying to alleviate the burden on traditional courts. Lok Adalat has been playing a crucial role by focusing on the reduction of pending cases. They have been actively addressing the problem of backlogs. (Khan, 2005)
- **6. It aims to make justice more accessible and affordable for citizens:** The traditional court system is quite expensive whereas Lok Adalat is affordable for all sections of society. The primary aim is to strive for the promoting of broadening access to justice and making it economically feasible. One of the key methods by which Lok Adalat enhance accessibility is by making Conciliation a priority. This not only promotes financial relief for litigants but also fosters a dispute-resolution culture that is less hostile and more cooperative. (Mehrotra, 2021)
- **7. Lok Adalat encourages consensual arrangements**: Lok Adalat encourages litigants to solve their cases through consensual means. It encourages a collaborative environment wherein conflicting parties actively participate in negotiations. By avoiding confrontational legal disputes Lok Adalat generates an atmosphere that motivates the parties to seek common ground that is more or less satisfactory to both parties.
- **8.** Try to maintain a harmonious relationship between the involved parties: By seeking to bridge gaps Lok Adalat try to maintain a harmonious relationship between the conflicting parties. The chief purpose is not merely the resolution of immediate Legal matters but also encompasses a commitment to enduring harmony and reconciliation. Furthermore, the focus on sustaining a harmonious relationship resonates with the broader societal goal of encouraging peaceful cohabitation. (Pandey, 2023)

## Nationwide performance of Lok Adalat from 2018-2021

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICE AUTHORITY Disposal of National Lok Adalat held on 14.07.2018												
Pre-Utigation Cases Pending Cases Total												
S.No.	Authority Name	No. Of Lok adalats	Expenditure Incurred	Taken Up	Disposed Off	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed Off	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed Off	Settlement Amount (Rs
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	595	0	26284	5004	24441318	51448	9353	376223156	77732	14357	400664474
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	16	0	1273	310	2879489	258	48	10000000	1531	358	12879489
4	ASSAM	301	66321	59354	6266	170631739	15991	5587	168062861	75345	11853	338694600
5	BIHAR	410	81009	258149	27702	1295864420	13296	4041	115909342	271445	31743	141177376
6	CHANDIGARH	13	0	1521	14	591500	3925	2443	159881011	5446	2457	160472511
7	CHHATTISGARH	870	0	310184	6385	89870837	57437	8161	537861868	367621	14546	627732705
8	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	2	0	161	0	0	162	61	9370879	323	61	9370879
9	DAMAN AND DIU	41	2700	5	0	0	19	7	85945000	24	7	85945000
10	DELHI	121	0	5299	1051	19389442	14517	10461	365322114	19816	11512	384711556
11	GOA	19	13750	1881	192	8520570	1217	395	11082672	3098	587	19603242
12	GUJARAT *	1495	38500	77057	7142	222242530	52181	22639	1778600279	129238	29781	2000842809
13	HARYANA	125	89546	18911	6571	81261346	51333	8509	198678719	70244	15080	279940065
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	112	0	4647	1245	40778223	7035	3238	151367264	11682	4483	192145487
15	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	108	5500	7193	4668	34887348	12428	9412	363811062	19621	14080	398698410
16	JHARKHAND	236	23806	22055	10200	221951283	8357	6631	115481061	30412	16831	337432344
17	KARNATAKA	689	0	21165	2870	129959338	54698	19964	1040596398	75863	22834	1170555736
18	KERALA	805	131270314	83458	21929	879271696	60774	12351	2653659226	144232	34280	353293092
19	LAKSHADWEEP	2	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	6	4	0
20	MADHYA PRADESH	1165	130086	338613	29874	376372297	195310	19672	1707512437	533923	49546	208388473

S.No.	Authority Name	No. Of Lok adalats		Pre	-Litigation	Cases		Pending Ca	ises	Total		
			Expenditure Incurred	Taken Up	Disposed Off	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed Off	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed Off	Settlement Amount (Rs)
21	MAHARASHTRA	987	96000	604286	115612	449606442	161166	34067	2448890825	765452	149679	2898497267
22	MANIPUR **	16	193000	285	264	8852078	20	11	1891153	305	275	10743231
23	MEGHALAYA	36	0	1125	144	4138980	626	185	3907223	1751	329	8046203
24	MIZORAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	NAGALAND	19	0	1736	574	24911042	162	78	24626000	1898	652	49537042
26	ODISHA **	188	25000	47932	2540	101172727	37023	3770	442677304	84955	6310	543850031
27	PUDUCHERRY	12	0	2617	167	8499483	2409	1032	24039418	5026	1199	32538901
28	PUNJAB	274	6100	56100	9417	424573009	35198	19010	2735697470	91298	28427	3160270479
29	RAJASTHAN	793	15000	122384	10129	343473984	134282	26059	2118190569	256666	36188	2461664553
30	SIKKIM	10	0	8	8	166918	21	21	104500	29	29	271418
31	TAMIL NADU	483	25000	119669	20280	430353105	189936	79313	3625018929	309605	99593	4055372034
32	TELANGANA	241	6328	8047	6039	157592284	16627	10139	409115901	24674	16178	566708185
33	TRIPURA	50	28122	2677	351	10650525	619	85	7855847	3296	436	18506372
34	UTTARAKHAND	152	5776	9717	1144	83484607	6050	3157	226407416	15767	4301	309892023
35	UTTAR PRADESH	598	104412	777456	303539	1691600639	360134	169711	1375772222	1137590	473250	3067372861
36	WEST BENGAL	167	359094	22725	3968	151317592	11913	9351	81832527	34638	13319	233150119
37	SCLSC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	11151	132585364	3013980	605603	7489306791	1556572	498962	23375392653	4570552	1104565	30864699444

e\* National Lok Adalat was held on 22.07.2018 in Gujarat SLSA

\* National Lok Adalat were held on 28.07.2018 in Odisha and 4 Distt. Of Manipur SLSA.

Source: National Legal Service Authority

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On  $14^{th}$  July 2018, the Nationwide Lok Adalat that happened in India more than 11 lakh cases were disposed of by the Lok Adalat. Out of those more than 6 lakh cases were at the pre-litigation stage and more than 6 lakh cases were pending in courts.

No.	Authority Name	No. of Lok	Expenditure	Pr	e-litigation	Cases		Pending Ca	292	Total		
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Adalats	Incurred	Taken Up	Disposed Of	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed Of	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed Of	Settlement Amount (Rs)
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	337	2100	8360	1941	84492538	38916	26124	1457707594	47276	28065	154220013
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	17	0	685	42	2202932	215	55	4578000	900	97	6780932
4	ASSAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	BIHAR	494	274437	539054	41291	1983795328	30108	6512	337339591	569162	47803	232113491
6	CHANDIGARH	21	0	3544	240	2280555	5443	2142	170316228	8987	2382	172596783
7	CHHATTISGARH	994	0	193031	4386	51712471	74439	11829	785170290	267470	16215	836882761
8	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	2	0	4684	1377	15780025	68	27	4427332	4752	1404	20207357
9	DAMAN AND DIU	- 3	0	141	15	1150500	85	10	335332	226	25	1485832
10	DELHI	129	0	15703	12723	37187564	14006	9155	670941999	29709	21878	708129563
11	GOA	28	0	1207	87	3721866	1645	430	21326373	2852	517	25048239
12	GUJARAT	917	800	108832	13955	282879919	93394	34263	2591287005	202226	48218	287416692
13	HARYANA	665	20998	41226	11713	151765402	69218	16738	681182948	110444	28451	832948350
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	128	0	8417	3711	46300494	8048	4064	229049313	16465	7775	275349807
15	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	128	7000	3711	2308	37760645	7750	5420	120963158	11461	7728	158723803
16	JHARKHAND *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	KARNATAKA	1005	727970	70659	6525	518513792	220675	81686	3627448617	291334	88211	414596240
18	KERALA	731	711266	97032	21929	1085322764	47583	5458	1076275849	144615	27387	216159861
39	MAKSHADIMEED	г	268550	448	333	17216191	sì	ıß.	1982500	499	349	19198691
23	MEGHALAYA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	MIZORAM	14	251310	1299	158	9282808	84	12	1762550	1383	170	11045358
25	NAGALAND	23	0	246	162	7487802	26	22	9250000	272	184	16737802
26	ODISHA	293	245770	75492	4109	103359602	51620	11855	689427608	127112	15964	792787210
27	PUDUCHERRY	11	0	3405	140	14371280	1654	902	42526621	5059	1042	56897901
28	PUNIAB	369	48580	42013	4725	373370666	26580	15608	3476565474	68593	20333	384993614
29	RAJASTHAN	809	0	135001	9091	444905329	173216	43851	3545571509	308217	52942	399047683
30	SIKKIM	10	0	26	26	2620965	11	11	0	37	37	2620965
31	TAMIL NADU	543	0	14690	6837	580383849	184332	76637	4342848429	199022	83474	492323227
32	TELANGANA	211	0	24168	17989	253698451	20569	16897	811843057	44737	34886	106554150
33	TRIPURA	50	52238	4641	731	11523655	484	56	3576255	5125	787	15099910
34	UTTARAKHAND	137	0	29199	2059	193968980	6119	3523	149310674	35318	5582	343279654
35	UTTAR PRADESH	688	168926	1009368	392869	2909984468	500274	262383	2223201600	1509642	655252	513318606
36	WEST BENGAL	248	458035	38930	8018	225478695	12920	7538	119336349	51850	15556	344815044
37	SCLSC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	11419	53063023	3725934	722923	10983898617	1929391	689517	32915182451	5655325	1412440	4389908106

Note: \* Jharkhand will organise NLA in the month of February, 2020

S.No.		Pre-litig	ation Cases	Pendi	ing Cases	Total Disposed	Total Amount	
-	Name of SLSA	Disposed of	Settlement Amt. ( Rs.)	Disposed of	Settlement Amt. ( Rs.)	of	Rs.	
1	Andhra Pradesh	8652	139145537	19238	842070639	27890	98121617	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	152	12859469	208	7762942	360	2062241	
3	Assam	4707	138194922	8318	184578888	13025	322773810	
. 4.	Bihar	49861	1597376492	4554	198450890	54415	179582738	
5	Chhattisgarh	5629	70931324	5458	404953978	11087	475885302	
6	Goa	142	5538938	239	12839756	381	1837869	
7	Gujarat *	12116	221341983	24789	2748842592	36905	297018457	
8	Haryana	8346	77713924	12372	1558343062	20718	163605698	
. 9.	Himachal Pradesh	899	39041408	3254	127331869	4153	16637327	
10	Jammu & Kashmir	11013	58432614	6206	245395039	17219	30382765	
11	sharkhand	15217	509689790	8064	158684181	23281	66837397	
12	Kamataka	2209	64908552	9891	629881518	12100	694790070	
13	Kerala	5370	255432059	7055	1607348219	12425	186278027	
14	Madhya Pradesh	60406	536963435	32178	1899399518	92584	243636295	
15	Maharashtra .	200195	920672555	41193	5104256829	241388	602492938	
16	Manipur	446	22690253	25	2588187	471	25278440	
17	Meghalaya	183	5420393	186	8539909	369	1396030	
18	Mizoram	162	17158363	- 2	0	164	1715836	
19 .	Nagaland	- 58	2215660	16	5423925	74	763958	
20	Odisha	5812	183734242	22704	659999189	28516	84373343	
21	Punjab	9168	176342804	22847	3523099027	32015	369944183	
22	Rajasthan	14080	335355528	21116	1742624155	35196	207797968	
23	Sikkim	- 4	300000	8	1500	12	30150	
24	Tamil Nadu	45787	649518241	99392	4609927877	145179	5259446118	
25	Telangana	11925	67706340	15486	417091091	27411	48479743	
26	Tripura	350	10561378	78	: 6070300	428	1663167	
27	Uttar Pradesh	175037	1658840283	318359	1724631311	493396	338347159	
28	Uttarakhand	.1547	56263251	4313	100975791	5860	157239042	
29	West Bengal	. 5760	227781082	12682	144544708	18442	372325790	
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	133	6404972	169	319936	302	672490	
31	U.T. of Chandigarh	12	565000	4783	228923586	.4795	22948858	
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	-0	10	1254465	10	1254465	
33	Daman & Diu	.0	0	- 9	1811504	.9	181150	
34	Delhi	3507	203088707	. 4859	510659568	8366	71374827	
35	Lakshadweep	. 1	. 0	. 0	. 0		(	
36	U.T. of Puducherry	255	22007298	1247	65663578	1502	8767087	
_	TOTAL	659141	8294196797	711308	29484289527	1370449	3777848632	

Source: National Legal Service Authority

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On 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the national Lok Adalat that happened in India total of 1412440 cases were solved. Out of those more than 7 lakh cases were at the pre-litigation stage and more than 6 lakh cases were pending cases that were solved by the Lok Adalat.

				NATIO	NAL LEC	SAL SERV	ICE AUT	HORITY	,			
						lat held on 1	2.12.202				-1-1-1-1	
s. No.	Authority Name	No. of Lok adalats	Expenditure Incurred	Pre-litigation Cases				Pending Ca	ises	Total		
				Taken Up	Disposed Of	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed Of	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed Of	Settlement Amount (Re
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	5	0	520	84	11626536	236	164	43650	756	248	11670186
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	357	1750	3725	512	27191809	27638	14901	807929414	31363	15413	83512122
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	11	0	215	2	4000	168	36	2333709	383	38	2337709
4	ASSAM	280	93112	74394	4503	120746237	7925	1583	681871775	82319	6086	80261801
5	BIHAR	285	67080	77069	18591	976777731	9777	2600	371994193	86846	21191	134877192
6	CHANDIGARH	13	0	2282	7	1074500	1674	1121	259073211	3956	1128	26014771
7	CHHATTISGARH	797	0	29838	1027	25529644	27996	10859	1169086769	57834	11886	119461641
8	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	2	0	175	12	355546	185	26	17123266	360	38	17478812
9	DAMAN AND DIU	3	0	31	0	0	104	20	1951733	135	20	1951733
10	DELHI	226	468900	0	0	0	65534	63242	1236118516	65534	63242	123611851
11	GOA #	14	12381	650	20	3016000	371	70	3579351	1021	90	6595351
12	GUJARAT	653	0	9571	1637	43678139	21846	10591	1567185027	31417	12228	161086316
13	HARYANA	279	1230	10712	6211	46704036	32766	8898	408177014	43478	15109	45488105
14	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	117	0	1947	669	16876310	6060	3959	460110026	8007	4628	47698633
16	JHARKHAND	216	8500	42712	16520	293304839	10990	7911	120041386	53702	24431	41334622
17	KARNATAKA **	958	0	42805	16325	562504956	421289	246890	6459485195	464094	263215	702199015
18	KERALA #	72	371644	4922	812	52544866	3517	435	91056307	8439	1247	14360117
19	LAKSHADWEEP	1	0	22	8	0	0	0	0	22	8	0
20	MADHYA PRADESH	1236	17330305	444297	35718	545362750	145120	16205	2135155106	589417	51923	268051785
	MAHARASHTRA	1178	4534530	523206	48406	965011986	191699	30363	3670614155	714905	78769	463562614
22	MANIPUR	12	107350	130	78	10621850	36	16	9455000	166	94	20076850
2.3	MEGHALAYA *	24	0	658	.89	4739295	551	82	5271157	1209	171	10010452
	MIZORAM	10	192880	332	87	6735992	57	1.7	4016096	389	104	10752088
25	NAGALAND	1	0	0	0	0	9	9	3890000	9	9	3890000
26	ODISHA **	262	86520	52417	2709	126666065	30183	5518	645766314	82600	8227	77243237
S. No.	Authority Name	No. of Lok adalats	Expenditure	Pre-litigation Cases				Pending Ca	ises	Total		
		Second Second	11.760/1088 ·	Taken Up	Disposed	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed	Settlement Amount (Rs)	Taken Up	Disposed	Settlemen Amount (R
27	PUDUCHERRY	12	0	654	78	7506000	1542	950	27919213	2196	1028	35425213
28	PUNJAB	620	40056	39475	2840	204858356	42434	16535	2228975594	81909	19375	243383395
	RAJASTHAN	678	0	79434	10540	300196228	140767	40265	4114403033	220201	50805	441459926
30	SIKKIM	10	0	11	11	1066572	0	0	0	11	11	1066572
31	TAMIL NADU	342	87440	2760	1385	243229776	64726	32603	3299496906	67486	33988	354272668
32	TELANGANA	259	0	18782	16948	31334033	18966	15144	584848420	37748	32092	61618245
33	TRIPURA	39	0	- 6	3	195000	923	121	4530600	929	124	4725600
34	UTTARAKHAND	248	0	23370	1252	123495677	6007	2112	171977682	29377	3364	29547335
35	UTTAR PRADESH	810	2836835	1098607	400566	3889434596	391054	211615	2000176606	1489661	612181	588961120
	WEST BENGAL	165	215679	20197	2777	114345873	18109	13505	248491804	38306	16282	36283767
_	Grand Total	10195	26456192	2605926	590427	8756735198	1690259	758366	32812148228	4296185	1348793	4156888342

ote: \* Meghalaya SLSA was organised National Lok Adalat on 05.12.2020 \*\* Karnataka and Odisha SLSA were organised National Lok Adalat on 19.12.2020

Source: National Legal Service Authority

In 2020, the National Lok Adalat was established on 12<sup>th</sup> December. In that Lok Adalat more than 13 lakh cases have been disposed of. Out of those 13 lakhs, more than 5.5 lakh cases were at the pre-litigation stage and more than 7.5 lakh cases were those which were pending in courts.

1 ANDA 1	thority Name						21 (All Types				
NICOL  NICOL  ANDER  ARUN  PRADO  ARUN  PRADO  BERNA  BERNA  BERNA  CHHA  BOAN  CHHA  BOAN  DO  DE  BERNA  BOAN  B			re-litigation	Cases		Pending C	ases	Total			
NICOL  NICOL  ANDER  ARUN  PRADO  ARUN  PRADO  BERNA  BERNA  BERNA  CHHA  BOAN  CHHA  BOAN  DO  DE  BERNA  BOAN  B		Taken Up	Disposed Of	Settlement Amount (Rs.)	Taken Up	Disposed	Settlement Amount (Rs.)	Taken Up	Disposed	Settlement Amount (Rs.	
3 ARUN PRAD  PRAD  4 ASSAI AS  5 BIMAR  7 CHEA  8 DADR  9 DADR  10 OCILLA  11	DAMAN AND	532	190	126721500	1943	1501	652650	2475	1691	127374150	
PRADE	DHRA PRADESH	15481	4026	150924596	100482	39625	1926717779	115963	43651	2077642375	
5 BIHAPI 6 CHIA 7 CHHAA 8 DADR 9 DAMP 10 DELHI 11 DELHI 11 DELHI 11 DELHI 11 DELHI 11 DELHI 12 GUJAH 13 HARIY. 14 HIMA 15 JAMIN 16 JHARIY 17 KARIN 18 JHARIY 19 LADAD 20 LAKSI 21 MADD 22 MAH 22 MAH 23 MANI 24 MEGI 25 MIZO 26 NAGA NAGA 27 ODISI 28 PUDU 29 PUBU 30 RAJAS 31 SIKRIN	UNACHAL ADESH	1352	118	11099126	1124	329	7584957	2476	447	18684083	
5 BIHAPI 6 CHIA 7 CHHAA 8 DADR 9 DAMP 10 DELHI 11 DELHI 11 DELHI 11 DELHI 11 DELHI 11 DELHI 12 GUJAH 13 HARIY. 14 HIMA 15 JAMIN 16 JHARIY 17 KARIN 18 JHARIY 19 LADAD 20 LAKSI 21 MADD 22 MAH 22 MAH 23 MANI 24 MEGI 25 MIZO 26 NAGA NAGA 27 ODISI 28 PUDU 29 PUBU 30 RAJAS 31 SIKRIN	MAZ	88162	10174	207514964	21941	6660	597336443	110103	16834	804851407	
6 CHAN 7 CCH4A 8 DADR HAVE 9 DARM 11 GOA 11 GOA 13 HARY 13 HARY 14 HIMA 15 JAMN KASH 16 JHARR 17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 LADAI 20 LAKSI 21 MAD 21 MAD 22 MARY 22 MARY 24 MEGG 25 MIZO 26 NAGA NO. Autho 27 ODISS 28 PUOLU 29 PUNJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN		459745	39239	1527327194	72569	15453	510094637	532314	54692	203742183	
7 CHHAN 8 DADR HAVE 9 DAMM 10 DELHH 11 GOA 11 GOA 11 GOA 12 GUJAN 11 GOA 11 GOA 12 GUJAN 12 GUJAN 13 HIMAN 14 HIMAN 15 JAMN 16 JHARN 17 KARN 18 ERRA 18 ERRA 19 HAN 19 KARN 10 HAN 10 H	ANDIGARH	11426	48	1267925	8431	6890	319992780	19857	6938	321260705	
B DADR HAVE 9 DARM 10 DELHI 11 GOA 11 GOA 11 GOA 13 HARY. 13 HARY. 14 HIMA 15 JAMIN KASHI 16 JHARR 17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 LADAJ 20 LAKSI 21 MADJ 22 MAHJ 23 MAHJ 25 JAMIN 26 KERAI 27 ODISS 28 PUDU 27 MZ 28 PUDU 29 PUDU 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIR	HATTISGARH	88988	23896	69014060	49363	30589	783017647	138351	54485	852031707	
10 DELHHI 11 GOA 12 GUJAI 13 HARN; 14 HIMA 15 JAMIN, 16 JHARR 17 KARN 18 KERAI 17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 JOHN 21 MADP 22 MAH 23 MAN 24 MEG 25 MIZO 25 MIZO 26 NAGA . NO. Autho 27 ODISS 28 PUOU, 29 PUNJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIR	DRA AND NAGAR	377	19	1793022	265	39	10047578	642	58	11840600	
10 DELHHI 11 GOA 12 GUJAI 13 HARN; 14 HIMA 15 JAMIN, 16 JHARR 17 KARN 18 KERAI 17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 JOHN 21 MADP 22 MAH 23 MAN 24 MEG 25 MIZO 25 MIZO 26 NAGA . NO. Autho 27 ODISS 28 PUOU, 29 PUNJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIR	MAN AND DIU	84	5	208800	60	16	7524972	144	21	7733772	
11 GOA 12 GUJAI 13 HARY. 14 HIMA 15 JAMN 15 JAMN 16 JHARR 17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 LADAI 20 LAKSI 21 MAD 22 MAY 22 MAY 23 MAN 22 MAY 25 MIZO 25 NAGA . NO. Auth 27 ODISS 28 PUOU 29 PUNJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN		96087	87030	119345935	21934	18049	1485277021	118021	105079	1604622956	
12 GUJAI 13 HARY 14 HIMA 15 JAMN KASHI 16 JHARR 17 KARN 17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 LADAI 22 LAKSP 26 NAGA 26 NAGA 27 ODISP 28 PUDU 27 PUNJAI 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIR 31 AND		1389	82	8005828	2325	626	22848828	3714	708	30854656	
13 HARY, 14 HIMA 15 JAMME 15 JAMME 16 JHARR 17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 LADAI 20 LAKSI 21 MADD 22 MAH/ 22 LAKSI 25 MIZO 26 NAGA . No. Autho 27 ODISI 28 PUDU 29 PUNJA 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIR		189299	24470	469977584	320940	184202	6693042759	510239	208672	716302034	
14 HIMA 15 JAMN KASHI 16 JHARR 17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 LADAI 20 LAKSI 21 MADI 22 MAH 23 MANI 24 MEG 25 MIZO 26 NAGA NO. Autho 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNJAI 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIR		25962	9888	378282935	97107	39506	1339042854	123069	49394	171732578	
KASHI 16 JHARI 17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 LADAI 19 LADAI 20 LAKSI 21 MADI 21 MADI 22 MAHI 23 MANI 25 MIZO 26 NAGA  NO. Author 27 ODISS 28 PUDU 29 PUNI 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	MACHAL PRADESH	15598	5298	236010226	10551	5495	357187537	26149	10793	593197763	
17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 LADAI 20 LAKSH 21 MADOI 22 MAH/ 23 MAH/ 24 MEGI 25 MIZO 26 NAGA NO. Author 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNI/ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	MMU AND	38748	33492	197437982	32041	25579	401132779	70789	59071	598570761	
17 KARN 18 KERAI 19 LADAI 20 LAKSH 21 MADOI 22 MAH/ 23 MAH/ 24 MEGI 25 MIZO 26 NAGA NO. Author 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNI/ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	ARKHAND	171751	103799	747625981	37364	23655	587757841	209115	127454	133538382	
19 LADAI 20 LAKSI 21 MADI 22 MAH 23 MANI 24 MEGI 25 MIZO 26 NAGA  I, NO. Author 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIM	RNATAKA **	43731	8606	321386021	509995	329077	8299434125	553726	337683	862082014	
19 LADAI 20 LAKSI 21 MADI 22 MAH 23 MANI 24 MEGI 25 MIZO 26 NAGA  I, NO. Author 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIM	RALA	35569	6860	1846344023	29376	11109	1857129502	64945	17969	370347352	
21 MADH 22 MAH 23 MAH 24 MEGH 25 MIZO 26 NAGA . No. Author 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNJA 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN		233	216	2277100	564	362	17847282	797	578	20124382	
21 MADH 22 MAH/ 23 MAH/ 24 MEGH 25 MIZO 26 NAGA NO. Author 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNJ/ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	KSHADWEEP	27	5	0	3	2	0	30	7	0	
22 MAH/ 23 MANI 24 MEGH 25 MIZO 26 NAGA 1. No. Author 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNJ/ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	ADHYA PRADESH	528480	88105	1340005084	227488	36457	4105108265	755968	124562	5445113349	
23 MANI 24 MEGH 25 MIZO 26 NAGA NO. Autho 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	HARASHTRA	4773646	1376581	3017025381	405644	57276	11846106318	5179290	1433857	1486313169	
24 MEGH 25 MIZO 26 NAGA NO. Author 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNIJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	NIPUR	287	152	10329365	68	23	9015846	355	175	19345211	
25 MIZO 26 NAGA . No. Author 27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUDU 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	GHALAYA	639	104	2507317	454	86	3771011	1093	190	6278328	
27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNU 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	ZORAM	2238	201	40870520	121	33	20260675	2359	234	61131195	
27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	GALAND	715	212	22599322	21	19	8265000	736	231	30864322	
27 ODISH 28 PUDU 29 PUNJ 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	thority Name		re-litigation			Pending C			Total	3000 1322	
28 PUDU 29 PUNJA 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	,	Taken Up	Disposed	Settlement Amount (Rs.)	Taken Up	Disposed	Settlement Amount (Rs.)	Taken Up	Disposed	Settlement Amount (Rs.	
28 PUDU 29 PUNJA 30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	15114	79912	2986	180332014	43991	9104	954716654	123903	12090	1135048668	
30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN	DUCHERRY	1112	39	5243800	2514	1169	34573136	3626	12090	39816936	
30 RAJAS 31 SIKKIN		54098	5732	269287504	85301	42782	9651456201	139399	48514	9920743705	
31 SIKKIN	JASTHAN	157296	34298	811418543	301055	95262	5492112352	458351	129560	630353089	
		29	22	1606175	19	15	591300	48	37	2197475	
32 TAMII	MIL NADU	39665	6164	649328203	129121	70843	4748633474	168786	77007	539796167	
	LANGANA	51598	49540	224226551	136184	132249	826561776	187782	181789	105078832	
34 TRIPU		1838	301	14075216	700	95	13352165	2538	396	27427381	
	TARAKHAND	7213	1770	157519148	8212	6317	428572873	15425	8087	586092021	
	TAR PRADESH	3007944	1611006	8085596327	1394701	684171	4982240285	4402645	2295177	1306783661	
	ST BENGAL	40945	5718	220467976	73106	70341	448867780	114051	76059	669335756	
	and Total	10032196		21475003248	4127078	1945006	68797875082	14159274	5485398	9027287833	

Note: \* Goa SLSA had organise National Lok Adalat on 08.01.2022.

Source: National Legal Service Authority

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On December 11 National Lok Adalat was established in that Lok Adalat more than 54 lakh cases have been disposed of, which is huge in number. Out of 54 lakh more than 35 lakh cases were those cases which were at the pre-litigation stage and more than 19 lakh cases were those which were pending in courts.

## Analysis of the overall performance

Every year the number is in the millions so we can see a positive growth in the performance of Lok Adalat. As the number of pending cases is huge so we cannot say that Lok Adalat reduces half of the burden overnight but we can say that Lok Adalat trying its best, they are trying to provide a helping hand to the courts. It is definitely going on the right path there is a positive hope that soon it will achieve its desired goal. By seeing the numbers one thing we can say with all assurance is that Lok Adalat is not merely in an experimental stage but is an effective mechanism accepted as a viable, economically efficient form of dispute resolution system.

#### Problems and their solutions

In the working of any system, one cannot find all the virtues together there must be certain flaws as well. However, the flaws can be minimized or totally eliminated. The limitations of the Lok Adalat are, 1. Lok Adalat has faced criticism for giving more priority to quantity than quality as sometimes it focuses more on the numbers rather on providing quality justice, so the responsibility of maintaining a balance goes on the shoulder of the authority responsible for establishing Lok Adalat and the members of Lok Adalat involved. While expeditious case resolution is necessary for reducing judicial backlog at the same time the need to uphold the quality of the judicial process is also necessary for ensuring a fair and effective legal system. For Lok Adalat to succeed, it is crucial to strike a harmonious integration between the speedy disposal of cases and maintaining standards of quality. So, It is important for the authorities to enact measures that maintain standards, with an emphasis on ensuring fairness and thoroughness in the process. 2. The existence of Lok Adalat is often overshadowed by a notable absence of awareness. There has been a lack of awareness among people. A considerable portion of the population is uninformed about its existence they don't even know that something called Lok Adalat exists in our Legal system. This lack of awareness poses a challenge for some individuals in knowing its potential benefits. A necessary response to this issue involves launching a comprehensive and focused publicity campaign. To enhance the awareness initiatives such as miking and the distribution of pamphlets in areas where Lok Adalat are scheduled can be done. Mainstream media platforms like television and newspapers, social media can be a great platform for broad coverage and to disseminate information to a broader audience. Furthermore, conducting seminars offers a proactive strategy for enlightening individuals about the potential advantages of Lok Adalat. Through the integration of these approaches, a holistic campaign can contribute significantly to increasing awareness and accessibility to Lok Adalat services. 3. In certain instances, Mediators might find themselves without the adequate training needed to facilitate meaningful conversations between involved parties. So, it is important to invest in comprehensive and intensive training programs for these mediators. This strategy empowers them to acquire the skills necessary for promoting open dialogue and encouraging the involved parties towards reaching viable solutions. Well-trained mediators can go beyond mere guidance, they can actively provide alternatives and thoughtful advice, fostering an environment that facilitates constructive resolution. 4) Strengthening the infrastructure of Lok Adalat is essential for fostering a robust legal system. The efficiency of a judicial system is inherently tied to the well-established infrastructure. So, it is important for the government to allocate resources to strengthen the infrastructure. By enhancing the infrastructure of Lok Adalat the government can improve the overall efficiency of Lok Adalat. Essential financial support is imperative for the establishment and maintenance of Lok Adalat, covering costs associated with infrastructure, and personnel operational expenses. 5) Employing a strategic methodology entails the establishment of specialization benches that align with the quantity and nature of cases to ensure the most effective deployment of judicial resources. A proportional balance between bench numbers, caseload, and judge availability promotes a streamlined legal process, ultimately amplifying the overall effectiveness of Lok Adalat. Through a targeted allocation, cases are resolved more expeditiously, taking into account specific requirements and complexities linked to different facets of legal matters. 6) It is further suggested that judges need to be more serious and sensitive in their approach towards Lok Adalat proceedings. It emphasizes the need for a departure from this legal space as a mere festival or showcase, encouraging a transition towards a more solemn and purpose-oriented interaction. It calls for a more serious and sensitive approach that expresses a firm commitment to maintaining the true core and effectiveness of Lok Adalat, stressing its role as a forum for fair and just resolutions, not merely a ceremonial display. 7. In light of the difficulties posed by geographic constraints for access to Lok Adalat service, a creative solution can be the introduction of mobile Lok Adalats. Mobile Lok Adalats are able to take justice to the doorstep of individuals situated in distant regions. By bringing justice to the individuals mobile Lok Adalat provide as a fair and easily accessible platform. Mobile Lok Adalats offers a practical approach to the intricate challenges posed by geography, reinforcing the principle that Justice should be universally accessible, regardless of their geographical positioning. (Zainulbhai, 2016)

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## III. Conclusion:

To conclude, we can say that Lok Adalat is an effective alternative dispute resolution mechanism. It aimed to promote quicker and more accessible justice. Based on the earlier discussion it is clear that Lok Adalat resonates with the evolving with the changing societal needs by fostering peaceful settlements. Lok Adalat deals with a wide range of legal matters, showcasing its continued relevance in achieving more accessible justice. The flexibility to adapt to different issues underscores their relevance. On the whole, the analysis claims that Lok Adalat is an essential foundation in India's legal framework, playing a pivotal role not only in diminishing the backlog but also in fostering public confidence through a more accessible responsive justice. From the above discussion, it is quite evident that Lok Adalat has continued its relevance throughout the years in the Indian judiciary system. As no system is without zero flaws, Lok Adalat also possesses some loopholes but it can be diminished completely by making solutions of those so that it can work more efficiently and responsively towards its objective.

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