

National Lok Adalats are to be held, as per directions of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), from the level of the Talukas right up to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

On the occasion of the National Lok Adalat, across the country, on 9th of September, 2017, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, vide a message to the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (SSLSA), wished luck and success to the National Lok Adalat. The message also elucidated that "Access to Justice" which is a fundamental right, ought to be both 'economical' and 'effective' as only such a mechanism that guarantees the co-existence of both will be a successful model and the Lok Adalat is such a mechanism adopting an inclusionary approach and peoples participation, while doing away with the procedural aspects of law and focusing on practical justice.

In this spirit, the SSLSA also organized the fourth National Lok Adalat of the year on 9th September, 2017, at the High Court, the District Courts and the Taluka Levels, comprising of 11 (eleven) Benches, under the guidance of Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, SSLSA.

Cases to be taken up during the occasion were identified at pre-Lok Adalat sittings. **91**(ninety-one) cases so identified, included Criminal Compoundable Offences; Cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881; Loan Recovery Cases of Banks; Motor Accident Cases; Matrimonial Disputes; Labour Disputes; Land Acquisition Cases; Electricity & Water Bills (excluding non-compoundable matters); Service matters relating to pay and allowance and retiral benefits; Revenue Cases; Other Civil Cases (rent, easmentary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits); **61** (sixty-one) cases were settled in total and a sum of `25,76,347/- (Rupees twenty-five lakhs, seventy-six thousand, three hundred and forty-seven) only, was awarded by the Lok Adalat Benches in Sikkim.
