

# SUPREME COURT ADVOCATES-ON-RECORD ASSOCIATION

GE-81A & GE82, Ground Floor Main Building, East Wing, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001

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Mr. Amit Sharma  
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Mr. Nikhil Jain  
Honorary Secretary  
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Mr. Kaustubh Shukla  
Joint Secretary  
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Mr. Aljo K. Joseph  
Treasurer  
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Mr. Vishal Prasad  
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## Executive Members

Ms. Reena Pandey  
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Dr. Meenakshi Kalra  
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Ms. Pragya Parijat Singh  
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Ms. Astha Sharma  
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Mr. Aditya Giri  
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Mr. A. Selvin Raja  
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Ref. No. 034/ SCAORA 2024

Date: 25.06.2024

To,

Shri Atul Madhukar Kurhekar,  
Secretary General,  
Supreme Court of India,  
New Delhi – 110 001



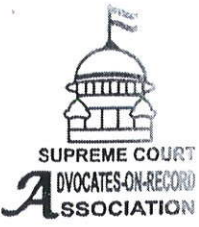
SUB: SPECIAL LOK ADALAT

Respected Sir,

In furtherance of the scheduled Special Lok Adalat to be held from 29th July 2024 to 3rd August 2024, wherein the registry of this Hon'ble Court has prepared a list of various matters (list dated 31.05.2024 and 13.06.2024 respectively), it has come to the notice of the members of the bar that various notices have been subsequently sent to District Legal Aid Offices across the country to issue appropriate notices to the litigants.

While the efforts to amicably resolve issues and bring to end various litigations through the Lok Adalat is more than welcome and commendable infact, it is surprising that the registry has sent the above lists without notifying or consulting the concerned Advocates-on-Record to ascertain whether such matters can infact be resolved by such means.

Consequently, litigants / clients have approached their respective Advocates, expressing their concern about being unnecessarily required to visit the legal aid offices for pre-Lok Adalat sittings in matters that cannot be settled in Lok Adalat especially when the concerned Advocates are aware about the nature of the litigation.



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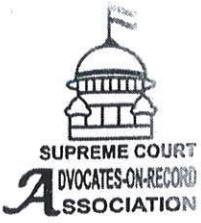
Furthermore, the legal aid services have requested the litigants / clients to travel to Delhi to attend the Lok Adalat, from various parts of the country, especially when the matters have no scope for resolution outside the court and are issues which have to be decided by the court on merits.

It is also not out of place to mention that service matters, including those where the validity of rules have been challenged or mediation has failed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court itself have also been sent to the Lok Adalat. This has increased the burden on the Legal Aid Authority and the concerned advocates where instead of the matters now being heard on merits after years of wait, the litigants are again required to wait and till such time the matters are in list of Lok Adalat the same can not be mentioned for urgent listings before the court as well.

It is humbly stated that this situation could have been avoided had the Supreme Court Registry considered the implications rather than mechanically sending these notices to Clients directly without any intimation to the Advocate on Record or have sought the requisite comments from the concerned Advocates on Record.

It is submitted that one of the matters in the list issued on 13.06.2024 is W.P.(C) No. 1022/1989 @60181/1989 ALL INDIA JUDGES ASSOCIATION AND ORS which cannot be settled in Lok Adalat, is more in the nature of a Public Interest Litigation wherein this Hon'ble Court has passed a slew of directions, and the issues pending before it cannot be resolved through Lok Adalat by any stretch of imagination.

What is further most shocking is that the clients are receiving pre-Lok Adalat notices in matters which have not even been numbered by the Supreme Court Registry and are infact at the diary number stage, and by blindsiding the members of the bar in such a manner the Registry has not only created a situation of chaos but left our members in a very precarious position with their clients.



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The fact that Clients from different states are receiving notices from District Legal Service Authorities without the knowledge of the concerned Advocates-on-Record, is causing unnecessary anxiety, and confusion. All this could have been easily avoided, if the notices were also marked to the concerned AORs along with the litigants.

It is therefore, most respectfully suggested that involving the concerned Advocate on Record/Advocate in this process could have been more beneficial to the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Registry, and all stakeholders and would have resulted in a more fruitful and effective Lok Adalat Session.

  
**NIKHIL JAIN**  
Hony. Secretary  
SCAORA