

20 ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION & LEGAL SERVICES

A. DELHI HIGH COURT MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION CENTRE



Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Centre, now known as “SAMADHAN”, was established in May 2006. A panel of Judges and Advocates oversee the Centre's work. The Centre is proud to have highly qualified and experienced Mediators drawn from the Bar. It maintains a list of trained Mediators from among members of the Bar whose services are available for disputes referred to the Centre.

The Centre handles cases referred to it by the Supreme Court of India, High Court of Delhi and its sub-ordinate courts. The Centre has been handling a variety of cases covering matters relating to business contracts/transactions, real estate and construction, consumer issues, employment and service issues, industrial disputes, banking and insurance cases, trade mark and copyright disputes, accidents related claims, landlord-tenant disputes, partnership disputes, family and matrimonial disputes, child custody and visitation rights, verification in habeas corpus matters etc. Public Sector Undertakings and government departments and institutions have also participated in mediation. *Samadhan* has seen very good results and its efforts have been greatly appreciated by the litigants.

Wherever necessary and desirable, the Centre has been making available the services of appropriate professional or welfare experts from its panel who assist the mediation process along with Mediators to ensure best possible resolution of every dispute referred to it.

The second Advance Training Workshop for training Lawyers by highly experienced Mediator-Trainers, Mr. Niranjana Bhat, Advocate, Mr. Siriram Panchu, Sr. Advocate and Mr. Braja Behari was conducted by the Centre from 07.12.2007 to 09.12.2007 at Heritage Hotel, Manesar.

Justice Markandeya Katju, Judge Supreme Court of India, Dr. Justice Mukundakam Sharma, the then Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi (now Judge, Supreme Court of India), Justice Madan B.Lokur and members of the Overseeing Committee, Justice Mukul Mudgal, Chairman, Justice A.K.Sikri, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Dr. Justice S.Muralidhar, the expert trainers and the participants attended the workshop.

Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice K.G.Balakrishnan released the logo of the Centre on the 07.01.2008. The Logo includes the new name of the Centre: *SAMADHAN*, meaning 'Resolution.' On this occasion, the website of the Centre "delhihighcourtmediationcentre.com" was also launched.

The Centre brought out the following printed material for spreading awareness about mediation:-

1. The 2008 calendar in English, which illustrated the advantages of Mediation through visual depiction.
2. A Handout in English and Hindi with basic information both about mediation as an intervention of ADR and the advantages of mediation. This would be given to parties who come before the court as litigants. It would also be sent out with every summons sent to parties by High Court of Delhi.
3. Pamphlets both in English and Hindi giving detailed information about the Centre, outlining frequently asked questions on mediation, the law on mediation under the Civil Procedure Code and the Court Fees Act, the Delhi High Court Mediation and Conciliation Rules and proforma of an Application for Mediation required to be signed and submitted by parties and their counsel.
4. Posters in Hindi and English.

The Mediation Centre was fully renovated which has made it far more functional with a better reception and waiting area for the litigants and six brand new mediation rooms. The renovated Centre was also inaugurated on 07.01.2008.

The Centre has had the privilege of receiving delegations of visitors from home and abroad. Distinguished visitors who have shown great interest in the activities of the Centre include Mr. Justice Stephen Bryer, Associate Judge, Supreme Court of the United States of

America, a delegation of Mediators from Belgium, a delegation from United Kingdom, Judges of the Supreme Court and other High Courts especially those who have been involved with the setting up of Mediation Centres in their respective High Courts.

During the year 2007-08, as many as 868 cases pending in High Court of Delhi were referred to the Centre for resolving the disputes between the parties through the process of mediation out of which 668 were settled. This figure includes 485 related cases pending in other Courts.

B. DELHI HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee functions from Chamber No. 34-37, Lawyers Chamber Block, Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110003 and also has office at 54-57, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place, Gole Market, New Delhi. It runs a "24 x 7" day and night legal services clinic at Gole Market Office. It is engaged in providing legal aid and advice to the litigants approaching it for the purpose, organizes Lok Adalats for matters pending in the High Court and also gives training in Mediation/Conciliation.

DISPOSAL IN LOK ADALATS ORGANIZED BY COMMITTEE DURING APRIL, 2007 TO MARCH, 2008

Sl. No.	DATE OF LOK ADALAT	NATURE OF THE CASES	NO. OF CASES TAKEN UP	NO. OF CASES SETTLED
1.	29.04.2007	Appeals in motor accident claim cases	39	24
2.	06.05.2007	Appeals in motor accident claim cases	45	33
3.	28.07.2007	Appeals in motor accident claim cases	63	49
4.	04.08.2007	DTC service matters & appeals in motor accident claims.	24	14
5.	15.09.2007	Electricity disputes covering bills, connection, etc. pertaining to NDPL	17	15
6.	03.11.2007	Electricity cases on bills, disconnection pertaining to NDPL	24	14
7.	18.11.2007	Motor accident claim cases and electricity cases	143	96
8.	01.12.2007	Pending electricity matters of BSES Rajdhani & BSES Yamuna	32	17
9.	16.12.2007	Pre-litigation electricity disputes of NDPL	90	64
10.	15.03.2008	Cases pending before Special Electricity Courts & pre-litigative cases of BSES (Rajdhani) & BSES Yamuna Ltd.	146	114
11.	16.03.2008	Pre-litigative electricity disputes of NDPL	73	71
12.	18.03.2008	Cases pending before Special Electricity Courts & pre-litigative cases of BSES (Rajdhani)	60	44
13.	19.03.2008	Cases pending before Special Electricity Courts & pre-litigative cases of BSES (Yamuna)	49	36
	TOTAL		805	591

MEDIATION/CONCILIATION:

First Phase of “20 Hours” Foundation Training in Mediation was organized by the Committee from 10.10.2007 to 12.10.2007. Training was given to 25 empanelled Advocates and 9 Judicial Officers. This batch of empanelled Advocates and Judges participated in the Second Phase of “20 Hours” Advanced Training in Mediation from 01.02.2008 to 03.02.2008. 17 Advocates and 5 Judicial Officers successfully completed the Training in Mediation.

DISPOSAL OF CASES BY MEDIATION/CONCILIATION ORGANISED BY THE DELHI HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MONTH	SETTLED	NOT SETTLED	TOTAL
APRIL, 2007	21	22	43
MAY, 2007	44	04	48
JUNE, 2007	-	01	01
JULY, 2007	30	22	52
AUG, 2007	15	05	20
SEPT, 2007	18	02	20
OCT, 2007	07	-	07
NOV, 2007	11	-	11
DEC, 2007	18	02	20
JAN, 2008	06	03	09
FEB, 2008	18	11	29
MARCH, 2008	12	06	18
TOTAL	205	81	286

C. Legal Aid

Free Legal Aid Services were provided to 370 applicants during the period 01.04.2007 to 31.03.2008 by the Committee.