

INAUGURATION OF STATE MEGA LOK ADALAT

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH K AGNIHOTRI
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

12.04.2014 – 10.00 AM

My esteemed brother and sister Judges, Mr. A.L. Somayaji, learned Advocate General, Registrar General, Registrars, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Legal Services Authority, all Principal District Judges and Chairmen of District Legal Services Authorities, who are watching the proceedings through Video Conference, learned Advocates present in this gathering and all, who are watching through Video Conference, media, ladies and gentlemen,

My previous speakers have already given success story of the Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority as well as the Puducherry Legal Services Authority. The success story itself indicates commitment and dedication of all the stakeholders. I thank all of you, not only those present here but also all over the State, who, despite having the long week-end, have decided to devote one day for this purpose.

The Lok Adalat or the Legal Aid is a divine function. You all know the traditional concept of Pancha Parameshwar. If five citizens, elderly citizens, residents of a place, sit together and take a decision on a dispute, that is taken as divine command. That is the traditional concept of Lok Adalat. The basic element of Lok Adalat is conscious consent of

the parties. The presiding Judges, who assume the role of senior resident or a senior citizen, only act as facilitators. In case of any doubt, they help you. But you have to first agree to it. Whether it is lok adalat, arbitration, mediation, conciliation, the first and foremost requirement is your agreement and once you agree to some solution, then it is binding on you. This is the beauty of Lok Adalat or Legal Aid. As stated by my learned previous speakers, if you avoid ego clash – most of the litigations, which are not on account of problems but on account of ego clash, will come to an end. I tell you one example.

When I began my professional career, one gentleman, a teacher, came to me. He had a small problem. He wanted to file a case. I advised him, *'you are a teacher, you have to spend a lot of money, you have to spend a lot of time'*. He said, *'No no. I will take a chance. Then whatever is the result, I will keep quiet. Let me try'*. I said, *'Alright'*. After having gone to the trial court, he was not satisfied with the result and he went upto the Supreme Court. He spent 15 years and lost lakhs of rupees. After losing in the Supreme Court, he again met me. I asked him, *'What happened?'*. He said, *'I did not accept your advice. Now I am in great difficulty. I do not have money. I have spent lot of time. I could not take care of my children. What to do now?'*. This is the problem of long drawn litigation. That you may avoid by peaceful agreement in a congenial atmosphere. It does not create enmity if it is resolved by Lok Adalat or by any other method, which is available today in the process of legal aid. You

have to take recourse to mediation or any other method, may be, arbitration, conciliation.

There are some problems with the companies. They say, '*we are not in a position to come to an agreement*', without realising that if they do not come to any agreement today, they will be losing not only the expenses but they may have to pay more with interest than what they may readily make available, if they agree today.

I appreciate the commitment and dedication of Presiding Judges. But the parties, who come for Lok Adalat, they must realise the importance of this process. This creates friendship.

I would request all of you present across the State to make it successful and take recourse to all the methods of legal aid, and more particularly today's Lok Adalat, to have great success.

With this, I inaugurate the today's State Mega Lok Adalat.

Thank you.
