

'Mediation For the Nation 2.0' for the resolution of pending cases.

The Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) of the Supreme Court of India has launched a nationwide mediation campaign titled **Mediation 'For the Nation 2.0'**, aimed at reducing the pendency of cases across courts in the country. The 90-day campaign seeks to promote amicable dispute resolution through mediation, offering litigants a faster, cost-effective, and mutually beneficial alternative to prolonged litigation.

The campaign focuses on settling cases that are suitable for mediation, including matrimonial disputes, domestic violence cases, cheque bounce matters, motor accident claim cases, compoundable criminal cases, land acquisition disputes, partition and eviction cases, commercial disputes, service matters, labour law cases, contract disputes, consumer cases, and other suitable civil matters.

As per the campaign guidelines, cases identified as suitable for mediation will be referred by the courts between January 2, 2026, and February 15, 2026, irrespective of their scheduled hearing dates. After notifying the parties, such cases will be transferred to court annexed mediation centres for settlement efforts.

Mediation is a structured process in which disputing parties engage in dialogue under the guidance of a trained and impartial mediator. The mediator facilitates communication, encourages mutual understanding, and assists the parties in arriving at a voluntary and amicable settlement. Depending on the nature of the dispute, mediation sessions may be conducted jointly or separately.

In Kerala, the Kerala State Mediation and Conciliation Centre (KSMCC) has made all necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of the campaign across the State. The court annexed mediation centres will conduct mediation sessions at the convenience of the parties. Facilities for online mediation have also been made available, enabling parties to participate virtually if they so choose. Parties may attend mediation sessions in person or online.

Importantly, mediation services at court-annexed mediation centres are provided free of cost, with no fees charged to the parties. In cases successfully settled through mediation, the entire court fee paid is refunded. If mediation does not result in a settlement, or if parties decide to withdraw at any stage, the matter is returned to the court for continuation of judicial proceedings.

In Kerala, so far more than 42000 cases have already been referred for mediation, with 3400 cases successfully settled. The settlements include long pending matters, such as cases that were 37 years old, 32 years old, 26 years old, 23 years old, and 19 years old, as well as cases that had been pending for over five years. Mediation proceedings are currently ongoing in the remaining referred cases.

In the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, two cases were settled through mediation this week. This marks a significant milestone, as it is the first time in the history of Lakshadweep that cases pending before courts in the UT have been resolved through mediation. It is noteworthy that few years ago, under the leadership of Late Mr. Justice Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan, a few appeal cases pending before the High Court were successfully settled in Lakshadweep with

the able assistance of the mediators of Kerala State Mediation and Conciliation Centre.

For further information on mediation services, interested parties may contact the **Kerala State Mediation and Conciliation Centre (KSMCC)** located at the Kerala High Court compound.

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Website: <https://ksmcc.keralacourts.in>