



National Lok Adalat

Why in News?

On 8 March 2025, the **State Legal Services Authority** ordered the organization of the **National Lok Adalat** in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- **About the issue:**
 - In **this National Lok Adalat, an opportunity was provided to settle** the pending cases of power theft and irregularities under **Section 135 of the Electricity Act 2003** through **mutual agreement** .
 - **The Energy Minister** appealed to the consumers to **contact the concerned electricity office to avoid legal action** and avail the rebate .
- **Scope and eligibility**
 - **Low pressure category domestic , agricultural, non-domestic up to 5 kilowatt and industrial consumers up to 10 horse power** will come under this scheme.
 - Only **those consumers who are involved in electricity theft/unauthorized use for the first time** will get the exemption.
 - Consumers who have already **received relief from Lok Adalat/Court** will not get relief again.
 - No rebate will be given on **the outstanding amount of normal electricity bills** .

Lok Adalat

- Introduction:
- The term 'Lok Adalat' means '**People's Court**' and is based on **Gandhian principles**.
- According to **the Supreme Court** , this is an old form of **adjudication system prevalent in ancient India** and continues to be valid even today.
- It is one of the components of **the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system** which provides informal, inexpensive and speedy justice to the common people.
- The **first Lok Adalat camp was organized in the year 1982 in Gujarat** as a voluntary and conciliation agency for decisions without any statutory backing.
- In view of its growing popularity over time , it was **given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**. This Act makes provisions for the organisation and functioning of Lok Adalats.