

Programme Report
Programme for Model Judicial Districts (PMJD)

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December 13th – 14th, 2014

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The National Judicial Academy is conducting a series of programmes – Programme for Model Judicial Districts (PMJD) and the third programme in this series was organized during **December 13th – 14th, 2014**. The main objective of this programme was to provide a platform to the duty holders of the ten district courts from ten various states of the country to discuss and debate their issues and concerns to enhance excellence and efficiency in the functioning of their respective courts. From each of the ten districts one Civil Judge Junior Division, one Civil Judge Senior Division, the Principal District Judge of the selected District, one employee of the judicial ministerial service and one employee in the cadre of Junior Assistant working in the District Legal Services Authority/ Taluk Legal Service Committee will participate in the conference.

The resource persons in the programme included Justice Ravi R. Tripathi, Justice V.M. Kanade, Mr. B.G. Harindranath, Justice Roshan S. Dalvi and Justice B.P. Katakey. The programme was attended by 50 participants.

Following were the major issues discussed in the programme:

- The model court plan must reflect the vision of the Indian judicial system and it should include plan for the coordination with all the stakeholder of the judicial system. There should be innovative strategies to achieve the goals of speedy and fair justice to litigants.
- The courts must serve the litigants coming to courts in proper way. The litigants should not face difficulties in getting justice. There should be basic facilities in the court complex. In every court a helpdesk is required which can be of great help to the litigants. The courts complexes are not friendly to old and disable people. Some initiatives are required in this regard. The victims and witnesses should not feel insecure in court complex and proper provision for court security should be there.

- Judges and ministerial staff courts are required to upgrade their skills to rising application of the ICT tools in managing the information in judicial system. This will enhance speedier disposal of cases.
- The old cases should receive priority in the disposal of cases. Compliance report should be taken on the disposal of old cases and there should be monthly meetings on disposal of delayed cases. There should be proper classification of cases according to their categories and then progress of the cases should be monitored by the judges in coordination with the court managers. The proper caseflow system should be implemented in courts. The trial dates should be manageable and all parties should be informed in advance if there is any change in the schedule. The trial court should adhere to the trial dates seriously. The summons must be issued with listing of manageable cases. The distribution of cases among judges should be proper. There should not be any disparity in the allotment of cases.
- There should be regular performance assessment of the ministerial staff. The gaps in the skills and capacities must be identified and trainings for the ministerial staff should be conducted accordingly. The coordination of retired ministerial staff should be taken in this regard.
- Courts must adopt innovative methods of serving summons. The use of latest information technology should be adopted. For instance the mobile alert in Himachal Pradesh in process serving has resulted in speedy disposal of cases. Such innovation should be followed in other states also. Judges must check the report of the service of summons. Providing timely information to the litigants should be a high priority for the court staff.
- The steady decline in the filing of civil cases is a cause of concern. Efforts should be made to expedite the process of civil proceedings. Despite many rulings of the Supreme Court, the adjournments are still granted in casual manner and this should be controlled.
- Judges have to devote their time to legal aid services when they are given the task under the district or state legal services authorities. No point is given to the judges

engaged in improving the legal aid system and it discourages judges who are working for the legal aid.

- The criminal monitoring committee should meet regularly to discuss administrative issues which are causing delay in the disposal of cases. Courts should regularly publish statistics for better planning and better coordination with other stakeholders.
- Senior judges should assess the performance of the junior judges keeping in mind all the aspects and should not fill ACR in mechanical and casual manner. It should be assessed that the interest of people is served by the concerned court or not.
- The record management should be in priority of the court. In Maharashtra the bar coding of files has been done and it has become easier to track the files. This practice should be adopted in other courts.
- Despite provisions in the criminal procedures and the Supreme Court rulings many under trial prisoners are still languishing in prisons who have already spent time in prisons which is more than half of their punishment if get convicted. The poor under trials have got bail orders from court but because of lack of surety they are still languishing in jail.
- Proper system for ensuring availability of certified copy of judgments and orders to litigants on reasonable time should be established. The corruption among the ministerial staff and registry in some courts must be checked.
- In order to raise awareness regarding ADR system, information on Section 89 should be there on the summons itself. The court should publish small pamphlets on ADR system and should encourage litigants to resort to this system. Some effort on the part of judges is definitely required in this regard.
- The court managers should be integrated in the administration of courts. Regular meetings with the court managers should be organized and tasks on the administration side should be given to them. Judges should also be given some management training so that effective steps can be taken in managing the court in coordination with court managers.

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