

National Orientation Programme for
Additional District Judges P 895
February 06-08, 2015

Program Report

Report prepared by Prog. Coordinator:
SP Srivastava, Professor

The National Judicial Academy organized a three days Programme for the Additional District judges on 6th and 8th February 2015. This being an orientation programme the object was to provide them inputs which would enable them to discharge their new functions more effectively and with excellence. 35 Judges from across the country participated in this Programme.

Day one of the programme started with self introduction by the participants. The participants also spoke briefly on the problems faced by them while functioning as Addl. District and Sessions Judges. Many of them also spoke of the stress which they feel in the functioning.

Prof. (Dr.) Manju Mehta spoke on Stress Management in sessions 1 & 2. During the presentation she devoted enough time for experiential exercises instead of delivering speech. Participants response was very good. Sessions 3rd and 4th were addressed by Mr. R.S. Thakur and Mr. S.V. Sheshadri on the topic of Wild Life Crime Scenario in India: Role of Courts. They demonstrated through slide show how wild life crimes are committed and what are the challenges in enforcing wild life laws. A lively discussion followed the presentation in which judges shared their experiences in dealing with the cases of wild life crime.

On day two of the programme , session one was addressed by Justice V.S. Sirpurkar, Justice S.U. Khan and Justice Dharnidhar Jha on the topic of Nuances of Sessions Trial. During discussions several practical issues such as precautions in framing charges in sessions trial, recording of evidence, how to control cross examination, how to protect witnesses, how to record experts evidence, how to record statement under section 313 Cr PC were discussed. Speakers emphasized that sessions trial is different from ordinary trial and its sanctity should be preserved. It was also emphasized that sessions trial should be conducted on day to day basis. A long date during trial is prejudicial to prosecution and accused both.

Session six was devoted to Appreciation of Electronic Evidence and Information & Technology Act. Mr. Vakul Sharma, Advocate, the Resource person explained the rationale behind enactment of the new law. He emphasized that now in most of the trials electronic evidences are being used therefore judges must be aware of the nuances of the new law. His presentation was liked not only by the participants but also by Hon'ble judges who were present as resource persons. In session 7 on the topic of Scope of Revision and Appellate Jurisdiction in Criminal Cases for District Judges were discussed by Justice V.S. Sirpurkar and Justice Dharnidhar Jha with the participant Judge. Judicial officers get the opportunity to decide appeals and revisions only when they become Addl. District and Sessions judges. In view of this fact resource persons spoke in detail about the role of judges when hearing an appeal and revision. It was also clarified as to what is the basic difference in between the two jurisdictions. In Session 8 also discussions were held on Appellate Jurisdiction in Civil Cases for District Judges by Justice V.S. Sirpurkar, Justice S.U. Khan and Justice Dharnidhar Jha.

On the concluding day i.e. on third day topic was Regaining Trust in Civil Justice Administration was explained by Justice S.U. Khan. Justice Khan said that people are losing faith because they are not able to get timely justice from the courts. It was emphasized that if it would take decade to decide a suit for partition or a suit to enforce a contract naturally people would think twice before coming to the court for redressal of their grievance. Justice Khan suggested that delay can be minimized in civil cases by giving short dates and skipping on unnecessary formalities. The panelists were Justice V.S. Sirpurkar and Dr. Mrinal Satish. The programme was concluded with the address of Dr.Mrinal Satish on the topic of Approaches to Sentencing under the panel-ship of Justice V.S. Sirpurkar and Justice S.U. Khan.

.....