

Meeting with UK Delegation on Digital Reform Roll Out (SE-30)

04th March 2023

Ms. Shruti Jane Eusebius, Research Fellow, Dr. Sonam Jain, Research Fellow, Ms. Ankita Pandey, Law Associate & Mr. Krishna Sisodia, Law Associate.

National Judicial Academy hosted a delegation from United Kingdom on 4th March 2023. The delegation comprised of –

- Mrs. Justice Cheema Grubb, Chair of UK International Training Committee of Judicial College of England and Wales
- Mr. Mathew Gaunt, Head of Judicial Office of England and Wales
- Mr. Amar Morjaria, Head of Planning & Prioritization, HMCTS Reform
- Ms. Mamta Kohli, British High Commission, India

The UK delegation met with the Director, NJA to discuss the potential areas of cooperation between the Judicial College of England and Wales and the National Judicial Academy. Discussions were undertaken on the judicial education system in India and UK, the approach to judicial education and the commonalities in the two systems. The areas of focus in judicial education and the methods for identification of key issues for judicial training were dwelt upon. The adoption of adult education methodology & androgogy was also discussed. Thereafter, discussions were undertaken on digital reform of the judiciaries of India and UK and the process of rolling out digital reform. The major challenges in adopting technology in the judiciary were highlighted and the methods adopted in both countries to tackle such challenges were shared. Stakeholder reluctance was stated to be the major challenge in adopting technology in the judiciary. The major mechanisms and approaches to address stakeholder reluctance towards technology were discussed at length.

The delegation from UK were given a tour of the NJA premises and the facilities in the campus to provide an insight into how judicial education programmes were conducted in India. The delegation also met and interacted with the faculty of NJA. The delegation thereafter met with justices from the High Courts in India to discuss the judicial systems in Indian and UK, and the current challenges faced by the two systems.

The areas for future collaboration between the Judicial College of England and Wales and the National Judicial Academy were identified and the modalities for further engagement were discussed at length.