


**Report of the National Conference of Principal District Judges
on Court Administration and Management (P-865)
November 08 & 09, 2014**

National Conference for the Principal District Judges across the country on "Court Administration and Management" was held at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal on 8th & 9th November 2014. This Conference was designed with the avowed objective of equipping the Principal District Judges to get them acquainted with the intricacies in the Administration at the District level. Being the head of the District Judiciary the Principal District Judges occupy a pivotal role in the administration of justice within the district.

Apart from the judicial knowledge the Principal District Judges should possess the ability to administer, supervise and manage the affairs of the courts within the District. He/she should maintain cordial relationship with the subordinate judicial officers within the district; should maintain cordial relationship with the bar; has to initiate effective, appropriate and timely steps to ensure smooth functioning of the machinery of justice delivery system within the district. He/ She should maintain good relationship with the High Court Registry and other officers of the same level to find out solution for each and every problem faced by him/her while discharging the duties as Principal District Judge.

The programme commenced with the opening remarks by Dr. Geeta Oberoi, Professor, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal. After the opening remarks the participants introduced themselves.

Thereafter the first session was on the topic "**Leadership Role of Principal District Judges**". This session was chaired by Justice G.V. Seethapathy, Chairman, Railway Claims Tribunal, Principal Bench, Delhi. Justice Dama Seshadri Naidu, Judge High Court of Kerala and Justice R.Basant, Former Judge, High Court of Kerala and Senior Advocate, Supreme Court, dealt with the subject at length. Both the Resource Persons explained and elaborated the topic extensively. The Chair along with eminent Resource Persons clarified the doubts raised by the participants especially in relation to the practical aspects.



The second session was on the topic ***“Effective Administration of Courts: Issues & Challenges”***. It was an open discussion, in which the participants highlighted the issues and challenges faced by them while discharging the duties as Principal District Judges in the District. The Panelists in this session were Justice Dama Seshadri Naidu, Justice R. Basant and Justice G.V. Seethapathy. The Panelists with their rich administrative experience clarified various practical aspects /doubts expressed by the participants.

The topic for the third session was ***“Optimal Utilization of Resources”***. This session was chaired by Justice Dama Seshadri Naidu. Justice R. Basant and Justice G.V. Seethapathy with their experience as Principal District Judges before elevation to the respective High Courts, dealt with this topic with more effectiveness and efficacy. The participants interacted with the Resource Persons and clarified their doubts on practical aspects. The session was lively and interactive.

The fourth session was on ***“Optimal Utilization of Resources: Special reference to Fiscal Issues”***. This session was chaired by Justice Dama Seshadri Naidu. The Resource Persons - Justice R. Basant and Justice G.V. Seethapathy dealt with the topic in a simplified manner. The Resource Persons explained the importance of planning, budgeting; steps to be initiated for proper allocation of funds, proper, effective and timely implementation of the planned projects and allied matters. The session was interactive and the participants were able to enrich their knowledge in this session. The Resource Persons explained the importance of court wise planning both short term and long term with the objective of future requirements extending up to the next 5 years or more.

This session helped the participants to have an idea as to how a Principal District Judges can contribute to the maximum in improving the administrative efficiency within the District and thereby enhancing the excellence of the Justice Delivery System with the District.

On 9th November 2014 the topic for the 5th Session was ***“Use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Justice Delivery System”***. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Gupta, Chief Justice, Tripura High Court exhibited a power pointed



presentation on this topic. This session was chaired by Justice Chandresh Bhushan, Former Up-Lokayukta, Madhya Pradesh. The Resource Person explained in detail as to how the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will be helpful for the courts to perform their duties in a more effective, efficient and within the least possible time. The Resource Person explained as to how the bottlenecks in serving notice, summons, warrants etc. can be cleared without any delay by employing ICT techniques. This session was highly informative and the participants were able to gain valuable inputs to discharge their duties more effectively and efficiently and within a limited time frame.

The topic for the 6th session was **"Developing Judicial Culture among Court Staff"** Justice Deepak Gupta and Justice Chandresh Bhushan, dealt with this session in a more simplified manner. The Resource Persons expressed the importance of developing judicial culture among the court staff so as to enhance the administrative efficiency among the court staff. Maintaining cordial and healthy interaction among the court staff is also an important aspect to increase the efficiency in discharging both judicial and administrative functions.

It is suggested that periodic training should be imparted to the court staff and feedback to be obtained so as to increase efficiency of the justice delivery system so as to render maximum support and assistance to the consumers of justice who are the common man in this country.

A total number of 33 Principal District Judges from across the country attended this Conference. Out of which 27 participants have submitted evaluation forms. Most of the participants have suggested/opined that the programme was of great help, assistance and support to them in discharging their duties in a more efficient, effective and timely manner.

Dated this the 9th day of December 2014.


(K Sasidharan)

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