

NEWSLETTER

Delhi Judicial Academy

UNDER THE AEGIS OF



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Delhi and Patron-in-Chief,
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WORKSHOP ON PROFESSIONAL & PERSONAL EXCELLENCE

An optional programme for enhancing professional & personal excellence was organised on 24th May, 2025 for a mixed group of DHJS & DJS officers. The prefatory session was graced by HMJ Poonam A. Bamba, Former Judge, High Court of Delhi, who delved into the concepts of stress management, conflict management and time management. The session was interactive and involved a short meditation exercise as well. Queries of the participants with respect to handling difficult situations in court were also addressed by the eminent resource person. The subsequent session was conducted by Ms. Pria Warrick, a communication expert, who discussed ways of enhancing personality development including apprising the participants of the accepted norms of etiquette as well as effective communication. Group exercises in the form of a quiz and role play were also conducted in this session. Prof. (Dr.) Aruna Broota, Clinical Psychologist, chaired the third session and dealt with the



Left: Participants performing mobility exercises during the Workshop.

Right: Prof. (Dr.) Aruna Broota engaging with the participants on mental health during the aforesaid Workshop on 24th May, 2025.

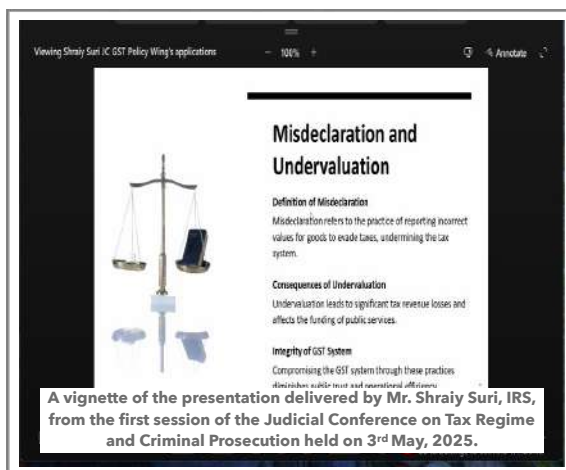


issues of de-stigmatising mental illness, handling vicarious trauma and understanding the different approaches to dealing with mental illness. The last session was conducted by a fitness expert, Ms. Sunita Godara, who addressed the participants on the importance of maintaining good physical health and the different ways to incorporate physical activity in daily routine. The participants also performed Chair Yoga and limited mobility Aerobics in this session.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE ON TAX REGIME AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

A half day conference was organised on 3rd May, 2025 through virtual mode, for the Additional Sessions Judges of the New Delhi and Central District, Chief Judicial Magistrate of New Delhi District and Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate of Central District on understanding the contours of tax evasion and its *modus operandi* in the realm of GST and Income Tax laws. The prefatory session was conducted by Mr. Shrai Suri, IRS, Joint Commissioner, GST Policy Wing, Ministry of Finance. He delved into the legal framework of the penal consequences of tax evasion, covering the Central GST Act, 2017, Income Tax Act, 1961

and the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015. The second session was dedicated to discussing the challenges in implementation of the aforesaid laws, including the cross-border challenges in procuring documents, issues of remand and bail, sanction for prosecution, legal aid and recording of evidence. Participants were also apprised of the legal developments regarding electronic evidence with a focus on its collection, preservation and final disposal. This session was conducted by Mr. Pawan Singh Rajawat, DHJS, then Additional Director, Delhi Judicial Academy.



STRENGTHENING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

An Orientation Course on the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Board and a Conference for Capacity building for other functionaries of the Juvenile Justice System were held on 9th May, 2025. The courses centred on coordination, enhancement of knowledge and development of perspective of members and Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Officers of the Special Juvenile Police Unit, Member Social Workers and Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), District Child Protection Units and

"Judges must be students before they can be teachers of justice"

- Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

OVERVIEW

20 Training Programmes, 03 e-Committee Special Drive Training and Outreach Programmes were organised for judicial officers and other stakeholders of the justice delivery system by the Delhi Judicial Academy in the second quarter of 2025.

FACULTY PARTICIPATION

Mr. Mohd. Farrukh, Director (Administration), DJA and Mr. Prashant Sharma, then Additional Director, DJA attended the Training of Trainers for State Judicial Academies on 26th-27th April at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

Mr. Pawan Singh Rajawat, then Additional Director, DJA attended the South Asia Judicial Symposium on Wildlife Crime on 7th - 8th May at New Delhi.



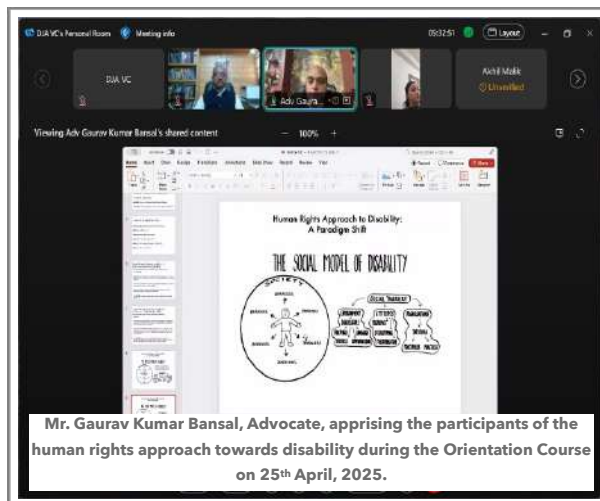
Children's Courts. The programmes under the Course facilitated dialogue and meaningful engagement on improving functioning of the CWCs and JJBs. In the Orientation Course for JJBs, the core provisions of the Juvenile Justice law specifically concerning custody, grant of bail, inquiry procedure, age inquiry and appreciation of evidence were focused on. Further, the challenges in the implementation of the POCSO Act were deliberated upon. The programme also focused on mechanisms to remove barriers faced by children in conflict with law in accessing justice. The last session probed the procedure to be followed where a "Child in conflict with law" is also found to be a "Child in need of care and protection". Ms. Vrinda Kumari, DHJS, Ms. Geetanjali Goel, DHJS, Mr. Subhash Vashisht, Director, CABE Foundation and Mr. Anant Kumar Asthana, Advocate & Child Rights Activist were the speakers for this Orientation Course.



In the Conference for CWCs, the deliberations surrounded the functions of CWC in conducting age inquiry, assessment of a child as "Child in need of care and protection" and dealing with children with disability. The subsequent session dealt with the role of CWC under the POCSO Act and in aiding the implementation of Government policies, such as Mission Vatsalya. The role of CWC in rescuing and rehabilitating the children forced into labour was also discussed. A workshop on order writing was also conducted for the members of CWC. Ms. Tanvi Khurana, DHJS, Ms. Bharti Ali, Child Rights Defender, Ms. Sampurna Behura, Director, India Child Protection and Md. Salam Khan, Former Chairperson, CWC were the resource persons for this Conference.

MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT: BUILDING CAPACITY

An online orientation course was organised by the Academy on 25th April, 2025, aimed at fostering a comprehensive understanding of mental health in the legal landscape. The half-day programme brought together a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including CJMs, ACJMs, JMFCs, Public Prosecutors, Mental Health professionals, and Delhi Police officials, with the objective of promoting an informed and sensitive approach to mental health within the justice delivery system. The first session, conducted by Mr. Gaurav Kumar Bansal, Advocate, opened with a discussion on comprehending mental health and mental illness. Emphasis was laid on shattering stereotypes and understanding the



conceptual underpinnings of mental illness. The session explored key provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, such as the rights of persons with mental illness, informed consent, prohibited procedures, advance directives and patient autonomy, alongside strategies for de-stigmatizing mental healthcare. The responsibilities of stakeholders, including the courts, police, mental healthcare institutions, and jail authorities, towards a coordinated and rights-based approach in handling matters involving persons with mental illness, were also discussed. The second session focused on the interplay between the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Mr. Pulastaya Pramachala, DHJS, addressed the participants on the assessment of fitness to stand trial, including its objectives, procedure, the release of the accused, resumption of inquiry/trial and challenges in implementation of the Act. He also delivered a dedicated segment on the Defence of Insanity, laying out its prerequisites, the burden of proof, and the factors that influence judicial determination in such cases. The orientation course underscored the need for a multidisciplinary and rights-oriented approach while adjudicating matters involving individuals with mental illness, thereby enhancing judicial sensitivity and institutional responsiveness in line with constitutional and statutory mandates.

COMPULSORY TRAINING FOR NEWLY APPOINTED DISTRICT JUDGES (COMMERCIAL COURTS)

A two-day training programme was conducted for the 6 newly appointed District Judges (Commercial Courts) on 2nd and 3rd June, 2025 in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Indian Commercial and Arbitration Bar Association (ICABA) v. Union of India & Ors.*, W.P. (Civil) No. 900/2020. The programme began with an introductory session on the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, including the constitutional vision, policy for its enactment & significance in improving ease of doing business and its effective application for expeditious disposal of Commercial Disputes. The second session focused on challenges in implementation of the provisions of the aforesaid Act, its interplay with CPC, pre-institution mediation, as well as evidence evaluation in online contract breaches. These sessions were conducted by Mr. Vinay Kumar Khanna, Former DHJS. Thereafter, Ms. Shwetassree Majumder, Founder, Fidus Law Chamber



(International Trademark Association), led the post-lunch sessions, through online mode, and discussed the issues of trial pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights as well as emerging issues related to AI & Digital piracy. The enforcement regime including nature of reliefs which may be passed and computation of damages, was also discussed. On the second day, the programme commenced with an in-depth session on Electronic and Digital Evidence, led by Mr. Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate & Cyber Law Consultant. The discussions centered on

admissibility of electronic data, expert testimony in complex commercial matters, and practical concerns in commercial cases involving CCTV, Call Data Records (CDR), Internet Protocol Detail Records (IPDR), and data theft, especially in intellectual property-related disputes. The post-lunch sessions were then steered by Mr. Rattan K. Singh, Senior Advocate, who focused on various aspects of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Topics covered included jurisdictional considerations, interim measures, setting aside of arbitral awards, and judicial enforcement under Section 36 of the said Act. The issue of distinction between arbitration and conciliation, the role of judges in pre-institution mediation, and settlement enforcement under Section 74 of the Act were also examined.



TRAINING OF STAFF

As per directions passed by the Supreme Court of India in *Rahul S. Shah v. Jinendra Kumar Gandhi & Ors.*, Civil Appeal No. 1659-1660/2021, SPA No. 7965-7966/2020 order dated 22.04.2021, the Academy held a programme for training of the Bailiffs, In-charges of Nazarat Branches and Nazirs of all the District Courts on 22nd April, 2025. The aim of the programme was to brainstorm on issues relating to execution of decrees in civil procedure. The modes of execution under CPC; and the duties of the Bailiffs, Incharges of the Nazarat Branches and Nazirs were discussed. Interactive sessions were also held on execution of warrants; carrying out the attachment and sale; and other official duties for executing orders of Executing courts. Ms. Medha Arya, DJS, Ms. Swayam Siddha Tripathy, DJS and Ms. Deepali Srivastava, DJS were the resource persons for this programme.



CORE COMPETENCE CONFERENCES ON KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND PERSPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT

Five core competence programmes aimed at enhancing jurisdiction specific knowledge and skills of judicial officers were conducted in this quarter. Two of these programmes were combined with other stakeholders for capacity building and ensuring more holistic deliberations. The programmes focused on key facets concerning day to day working of Courts dealing with specific jurisdictions so as to identify common issues and challenges as well as sharing best practices. Deliberations were also held upon latest developments in the concerned fields of law.

PRINCIPAL JUDGES, ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL JUDGES AND JUDGES OF FAMILY COURTS

A one-day training programme was held on 26th April, 2025 covering the emerging issues in matrimonial laws such as cross-border marriages, question of jurisdiction, execution and service. Hon'ble Ms. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, Judge, High Court of Delhi and Hon'ble Ms. Justice Shalinder Kaur, Judge, High Court of Delhi, graced the prefatory session, where the issues and challenges pertaining to divorce were discussed with the participants. In the second session, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Poonam A. Bamba, Former Judge, High Court of Delhi deliberated the concerns related to custody/guardianship of children, particularly in the context of cross-



border marriages. Hon'ble Dr. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, Judge, High Court of Delhi, addressed the participants in the post lunch sessions, on maintenance, whilst also dealing with contemporary developments and challenges in the field, including a discussion on the directions issued in *Rajnish v. Neha*, 2021 (2) SCC 324. Hon'ble Dr. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, Judge, High Court of Delhi highlighted relevant considerations to be kept in mind while writing judgments including gender sensitivity. Hon'ble Dr. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma was joined by Ms. Veena Ralli, Advocate & Organising Secretary, DHCMCC, in the last session, where the guidelines to be followed while recording settlement agreements in family disputes; including recording the future rights of children in the property were discussed.

ASJ HOLDING SPECIAL COURTS

Two parallel training programmes were conducted on 17th May, 2025 for ASJs holding Special Courts under



Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999/ Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967/ National Investigation Agency Act, 2008/ The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989/ Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016/ The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 and for the public prosecutors attached to the courts presided over by them. Prof. (Dr.) B.T. Kaul, Former Professor of Law, Delhi University, addressed the participants in the prefatory session on the issues relating to grant of bail/remand/legal aid in such

offences, with specific emphasis on the directions issued in various judgments by the Supreme Court and different High Courts including *Prabir Purkayastha v. State (NCT of Delhi)*, 2024 SCC OnLine SC 934. The interplay with the Constitution of India, in this regard, was focussed upon. Further, Mohd. Farrukh, Director (Administration), Delhi Judicial Academy and Mr. Prashant Sharma, Additional Director, Delhi Judicial Academy, deliberated on the issues of trial pertaining to the RPWD Act and SC & ST Act respectively. In the following sessions, Mr. O.P. Saini, Former DHJS, and Mr. Rahul Tyagi, Additional Standing Counsel (Criminal) for NCT of Delhi, discussed the issues of substantive and procedural law which arise in the trial under the MCOCA, UAPA, NIAA and PBTA. The interplay with the New Criminal Laws was also discussed. Thereafter, the queries of the participants were addressed. In the last session, the emerging trend of cyber terrorism and commission of offences in the cyberspace was discussed by Mr. Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate & Cyber Law Consultant. Use of AI in Forensics was also pondered upon.



ASJ (SFTC)/ASJ (FTSC) (RC)/ASJ (SC-RC)

A one-day programme was organised on 5th April, 2025 for Additional Sessions Judges, holding Fast Track Rape Courts. Ms. Kaveri Baweja, DHJS and Ms. Vrinda Kumari, DHJS, addressed the participants on the ways to protect and uphold the constitutional and legal rights of all stakeholders in court, including adopting a justice-oriented approach in assisting the victims through counselling, medical aid, compensation, amongst others and providing legal aid to the accused, supplying copy of final judgment to him. Discussions were also held around the principles governing grant of bail and maintaining the victim's privacy. The above-mentioned speakers delved into the contours of different offences, investigation, contents of final reports, impact of lapses, issues of trial, coercive processes to procure the presence of accused, framing of charges, amenability to settlement, current developments and challenges, and the interplay with new criminal laws, in the second session. The role of a judge in recording evidence and statement of the accused was also discussed. This session was held primarily as

a Q&A segment. Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Lalwani, Professor/Registrar (Academic), AIIMS Delhi and Dr. Jhansi Lakshmi Mylapalli, Assistant Professor, AIIMS-CAPFIMIS, addressed the participants on guidelines and practice directions to be followed while dealing with MLCs and FSL reports in a rape trial. A group discussion on the mandatory directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble High Courts, was conducted through a QR Code based quiz. The conference concluded with

contemplation on the expanding dimensions of sexual offences in cyberspace and the consequent challenges of trial. Mr. Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate & Cyber Law Consultant, the speaker for the last session, also apprised the participants of the use of AI in Forensics. A simultaneous programme was also conducted for the public prosecutors attached with these courts, covering the aforesaid aspects.



ASCJ/GJ/JSCC/CIVIL JUDGES

A one-day Core Competence Conference was conducted for Additional SCJs-cum-Guardian Judges cum



Judges, Small Causes Court and Civil Judges on 5th April, 2025; and for the Senior Civil Judges (SCJs)cum-Additional Rent Controllers (ARCs), Administrative Civil Judges-cum-ARCs and CCJs-cum-ARCs on 6th June, 2025. The prefatory session in the programme on 5th April, 2025 explored summary suits and the need for speedy justice delivery, highlighting jurisdictional concerns and execution complexities. Mr. Munish Markan, DHJS, led this discussion, offering perspectives on procedural reforms aimed at expediting case

resolution. The second session was also conducted by him, who then focused on examination of parties, procedural directives under Order X CPC, and evidentiary considerations prescribed in Section 165 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, which is now reflected in Section 168 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. Mr. Nikhil Chopra, DHJS, the resource person for the last two sessions, dealt with the procedural challenges in the civil law implementation, including the interplay between the Specific Relief Act, 1963 and family law disputes. The challenges of judgment on admission and appeal procedures were also analyzed. The final session encouraged group discussions to evolve best practices in civil adjudication, focusing on effective strategies to enhance procedural efficiency. In the programme on 6th June, 2025, the above said topics were discussed by Mr. Jiten Mehra, DHJS and Mr. Naresh Kumar Laka, DHJS. Additionally, Ms. Susheel Bala Dagar, DHJS deliberated the issues and challenges pertaining to the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958. The grant of Succession Certificate and implementation of various Special Acts including the Enemy Property Act, 1968, Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994, Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, and the Delhi Development Act, 1957 was

discussed by Mr. Prashant Sharma, DHJS in the last session in the programme on 6th June, 2025.

SOFT SKILLS TRAINING FOR PRINCIPAL COUNSELLORS

A one-day programme was held on 26th April, 2025 for the Principal Counsellors/Counsellors attached to Family Courts. The basics of counselling, benefits of counselling, approach to counselling and the role of a counsellor were discussed. The required skills such as effective communication, rapport building, handling emotions, ensuring empathy while maintaining neutrality and active listening were examined. Participants were also apprised of the essential elements of a settlement, to ensure that the same remains clear, comprehensive and concise. The resource persons for the programme included Ms. Nirja Bhatia, DHJS, Ms. Divyani Khanna and Dr. Priyanka, both Clinical Psychologists.



Ms. Nirja Bhatia, DHJS, engaging in a Q&A session with the participants during the Programme on 26th April, 2025.

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE TRAININGS

The true barrier to accessibility lies not within persons with disabilities, but within the societal structures that fail to accommodate them.



Mr. Subhash Chandra Vashishth, Advocate and Director CABE Foundation and Ms. Divya Yadav, DJS, during the Accessibility Training Programme at Dwarka Court Complex on 3rd June, 2025.

In order to afford “equal benefit of the law” to all, it is imperative to make court infrastructure accessible to all. In line with this principle, one of the core objectives of the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India is to make digital infrastructure of courts, accessible to persons with disabilities. Against this background, four training programmes were organised in this quarter, one each in Tis Hazari Court Complex, Patiala House Court Complex, Rohini Court Complex and Dwarka Court complex, for members of the

Accessibility Committee, Advocates and Court staff, in compliance with the directions of the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi in *Rakesh Kumar Kalra Divyang v. State Govt. of NCT Delhi*, 2023 DHC 6132. Detailed Standard Operating Procedure of making documents accessible and OCR friendly were discussed in the programmes. This training is a step in breaking down disability barriers and in promoting inclusion and diversity to ensure that no person is excluded from accessing information and services offered by the Court.



Participants attending the Accessibility Training Programme at Patiala House Court Complex on 6th May, 2025.

ECT PROGRAMMES

As a part of the ongoing e-Committee Special Drive Training and Outreach Programmes, Supreme Court of India, **three** programmes were conducted during this quarter. An overview of two of the programmes is below:

ECT-4

A one-day programme was conducted on 16th April, 2025 for Advocates and their Clerks at the Academy, focusing on the use of eCourts services and digital resources. The sessions covered various aspects including the eCourts project, mobile app, eFiling, functioning of virtual courts, and digital tools like NJDG and NSTEP. The relevant rules pertaining to e-filing and conduct of proceedings through VC were also discussed. The training aimed to enhance awareness and effective usage of digital platforms by court practitioners.

ECT-5

This one-day programme, held on 14th May, 2025, was designed for Administrative Head staffs and Court Managers of the District Judiciary. The training focused on advanced features of Case Information System (CIS) with dedicated sessions on its application across various branches, such as Filing, Nazarat and the Computer Branch. Other ICT tools including NSTEP, JustIS App, eFiling, hybrid hearings, and data management systems were also discussed. The programme involved multiple expert speakers from the IT Cell and Computer Branch of the Tis Hazari Court, Delhi.

VALEDICTORY FUNCTION



Group Photograph of the officers of the Induction Training Programme with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi, Hon'ble Companion Judges, High Court of Delhi and Hon'ble JETPC upon conclusion of the Valedictory Function on 24th April, 2025.

Valedictory Function for five officers of DHJS who completed their one month Orientation Course and six officers of the DJS who completed their one year Induction Training was conducted at the Delhi High Court on 24th April, 2025. The Valedictory Function was graced by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice, Delhi High Court & Patron-in-Chief, Delhi Judicial Academy, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Judge, Delhi High Court, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Prathiba M. Singh, Judge, Delhi High Court,

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navin Chawla, Judge, High Court of Delhi & Chairperson, JETPC, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Jyoti Singh, Judge, Delhi High Court and Member JETPC, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani, Judge, Delhi High Court and Member JETPC, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav, Judge, Delhi High Court and Member JETPC and Hon'ble Dr. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, Judge, Delhi High Court and Member JETPC. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navin Chawla delivered the Inaugural Address and Hon'ble the Chief Justice delivered the Valedictory Address. Further, certificates of completion of training were also handed over to the Judicial Officers by the Hon'ble Judges.

CONTINUOUS TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT THE ACADEMY

Induction Training

Seven judicial officers of the Delhi Judicial Service 2023 batch, who were on court attachments after completion of their Induction Training, were given court postings in this quarter, in the month of May.

Orientation Course

Nineteen judicial officers, who were on court attachments after completion of the Orientation Course upon promotion to the DHJS Cadre, were given court postings in this quarter, in the month of May.

ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS AND STRESS MANAGEMENT RETREAT

Retreats are organised each year for DHJS and DJS officers for personality development. In addition to exposing the officers to different indigenous techniques of environmental preservation, the intention of such retreats is to educate them about various public and private projects aimed at environmental upgradation and preservation. The retreats also serve the objective of stress and health management while assisting the officers in understanding local customs, people and cuisines. With the above objectives, one retreat was organised in this quarter. A mixed group of DHJS and DJS officers went to Manali, Himachal Pradesh from 18th –20th April, 2025.

Few Glimpses from the trip:

