

# NEWSLETTER

#### Delhi Judicial Academy

#### UNDERTHE AEGIS OF



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#### ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION & REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013

A one day orientation programme on the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013 (**POSH Act**) & Procedure for Disciplinary Inquiry was conducted on 15th February 2025 for the Chairperson & Members of Internal Committees in District Courts, OICs (Vigilance) & Members of Vigilance Committees in District Courts. The first session focused on breaking down the statutory provisions of the POSH Act. Key points included basic definitions, the process of filing a complaint, the format and procedure, conciliation before inquiry, and the submission of annual reports. The second session delved into the inquiry process under the Act. The topics discussed included the nature and procedure of inquiries, the powers of the Internal Committee, interim orders during the pendency of inquiries,



publication, the conclusion of inquiries, filing of reports, and handling malicious complaints and false evidence. In the third session, the focus shifted to departmental inquiries. The deliberations included the Authority for handling sexual harassment complaints, the inquiry procedure, the necessity and relevance of fact-finding inquiries, the powers of the Inquiring Authority, the conclusion of inquiries, punishments, appeals, and other related issues and challenges. The final session was dedicated to drafting Standard Operating

Procedures (SOP). This session included an open house discussion, a Q&A session, and concluded with a stage play on sexual harassment and gender violence by the artists of Sukhmunch Theatre. The speakers for this programme were Mr. Parvesh Kumar, Joint Director (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, Government of India and Ms. Mamta Shukla, Advocate.

#### DJA STAFF AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON THE POSH ACT

In compliance of Section 19 (c) of the POSH Act, a half day training programme was organized for the staff

and officials of the Delhi Judicial Academy on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The first session covered the fundamental aspects of sexual harassment, including its definition and various kinds. The speakers, comprising Prof. (Dr.) Ritu Gupta, Professor of Law at National Law University, New Delhi and Mr. Prashant Sharma, Additional Director, Delhi Judicial Academy, also discussed the do's and don'ts of office communication, the contours of appropriate behaviour with colleagues, the mechanism of filing a sexual harassment complaint and the role of the Internal Complaints Committee. The participants were also apprised of the nature of interim orders which may be passed, the aspects of



monetary compensation, conciliation, confidentiality and prosecution for false complaints.

#### OPTIONAL PROGRAMME ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



A one day training programme was organised on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for a mixed group of DHJS and DJS officers on Artificial Intelligence: Transforming the Legal Landscape. This was an optional programme, which was attended by 170 officers. The programme began with an introductory session on the meaning, scope and ambit of Artificial Intelligence and its application in the justice delivery system. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Talwant Singh, Former Judge, Delhi High Court chaired the first session, with Mr.

Aman Taneja, Partner, IKIGAI Law as co-speaker and discussed the role of AI in translation, summarising texts, research, drafting and streamlining administration, and also highlighted the guard rails to be followed

#### **OVERVIEW**

19 Training Programmes, 02
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 first
quarter of 2025.

#### VISIT BY LAW STUDENTS

40 Students and 05 Faculty members of Navjeevan Law College, CIDCO, Nashik visited the Delhi Judicial Academy on 20th March. As part of the visit, a guided tour of the Academy and an interactive session with the Faculty was organised.

#### FACULTY PARTICIPATION

Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Director (Academics), DJA attended the National Judicial Conference for State Judicial Academies on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

Mr. Pawan Singh Rajawat, Additional Director, DJA attended the National Conference on Environment on 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> March at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Mohd. Farrukh, Director (Admin.) and Ms. Twinkle Chawla, Joint Director, DJA, attended the Workshop on compliance of INTERPOL Notices & Diffusions on 25<sup>th</sup> March at CBI (HQs).

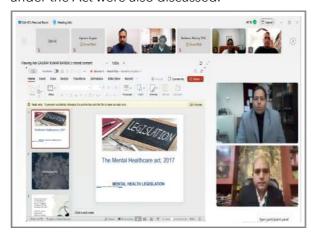
while using Al. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Talwant Singh and Mr. Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate & Cyber Consultant, carried forward this discussion in the second session and dealt with the issue of misuse of Al, especially in commission of civil and criminal wrongs, and



the complex issues of determination of guilt and personality of Al, which may arise in the near future. Institutional Threats posed by misuse of Al were also discussed. In the post lunch sessions, the best practices to be adopted for ensuring cyber security & data protection, both at an individual level and institutional level were also deliberated upon.

# THE MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT, 2017: BUILDING CAPACITY

A half day Orientation Course on Mental Health was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for judicial officers, police officials as well as mental health professionals through online mode. The training focused on comprehending mental health and mental illness with an increased focus on understanding "capacity", both mental and legal. The finer nuances of Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, including the rights of persons with mental illness as enshrined in the Act along with the responsibilities of the stakeholders, were discussed. Case studies under the Act were also discussed.



Left: Mr. Gaurav Kumar
Bansal, Advocate discussing
the obligations of
stakeholders under the
Mental Healthcare Act, 2017
during the Orientation Course
on 17th January, 2025.

The laws on fitness to stand trial and the defence of insanity were deliberated upon. The speakers for the programme included Mr. Pulastya Pramachala, DHJS and Mr. Gaurav Kumar Bansal, Advocate.

# TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SUPERVISORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS



A two-day programme on supervisory and administrative skills was held on the 21st and 22nd February 2025. This programme was designed for Judicial Officers involved in administrative duties in the District Courts. 33 judicial officers, including both DHJS and DJS officers had attended this training programme. The sessions covered core administrative skills, recruitment and promotion, and general administration on day one. The notable speakers included Mr. Vinay Kumar Khanna,

Former Principal District & Sessions Judge, Delhi, Mr. Manish Aggarwal, Registrar, Delhi High Court, Mr. K. S. Sachdeva, Freelance Trainer & Joint Director (Retd.), Ministry of Defence and Dr. Tanuja Agarwal, Professor, Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University. A case study model was used in imparting the

training. On the second day, the participants were apprised of the relevant rules and guidelines to be followed in the financial administration, including the procurement of goods. The last two sessions were dedicated to management of IT Infrastructure, differently-abled friendly court infrastructure and dealing with RTIs. The resource persons for the second day included Mr. Jay Thareja, Joint Registrar (CPC), Delhi High Court, Mr. Sunil Kumar Sharma, Chairman (IT & Digitisation), Delhi District Courts, Mr. Kush Tyagi, Training and Communications (GeM-SPV), Delhi,



Mr. Ajay Mehrol, Drawing & Disbursing Officer, THC and Captain Yogendra Pratap Sharma, Senior Research Fellow & Deputy Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF) & Ex-Additional Director, ISTM.

#### ORIENTATION COURSE FOR PROBATION OFFICERS

This half-day programme on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 was attended by Chief Probation Officers and Probation Officers of Delhi. It included sessions on the role of Probation Officers under the Probation of Offenders Act & Juvenile Justice Act, and the preparation of probation reports. The Speakers Ms. Tanvi Khurana, DHJS and Ms. Charu Makkar, Former Member JJB/CWC, conducted the session on preparation of probation reports with the help of role play and writing of a mock report.



# CORE COMPETENCE CONFERENCES ON KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND PERSPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT

Four 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 for 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.

#### DISTRICT JUDGES (COMMERCIAL)

This one-day programme was conducted for District Judges (Commercial Court) on 1st March 2025. The programme commenced with the first session focusing on the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996, covering topics such as jurisdiction, interim measures, setting aside arbitral awards, and enforcement of arbitral awards. The session was led by Mr. Rajshekhar Rao, Senior Advocate. The second session addressed the challenges posed by e-Commerce, including discussions on demystifying the e-commerce transactions, jurisdictional and evidentiary



issues, and the interplay with IPR. This session featured insights from Mr. Ritin Rai, Senior Advocate. After a



lunch break, the third session delved into IPR issues of trial, with topics such as jurisdiction, valuation, current development & challenges, enforcement regime, interim measures, final reliefs, computation of damages, and the latest developments in law and interplay with Artificial Intelligence being deliberated upon. The session was conducted by Ms. Swathi Sukumar, Senior Advocate. The final session of the day was a panel discussion on Evolving Best Practices, focusing on the effective use of the provisions of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, for the expeditious disposal of commercial disputes and addressing

the challenges peculiar to the trial of IPR disputes. The panel was led by Mr. Abhishek Malhotra, Senior Advocate and Ms. Swathi Sukumar.

#### ASJ (POCSO) AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

A Core Competence Conference was organised on 1st February 2025 for knowledge, skill and perspective development for judicial officers holding special POCSO Courts which included a convergence workshop of the public prosecutors attached to these courts. The conference began with orienting the participants to adopt a justice-oriented perspective in court, including aiding the victim, sensitive handling of persons with



disabilities and the practice directions to be followed while dealing with bail applications. The best practices to be adopted for ensuring expeditious disposal of cases were also deliberated upon. Two sessions were conducted in question-and-answer format, wherein challenges faced by the participants in the implementation of key provisions of POCSCO Act were considered. The deliberations were held around the recording of statement of the victim, maintaining the

victim's privacy, determination of age, amenability of these proceedings to settlement, recording of evidence and statement of accused, appreciating MLC and FSL reports, and the interplay with new criminal laws. One session was dedicated to understanding the growing concern of child sexual abuse in Cyberspace, including the concept of "virtual touch". Mandatory Directions in circulated judgments were discussed with the participants in the form of a QR based group quiz. The



resource persons for the programme included Mr. Atul Ahlawat, DHJS, Ms. Tara Narula, Advocate, Prof. (Dr.) Ikramul Haque, DNA expert and Mr. Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate and Cyber Law Consultant.

#### CJM/ACJM/JMFC & PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

This one-day conference on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 was attended by CJMs, ACJMs, JMFCs, and Relieving JMFCs, and began with a Q&A session on the issues & challenges in implementation of substantive &

procedural criminal laws. The deliberations touched upon topics such as the plea of juvenility, conducting TIP of juveniles, exercising powers under Section 175 BNSS (156 (3) CrPC) and the challenges of investigation & possible solutions. The second session aimed at addressing issues such as the issuance of coercive process, arrest, remand & bail, and the importance of judicial discipline & judicial restraint in Court. This session, which focused on protecting the constitutional and legal rights, also



highlighted the practices to be adopted for the protection of vulnerable groups and recording of statements under Section 183 BNSS (164 CrPC). The speakers for the first two sessions included Ms. Geetanjali Goel, DHJS and Mr. Anant Kumar Asthana, Advocate & Child Rights Activist. The third session delved into the intricacies of the trial under PC & PNDT Act, discussing the relevant terminology, appropriate procedure of trial and the challenges. The session also included a group discussion through a QR code based guiz on the Mandatory Directions issued in Circulated Judgments of Superior Courts.

Mr. Rakesh Syal, Former DHJS, was the speaker for this session. In the final session of the day, Mr. Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate & Cyber Law Consultant, addressed the participants through Video Conferencing on the expanding dimensions of crimes in the cyberspace and its attendant challenges, including the admissibility and appreciation of Digital Evidence. Simultaneously, a conference for capacity building of the public prosecutors attached with the above courts was held, wherein the last three sessions were held as joint sessions with the Magistrates.

#### JMFC (NI ACT)

A programme was conducted for all magistrates dealing with cases under The Negotiable Instruments

Act, 1881 on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The programme commenced with a question & answer session on the procedural issues arising from the trial of complaints under the Negotiable Instruments Act, including conversion from summary to summons trial, digital recording of evidence and the interplay with the changes introduced by the New Criminal Laws. The session was presided over by Sh. Anuj Aggarwal, DHJS. Sh. Vikas Kumar Jha, Partner, Cyril Amarchand



Mangaldas, addressed the participants in the second session on the effect of initiation of insolvency proceedings/winding up of the corporate entities on the proceedings under Section 138 Negotiable Instruments Act. Md. Farrukh, Director (Administration), DJA, also discussed the best practices which may be adopted by the magistrates for ensuring a sensitive and effective recording of evidence and statement of the accused in these complaints. Training on curbing delays through disposal by resorting to triple method (plea bargaining, probation and compounding) and the effect of settlement was imparted in the third session by Ms. Geetanjali Goel, DHJS. The session also addressed the safeguards to be adopted by the duty magistrates while dealing with juveniles during remand, TIP and provision of legal aid. Ms. Jyoti Kyler, DHJS and Mr. Prashant Sharma, Additional Director, DJA, addressed the participants in the last session on the best practices of writing a judgment for offences under Section 138 Negotiable Instruments Act. A Group Discussion on the mandatory directions issued in the circulated judgments of the Supreme Court and the High Court, through a QR Code based quiz was also conducted.

# IN FOCUS: CHILD RIGHTS AND BUILDING A ROBUST JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

A one-day orientation course on the functioning of JJB and the core provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015, for a mixed group of Principal Magistrates, Social Workers, Public prosecutors of JJBs and Special Juvenile Police Unit Officers was held on 18th January 2025. The intricacies of age inquiry and bail under the JJ Act were deliberated upon in the first session, chaired by Mr. Anant Kumar Asthana, Advocate and Child Rights Activist. The role of JJB in ensuring access to justice, dealing with vulnerable witnesses and persons with disability was also deliberated upon. In the second session, the

challenges in the implementation of the POCSO Act, including aspect of custody and victim compensation,

were discussed by Mr. Atul Ahlawat, DHJS. The third session involved focussed deliberations on the manner of inquiry by the JJB against the CCL and the possible outcomes of the said inquiry. The need for rehabilitation and use of alternatives to detention, was emphasised. In the last session, Ms. Geentanjali Goel, DHJS deliberated on the procedure to be adopted where the CCL is also found to be a CNCP. The programme ended with a discussion on the mandatory guidelines issued in the circulated



judgments by the Supreme Court and the High Court, in the form of a QR code based quiz. A simultaneous programme was also held for Chairperson and Members of CWC and officials of the District Child



Protection Unit on the said date. In the first session, the functions of CWC, such as assessment of child as CNCP, conducting age inquiry, and declaration of a child as legally free for adoption were discussed, alongwith the best practices for dealing with children with disability, by Ms. Bharti Ali, Co-founder HAQ. In the second session, the role of CWC under the POCSO Act and the intricate issues pertaining to custody and implementation of the policies of the Government was deliberated upon by Ms. Tanvi

Khurana, DHJS. Ms. Sampurna Behura, Director - Legal, Bachpan Bachao Andolan addressed the participants on the role and responsibility of the CWC in rescue and rehabilitation of children forced into labour. The last session conducted by Md. Salam Khan, Social Worker, dealt with the ideal content and format of orders to be written by the CWCs.

# WORKSHOP ON CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATES

A one day workshop was conducted for Special Executive Magistrates exercising powers under Section 126/170 BNSS on 29th March 2025, in compliance with the guidelines of Delhi High Court in *Aldanish Rein v. State of NCT of Delhi*. The Workshop commenced with Mr. Rajiv Jain, IPS (Retd.), tracing the evolution of the rights at the time of preventive arrest from the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, 1966, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 to the Constitution of India. Thereafter, Mr.



Pulastya Pramachala, DHJS, shared the best practices to be followed while dealing with an application under Section 126 BNSS and preventive arrest under Section 170 BNSS.

#### **ECT PROGRAMMES**

As a part of the ongoing e-Committee Special Drive Training and Outreach Programmes, Supreme Court of India, **2** programmes were conducted during this quarter. An overview of the programmes is below:



#### **ECT-17**

A two day programme was conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 through VC for the 108 newly recruited officers of Delhi Judicial Service. The programme began with a brief introduction of the IT Infrastructure present in the courts and thereafter dealt with the different facets of use of Information Technology in Courts.

Deliberations over a wide array of topics including not only core CIS and Ubuntu related issues but also other emerging aspects of use of ICT in courts such as digitisation, networks, servers, computer operating systems, software, hardware and videoconferencing/hybrid hearing were held.

#### **ECT-18**

A two day programme was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 for the 37 newly recruited officers of Delhi Higher Judicial Service. The programme covered a wide array of subjects pertinent to IT Infrastructure in courts. The participants were introduced to UBUNTU and CIS. E-filing rules and VC rules issued by Delhi High Court were also deliberated upon. A demonstration of the Manupatra legal research application was also conducted. The working of NSTEP, PDF tools, speech to text software (specifically Dragon) was also demonstrated. The speakers included master trainers, namely Mr. Sushil Anuj Tyagi, DHJS, Mr. Saurabh Goyal, DJS and Mr. Himanshu Tanwar, DJS.

#### TRAINING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

# Conference of the Doctors to Ensure Sensitive Handling of Cases Relating to Sexual Offences against Children

This one-day training programme was conducted on 20th March 2025 for the doctors from NCT of Delhi, in view of suggestions and recommendations received during the National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Child Protection held under the aegis of Supreme Court of India in December, 2022 and September, 2023. The programme addressed the role of doctors in the counselling of the victim, best practices to be followed while interacting with victims of sexual offence, collecting samples for DNA profiling and other forensic examination and conducting medical examination of the victim. The last



session was dedicated to the norms to be followed in the preparation of the Medico-Legal Report.

The speakers for the programme included Dr. Rachana Bhargava and Dr. Manju Mehta, both Professors of Clinical Psychology at AlIMS, New Delhi; and Dr. Sanjeev Lalwani, Professor/ Registrar Academic at AlIMS, Delhi.

#### Awareness regarding Three New Criminal Laws from a Medical view point

In view of the request received from the Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, an awareness training programme on the New Criminal Laws was conducted for 350 doctors of NCT of Delhi (who are onboarded on MedLEaPR) in two batches on 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The half-day training programme dealt with the key changes introduced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Surakhsha Sanhita, 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, relevant to medical professionals, especially relating to the newly introduced bodily offences, the format of certificate to



prove digital evidence, procedures introduced to ensure transparency and enhancement of victim rights, new procedure for registration of FIR, amongst others. The changes introduced to the offence of medical negligence were also discussed. The speakers for the session included Mr. Atul Ahlawat, DHJS, Mr. Ajay Verma, Advocate and Mr. Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate and Cyber Law Consultant.

#### TRAINING FOR COURT STAFF

Court functioning can be improved if all stakeholders in the justice delivery system are trained. With this

motive, 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 conducted a programme for training of the Bailiffs, Incharges of Nazarat Branches and Nazirs of all the District Courts on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The aim of the programme was to brainstorm on issues relating to execution of decrees in civil procedure.



Interactive sessions were also held on execution of warrants; carrying out the attachment and sale; and other official duties in carrying out orders of Executing Court.

#### CONTINUOUS TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT THE ACADEMY

#### **Induction Training**

Seven judicial officers of the Delhi Judicial Service 2023 batch, who had joined late, continued their induction training in this quarter, and underwent institutional training as well as practical training through court attachments and field visits. Six of these officers, upon completion of the Induction Course, have been put on court attachments and are awaiting their postings.

#### Orientation Course

Nineteen judicial officers, after completion of the Orientation Course upon promotion to DHJS Cadre, continued to remain on court attachments in this quarter and are awaiting their postings.

# ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS AND STRESS MANAGEMENT RETREAT

Retreats are organised each year for the 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 on 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, cuisines and omnipresent elements. With the above objectives, one retreat was organised in this quarter. A mixed group of DHJS and DJS officers went to Ranthambore, Rajasthan, from 7th - 9th February 2025.

Few Glimpses from the trips are encapsulated below:

25th July declared by UN as International Day for Judicial Well-Being

