

TAMIL NADU STATE JUDICIAL ACADEMY
HEADQUARTERS, CHENNAI

Report on "PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON
MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES OF DISTRICT JUDICIAL
ADMINISTRATION" held on 24th July 2021 (Saturday) at TNSJA,
Chennai

Trees give oxygen, we need oxygen to breathe, we all breathe and we do need more trees. The rapid surge of urbanization has led to felling of trees to suffice to the needs of the population, on the other hand this has led to depletion of oxygen, leading to breathing difficulties. With all these in mind and to encourage all the people to grow plants and trees, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Madras and Patron in Chief of Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy along with Hon'ble Justice M.M. Sundresh, Judge High Court of Madras/President of Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy and other Hon'ble Judges of High Court of Madras have planted saplings.

The programme started as per schedule on 24th July 2021, Saturday at 10am. This was the first physical session held in the academy after around 1 and ½ years. The introductory speech was delivered by the Director of TNSJA, D. Lingeswaran. The welcome address and vision statement was expressed by Hon'ble Justice M. M Sundresh, Judge High Court of Madras and President of TNSJA. Justice. M. M Sundresh spoke about the developments and improvements of the standards of judiciary as well as personal standards. He stressed on the concept of peer review to be done in decision making as it will help in the overall development of judiciary as well as improve its efficacy.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of Madras and Patron-in-chief of TNSJA, Mr. Sanjib Banerjee presented the inaugural address for the programme. Hon'ble Justice shared his immense experience as an advocate as well as judge. He stated the difference between pleaders and active counsels. Justice spoke about Late Justice. Battacharjee who encouraged him when he was practicing as an advocate in Kolkata. Justice also elucidated the importance and uniqueness of Article. 235 of the Constitution of India, which must be protected as it holds the federal system. He similarly spoke about the non-homogeneity of the Indian society, from which we have to pick the many good things and leave behind the evil things like caste, race, social hierarchy, etc. He stated that, "judges like adjudication but not administration, but judges must take up both". He stressed that adjudication should come before execution, but he was saddened by the reality where, execution takes place before adjudication. Hon'ble Chief Justice threw light on how judiciary has found its place in the annual budget post 2010. He suggested that judiciary should show more sympathy and empathy towards the parties because this is the last resort of their life and believe that justice will be rendered. The Hon'ble Chief Justice also shared his experience of working at the National Judicial Academy, when they came up with many workable solutions to tackle the problems of judiciary. Hon'ble Chief Justice emphasized on technological advancements which have to come into effect and all the registers to be done away with and replaced by the computerized forms. Lastly, Hon'ble Chief Justice stated about the women grievance redressal cell set up in the High Court to address all the problems faced by women.

After a short tea break the programme commenced with the Principal District Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates coming forth and

enunciating the areas of focus and action plan on the management of resources.

The leader/speaker of Group A - Mr. B. MURUGESAN, Principal District Judge, Erode started by dividing the justice delivery system into 4 wings, Judicial officers, Judicial staff, Advocates and Litigants. He highlighted on how uninformed young advocates and litigants are as they are not aware of District Legal Service Authority (DLSA). He also suggested certain methods like constituting *ad hoc* committee consisting of judicial officers to deal with bottlenecks affecting the district judiciary.

The leader/speaker of Group B - Mr. P. VADAMALAI, Principal District Judge, Madurai spoke about various drawbacks such as delays in disposing cases. He highlighted the problems of judicial staff such as language, code of conduct, performance indication, professional development, destruction of files to name a few. He suggested for amicable settlement and ADR mechanisms for speedy delivery of justice.

The leader/speaker of Group C - Ms. R. KALAIMATHI, Principal District Judge, Krishnagiri spoke about enhancing the pecuniary jurisdiction of the courts, sensitizing common people in vernacular languages, collecting emails and phone numbers of advocates and parties. She suggested to establish centralized record rooms and converting all the records to computerized forms.

The leader/speaker of Group D - Ms S. SUBADEVI, Principal District Judge, Perambalur enunciated on improving skill and efficiency of staff, reduction in pendency of cases, appropriate action on case properties, accountability of court staff. She suggested for accountability of staff and monitoring them on regular basis.

The leader/speaker of Group E - Mr. K.H. ELAVAZHAGAN, Principal District Judge, Villupuram spoke about improving and developing infrastructure like, disposal of damaged and unused furniture. He suggested for monitoring Committee Meeting with District Collector, Superintendent of Police, Director of prosecution, Public Prosecutor to be conducted every month.

The leader/speaker of Group F - Mr. SWARNAM J. NATARAJAN, Principal District Judge, Tiruppur threw light on court management with proper standard operating procedures, use of available technological advancements. He suggested for unique QR codes for each judgement consisting of CNR number, judge code, mail address to be linked with CAS.

The leader/speaker of Group G - Mr. A. NAZIR AHAMED, Principal District Judge, Tirunelveli spoke about digitalizing the court deposits for all cases, staff data base and annual confidential reports. He suggested disciplinary proceedings to be taken on deviating staff immediately and also suggested for frequent video conferencing between and within the groups.

Post lunch the session commenced with the panel discussions by Hon'ble High Court Justices. The Hon'ble Justice. Dr. Jayachandran, told the participating judges to help those persons who come from the BAR to the BENCH by giving them good space to serve the society, especially the newly appointed judges. He emphasised that Principal District Judges must have complete control over the entire administration of the judiciary in their district.

This discussion on administration of judiciary was continued by Hon'ble Justice. Mr. P. N Prakash, who reiterated the ill-fated misappropriation of court deposits in the MCOP cases in Pattukottai, Tanjavur District by the court staff namely, Dhinakaraja who misappropriated more than 1.5 crore. He emphasized that Principal District Judges must be more cautious and take utmost care before signing any cheques. He encouraged the Principal District Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates to take appropriate actions when they find any unconventionality.

Hon'ble Justice Mr. C.V. Karthikeyan took over and stated the importance of writing the annual confidential reports. He stated that, annual confidential reports must not be written over night, but must be done on a regular basis. He articulated that, the language, narration, clarity of thoughts and reasoning should be given. He insisted on supervision and control of staff and also make sure that the staff are aware that the presiding officers know what they are doing.

Hon'ble Justice N. Sathish Kumar suggested the Principal District Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates on inspecting other courts under them and their staff to make them work efficiently. He stated that Principal District Judge must have authority over its subordinates and be firm and work with pride. He spoke about speedy disposal of cases and at times he advised to invoke Sec. 309 and put hefty costs on Station House Officers, to put an end to unwarranted delay.

Hon'ble Justice G. Chandrasekharan threw light on training, assessing and monitoring the newly recruited judges. He stated that, this process of mentoring should be reciprocal and collaborative work between seniors and juniors. He highlighted few mentoring techniques that may be

adopted. He concluded by stating that a good rapport to be built between the mentors and mentees to work efficiently and render justice.

The session was an eye-opener to all the participating judges.
