

~ 02 Days' Conference ~
“Institutional Perspective – Self-Evaluation and Self-Evolution”

By
Gujarat State Legal Services Authority
In association with
Gujarat State Judicial Academy

- “*Learning has no end...*”

“Judicial Officers to uphold social and economic justice, reminding them of the four essential qualities of a judge: “to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially.”...

- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai
("Overcoming Challenges: The Emerging Role of District Judiciary in Modern India", hosted by the Chhattisgarh HC)

In order to see that litigants get prompt and efficient justice, it is *sine qua non* that the Judges of the District Judiciary be imparted with the specialized training to enhance their knowledge and skills and further be sensitized so as to perform the divine function of rendering justice with utmost dedication & sincerity. Periodically, High Court of Gujarat in association with Gujarat State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA) and Gujarat State Judicial Academy (GSJA) organize various capacity building training programmes for different cadres of the judges on specialized subjects.

To meet with the Complex Challenges faced by one of the most important stakeholders of the Justice Delivery System, i.e. Judges of the District Judiciary in the contemporary era, it would be apt to have a comprehensive, integrated and

holistic Conference of all the Judicial Officers (from all cadres) of the District Judiciary to deliberate on pivotal legal subjects by legal luminaries so that meaningful deliberation of subject by Resource Persons having profound knowledge reaches to all tiers of the System and best practices shared inter se can be adopted. Considering the said aspect, High Court of Gujarat proposes to have 02 Days' Conference on the theme of "Institutional Perspective – Self-Evaluation and Self-Evolution" in association with Gujarat State Legal Services Authority and Gujarat State Judicial Academy, tentatively on 19th – 20th October, 2024.

Topics of deliberations during Conference

1. Self evaluation – Self evolution

There is a higher court than courts of justice and that is the court of conscience

- Mahatma Gandhiji

It is proposed to have detailed sessions on key subjects which include "Trust Deficit – Eroding the credibility of judicial institutions?" the session intends to have discussion on the challenges faced by the District Judiciary to regain the faith of the people. In order to see that Judicial Officers are sensitized to perform duty with utmost dedication, the topic of this session has been conceived to inspire the judges to shift their approach from "fault finding system" to "bringing solution to problems". The session intends to impress upon the judicial officers to make self-introspection about their actual deliverance in justice delivery system.

2. Bail is a Rule – Jail is an exception:

The conference also proposes to have a session on one of the key subjects of criminal jurisprudence, i.e. due exercise of discretion while adjudicating the bail application considering two pivotal aspects, i.e. personal liberty and societal interest. We propose to deliberate on the basic concept associated with the bail jurisprudence, care to be taken by the presiding officer while adjudicating the bail application by striking a balance between liberty and social interest in consonance with the directions issued by Hon'ble The Apex Court in respect to the Under Trial Prisoners languishing behind bars since long.

3. Facets of Civil Litigation:

To overcome the issue of delay in civil trials, panellists propose to provide guidance to the judges as to how effectively the interim application in a civil litigation can be decided promptly and in the said session judges would be sensitized about the dwindling ratio of institution of institution of civil cases and the public perception of switching over to other modes rather than filing civil suit for enforcement of civil rights. Special deliberation will be made for the execution petition in view of the directions issued by Hon'ble Apex Court in case of Rahul Shah.

4. Docket Management:

In order to enable the judges to combat the docket inflow, session for docket management and smart court management would be deliberated with focus on use of ICT tools and ADR mechanism.

5. Institutional Commitment to the Next Generation- Child friendly functioning of Juvenile Justice Board and Children Court / Special POCSO Court:

The sensitization especially on child sexual abuses and children in conflict with law forming part with JJB and POCSO Court and the need to expedite their cases would also be deliberated in the conference.

Over and above the renowned panellists would share their experiences with the district judiciary. Conference proposes to involve participation of district judiciary also in order to make sure that judges cultivate positive attitude and approach in adjudication.

