

Workshop for Judicial Magistrates of Jammu province on the topic “Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2013 and Section 154, 156, 200 CrPC” and “Lecture on Powers and Jurisdiction of Magistrates vis-à-vis Remand, Bail, Release of seized property and committal provisions for special laws like NDPS Act, Prevention of Corruption Act, Drugs and Cosmetic Act, Forest Act and Section 164-A CrPC”.

In order to provide a platform to the Judicial Officers to get a clear understanding of the provisions of the Criminal Amendment Act, 2013, Jammu & Kashmir State Judicial Academy today organized one day Workshop for all Judicial Magistrates of Jammu province on the topic “Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2013 and Section 154, 156, 200 CrPC” and “Lecture on Powers and Jurisdiction of Magistrates vis-à-vis Remand, Bail, Release of seized property and committal provisions for special laws like NDPS Act, Prevention of Corruption Act, Drugs and Cosmetic Act, Forest Act and Section 164-A CrPC”. The idea is to get every Magistrate of the State familiarized with the latest amendments carried out in the Code of Criminal Procedure, Ranbir Penal Code and Evidence Act so that they are able to apply the provisions of amendments incorporated therein.

Hon’ble Shri Justice J.P. Singh, former Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Hon’ble Shri Justice Bansi Lal Bhat, Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir were the Resource persons.

Workshop was conducted under the guidance and instructions of Hon’ble Chief Patron, State Judicial Academy (Hon’ble the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K) and Hon’ble Shri Justice Muzaffar Hussain Attar, (Chairman Committee, State Judicial Academy) and Hon’ble Shri Justice Hasnain Masoodi, (Member Committee, State Judicial Academy).

The topics were introduced by Shri Pawan Dev Kotwal, Director, State Judicial Academy in both pre and post lunch sessions and emphasized the need of the course for judicial officers especially in the back drop of latest amendments made out in the Code of Criminal Procedure, Ranbir Penal Code and Evidence Act by way of Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2013 which came into the force with effect from March 2014.

Hon’ble Shri Justice J.P. Singh discussed in detail the purpose and object of the amended provisions of Code of Criminal Provisions, Ranbir Penal Code and Evidence Act. In his lucid and informative address, His Lordship enlightened the participants regarding ways and means which they can adopt while dealing with criminal cases and reminded the magistrates about their powers and duties. He said that a judge should have a perception of a judge from the point of view of society as the society has large expectations from him and their job is to deliver justice on merit and not what the counsel for the parties are expecting. He cautioned the magistrates to remain vigil and careful in the administration of criminal justice.

After his Lordship address, all the participants actively participated in the interactive session. During interactive session, participants got an occasion to share their experiences. The participants cleared various doubts lurking in their minds about the implementation and practicability of Amendment.

In the post lunch session, Hon’ble Shri Justice Bansi Lal Bhat addressed the Magistrates on the topic “Powers and Jurisdiction of Magistrates vis-à-vis Remand, Bail, Release of seized property and committal provisions for special laws like NDPS Act, Prevention of Corruption Act, Drugs and Cosmetic Act, Forest Act and Section 164-A CrPC”.

His Lordship dealt in detail with topic and cleared confusions and doubts which the participants had about the various legal provisions and procedures. All the participants took part in the deliberations with great interest. His Lordship patiently heard the participants about their difficulties and cleared all doubts about the intricacies of law.

In his concluding remarks, Shri Pawan Dev Kotwal, Director, State Judicial Academy said that the topics of today’s workshop were of great significance as specific provisions for punishment for the offences of causing grievous hurt by acid attack, for the offences of stalking, voyeurism and sexual harassment, re-defining of the offence of rape, enhancement of punishment u/sections 294, 354 and 509 of RPC, insertion of section 304-B prescribing for punishment for dowry death, amendment of Section 53-A, 154, 160, 161, 164, 198-B, 259-AA, 352 and 353 of CrPC providing women friendly procedures, greater sensitivity to the requirements of physically and mentally disabled persons, children and old persons in the course of investigation and trial including speedy trial of rape cases and better recording of evidence and providing of compensation to the victims.

