

“Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2013 and NDPS Act, 2014” and “Lecture on Criminal Revisional and Appellate powers of Sessions Judges”

In order to provide a platform to the Judicial Officers to get a clear understanding of the provisions of the Criminal Amendment Act, 2013 and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 2014, Jammu & Kashmir State Judicial Academy today organized one day Workshop for all Sessions Judges of Jammu province on the topic “Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2013 and NDPS Act, 2014” and “Lecture on Criminal Revisional and Appellate powers of Sessions Judges”. The idea is to get every Sessions Judge of the State familiarized with the latest amendments carried out in the CrPC, RPC, Evidence Act and NDPS 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 was the Resource person.

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 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, Evidence Act and NDPS Act by way of Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2013 and NDPS Act, 2014.

Hon’ble Shri Justice J.P. Singh by his long and varied experience enlightened the participants regarding ways and means which they can adopt while dealing with criminal cases and reminded the Sessions Judges about their powers, duties and responsibilities. In his articulative and enlightening address, His Lordship discussed in detail the amended provisions of Criminal Amendment Act and NDPS Act and referred some authoritative pronouncements of the Apex Court, which they have to keep in mind while dealing with the cases. His lordship laid emphasis that trial in criminal cases should be held as expeditiously as possible and on day to day basis. His Lordship said that Section 344 gives enough powers to the courts to regulate cases and though power to adjourn cases lies with them but adjournments should not be given at the mere asking.

Hon’ble Resource person said that a great responsibility and sensitivity is casted on the judiciary by the Amendment Act, 2013 whereby certain amendments have been made making offences against women more heinous and stringent punishments are provided. However, judges have to ensure that the provisions are not mis-used.

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/her and their job is to deliver justice on merits. Resource person said that provisions of law must be used for the dispensation of real justice to the seekers of justice and to serve the society as a whole accordingly by upholding the rule of law.

All the participants took active part in the deliberations and asked many questions to the Hon’ble Resource persons who cleared the confusions lurking in the minds of participants about various provisions of substantive and procedural law.

In the last session, Shri Pawan Dev Kotwal, Director, State Judicial Academy presented vote of thanks and said that advice and words of wisdom of the Hon’ble Resource person will guide us in the discharge of our duties in the dispensation of justice. He further requested the participating District Judges to ensure the subscription of Government Gazette by all the courts on regular basis in order to make the judicial officers aware of the latest provisions immediately after their amendments. In this regard, he also said that a uniform direction to this effect has already been recommended by the Academy to the Hon’ble High Court.

