

Govt. of Gujarat commissions GNLU to impart training to all APPs in the State

Gandhinagar, February 05, 2020: Government of Gujarat has commissioned Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) for imparting training to all Assistant Public Prosecutors (APPs) functioning in various courts of the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) across the state. Close to 650 APPs will be trained in 11 different three-day training programmes to be conducted in the month of February and March 2020.

The first programme in the series was inaugurated today. The inaugural session was graced by **Ms Manisha Lavkumar Shah, Government Pleader, High Court of Gujarat, Mr Milan Dave, Joint Secretary, Legal Department, Government of Gujarat** and **GNLU Director Dr S. Shanthakumar**.

Mr Milan Dave, Joint Secretary, Legal Department said, “This refresher training to APPs will help in the functioning of the courts which will, in turn, help in achieving the objective of speedy justice to wider sections of society. Government plans to continue such refresher training every year.”

Speaking on the occasion, Government Pleader Ms Manisha Lavkumar Shah said that Public Prosecutor plays a very important role in our criminal justice system and quoted from the judgement of the Supreme Court of India in the case of Rekha Murarka vs The State of West Bengal and “In our criminal justice system, the Public Prosecutor occupies a position of great importance. Given that crimes are treated as a wrong against the society as a whole, his role in the administration of justice is crucial, as he is not just a representative of the aggrieved person, but that of the State at large. Though he is appointed by the Government, he is not a servant of the Government or the investigating agency. He is an officer of the Court and his primary duty is to assist the Court in arriving at the truth by putting forth all the relevant material on behalf of the prosecution. While discharging these duties, he must act in a manner that is fair to the Court, to the investigating agencies, as well to the accused. This means that in instances where he finds material indicating that the accused legitimately deserves a benefit during the trial, he must not conceal it. Space carved out for the Public Prosecutor is clearly that of an independent officer who secures the cause of justice and fair play in a criminal trial.”

Ms Shah advised the APPs to seek help from their seniors as well as experts from other fields wherever required. She said that Public Prosecutors are expected to deal with crimes of a varied nature. While they are not expected to be expert in each and every field, they have to seek help from the experts in different fields. She recalled her days as a Public Prosecutor when there was a big rage over the co-operative banks going bust in the state and how she had sought help from Chartered Accountants and Bank Managers in understanding the fundamentals of accounting as well as bank operations.

Ms Shah further advised the participating APPS to devote at least one hour to the reading of recent judgements stating that “**There is no better wisdom than what lies in the books.**”

GNLU Director Dr S. Shanthakumar said, “We are thankful to the Government, in particular, the Law Minister and the Law Secretary for giving GNLU this opportunity. I am sure GNLU faculty will fully justify the confidence reposed in them.”

The training will cover the following broad areas:

01. Summons and Warrant of Arrest, Proclamation and Attachment
02. Recording of evidence Cr PC 272 to 299
03. Appreciation of evidence in criminal cases
04. Medical and Forensic Evidence
05. Authentication of Electronic Evidence
06. Bail and Bond Law and Practice
07. Law Officer’s Rule
08. Offences under Labour Laws
09. Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000
10. Food Adulteration and Food Safety Act
11. Role of Assistant Public Prosecutors

60 APPs are participating in the first programme inaugurated today.

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