Members of the Board of Revenue, 
Senior Advocates of the Rajasthan Revenue Bar Association, 
Distinguished Colleagues,

It is my privilege to extend a warm and hearty welcome to our Additional Divisional Commissioners and Additional District Collectors to the 5th workshop being conducted by the Board of Revenue for Improving Functioning of Revenue Courts. Hitherto the Board of Revenue has conducted 2 workshops for SDO's 1 workshop for Revenue Appellate Authorities and 1 workshop for ADM's. With today's workshop, the Board of Revenue would be completing the entire range of Revenue Courts of Rajasthan.

Rajasthan has 4.8 lac cases at the Trial Courts stage, 1.8 lac cases at 1st appellate Court Stage and 0.63 lac cases in the Board of Revenue – in all the total revenue litigation in the State is 7 lac cases. To meet this huge workload, we have 400 courts. It is my endeavor that the Revenue Officers of Rajasthan conducting Court work are empowered significantly to provide leadership to deliver justice to a large group of rural population, protect vulnerable groups like Women, Deity, SC/ST Tenants and common lands. It is important that we ensure consistency and predictability of sittings and high quality judgment writing. The Revenue Courts also need to be aware of the latest case laws and the interpretations of Revenue law by the Board of Revenue. Let me emphasize that the litigant is the centrality of the journey of Revenue Courts and everything should be done to simplify the litigant’s journey.

I have visited 16 Districts of Rajasthan and met a number of Revenue Officers and Advocates. The issues raised before me are quality of judgment writing, predictability and consistency of Court sittings, cordiality in interactions between the bench and the bar and digitalization. Today's workshop is divided into 4 sessions – Organization of Court work, Allotment Rules, Safeguarding Government Lands and Digitalization. I have requested the senior most counsels of the Rajasthan Revenue Bar Association to address us on the latest trends in case law.

Let me take up the functioning of Additional District Collectors first. ADM's are in charge of Revenue Section of Districts, and are the custodians of the Allotment Rules under the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act. They are also the inspecting authorities for the Tehsils and the 1st appellate authorities for all cases decided by the Tehsildars. One of the important judgments that I have delivered in recent months which have considerable impact on the
protection of common lands and Government lands is the case of State of Rajasthan vs Ali Sher (reference/ LR/ 6116/ 2015/ Bharatpur dated 15/12/2017) wherein the larger bench has held that the Hon’ble High Court Decision in the DB Civil Writ Petition No 1536/ 2003 Abdul Rehman vs State of Rajasthan dated 2.8.2004 is binding on the cases pending before the Board of Revenue. In pursuance of the larger bench judgment, the Board of Revenue has decided nearly 4000 cases from December 2017 to March 2018. There are several Districts from where the References are awaited in pursuance of the judgment of the Hon’ble High Court order, and all ADM’s must expedite submitting these references to the Board of Revenue.

The second important judgment that I wish to discuss in this workshop is the power of review and the interpretation taken by the Board of Revenue in the case of Giridhari vs Koyali (Review/ TA/ 1119/ 2011 Jodhpur dated 11/4/2018).

The Board of Revenue has held that review is permissible in cases where:

1. Relief granted is beyond pleadings
2. The order was passed without deciding many important issues and ignoring material on record.
3. There are clear cases of errors apparent on the face of record.

I would also request all ADM’s and Additional Divisional Commissioners to ensure that Reviews of judgments and decrees filed in their courts may be completed in a time-bound manner and special emphasis may be given to their disposal.

In your inspections of Tehsils, kindly advise Tehsildars to comply with the provisions of the Larger Bench judgment on site visit for firming up partition of holdings. Quality of mutations can be improved by quality inspections.

The Additional Divisional Commissioner is a critical post for hearing 2nd appeals of Tehsildars. Senior officers with over 30 years of experience are currently functioning as Additional Divisional Commissioners. I would like to benefit from your experience on how to improve the functioning of Additional Divisional Commissioner Courts and greater involvement in supervising work of subordinate revenue courts.

The Revenue Campaign is commencing shortly, all emphasis may be given to conducting a campaign which will benefit tenants. There has been a tendency to decide Revenue Suits in the Revenue Campaign without completing the due process of law. This should be carefully monitored and in no case should decisions be made without adhering to the codal provisions of the civil procedure code.

I am sure you will find today’s deliberations useful value additions for your careers to provide improved justice delivery systems in revenue courts of Rajasthan.