

# Court adjournments like cancer, says V-P Ansari

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**EXPRESSING** serious concerns over delay in delivery of justice in the country, Vice President Hamid Ansari described court adjournments as "cancer".

However, he expressed hope that frustration would improve with the setting up of the "National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms" aimed at reducing delays and stress of the pending cases and enhancing accountability at all levels through structural changes and setting performance standards.

"Reasons for delay in justice delivery are well known. Excessive adjournments is a primary cause, while other reasons are — shortage of resources and capacity and long-winding arguments by counsel," Ansari said after inaugurating a new campus of Gujarat National Law University here.

Quoting observations of the Supreme Court, he said, "Adjournments have gotten the entire body of the justice delivery system."

Ansari, who shared the stage with state Governor Kamla Beniwal and Chief Minister Narendra Modi, candidly admitted that "no progress on achieving constitutional promise of securing to citizens justice, social, economic and political, especially to the poor and



Vice-President Abdul Hamid Ansari with Governor Kamla Beniwal and CM Narendra Modi at the new campus of Gujarat National Law University.

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discharged, leave much to be desired".

"In many instances, it is the case that in the biggest and leading litigations, leading citizens and businesses to maintain substantive and rational issues are cases drag on in the labyrinthine justice delivery system," he said.

Quoting from the Law Commission of India's report that says the "ethics of

lawyers has also become questionable" and the Bar Council has "rarely taken action against the tainted lawyers", he stressed the need of "introspection among the lawyers for an "ethical renewal" in legal profession.

Ansari also thanked Modi and state Law Minister Deep Sanghani for inviting him to inaugurate the university campus.