

# Court adjournments like cancer, says V-P Ansari



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

However, he expressed hope that situation would improve with the setting up of the "National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms" aimed at reducing delays and arrears 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 grown like cancer corroding the entire body of the justice delivery system."

Ansari, who shared the stage with state Governor Kamla and Chief Minister Narendra Modi, candidly admitted that "our progress on achieving constitutional promise of securing to citizens justice, social, economic and political, especially to the poor and disadvantaged, leaves much to be desired".

"In many instances, it is the state that is the biggest and enduring litigator, forcing citizens and businesses to sustain substantive and national losses as cases drag on in the labyrinthine justice delivery system," he said.