

Court adjournments have spread like cancer: Vice-president Ansari

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Koba (Gandhinagar): Inaugurating the newly-built campus of the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), India's vice-president M Hamid Ansari said one of the biggest drawbacks of the current legal system is its inability to deliver justice on time and to those to whom it is required the most – poor and the deprived.

A major reason for this is, he said, was that adjournments in India have spread like cancer, and are happening at the drop of a hat. "Excessive adjournments, resource crunch, lack of judges, disproportionate concentration of work among the lawyers all lead to failure of justice delivery," he added.

He said 56,000 cases are currently pending in the Supreme Court, out of which 36,000 are one-year old or more. As for high courts and lower courts, in all, 3.5 lakh cases are pending, out of which 85,000 are more



Ansari with governor Dr Kamala and chief minister Narendra Modi

than five years old.

Contrary to Ansari's view that Alternative Dispute Resolution system has failed to work in India, chief minister Narendra Modi, present on the occasion, claimed that in Gujarat the Lok Adalats have been actually successful. "You pay as little as 35 paise and you can get justice virtually free", he said, adding, "Gujarat's Lok Adalats can be a study project for the law students of the GNLU."

Modi suggested that a mechanism be worked out under which law graduates, including those who pass out from GNLU, are made to work for five years in institutes for delivering justice to the poorer sections of the population.

Earlier, GNLU director Bimal Patel thanked Modi and former law minister Amit Shah, as also top state babus, for promptly clearing the land for building the campus. "It took

Book on state's maritime history

Ahmedabad: 'Gujarat and the Sea', the book discussing the seafaring tradition of Gujarat, was launched on Saturday in Ahmedabad. The book, published by Darshak Itihas Nidhi (DIN), was launched by Hamid Ansari, vice-president of India in the presence of Dr Kamala, governor of Gujarat, and Narendra Modi, chief minister of Gujarat.

Commenting on the book, Ansari said, "This book enables time travel. It should be seen as a pilot project to be replicated by other states to understand the culture, politics, tradition and overall history of the state."

less than 24 hours", he said.

Also present on the occasion were Gujarat governor Dr Kamala, and Justice Anil R Dave, a Supreme Court judge, and Mohit S Shah, chief justice of Maharashtra.