

**Speech of H.E Governor of Bihar, Shri Ram Nath Kovind  
for Bihar Judicial Service Association Conference on 23-08-2015**

Honourable the Chief Justice of Patna High Court, Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Ansari, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.N Sinha, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Navaniti Prasad Singh, Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. K Sinha, Patron in Chief, B.J.S.A, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajendra Prasad, President, B.J.S.A, Mr. Virendra Kumar, District Judge-cum-Vice President B.J.S.A, Mr. D.K Pradhan, Secretary, B.J.S.A, Ladies and gentlemen !

I feel honoured to be here and address the learned judges of the State, here at this Bihar Judicial Services Association Conference. I am well aware of the glorious past of the State in every field of humanity. Bihar is one of the States which witnessed the first democracy in the world that indicated that this State has lived in justice and participation of individual members of the State in its functioning.

Bihar has been a center for administration, power, learning and culture since ages. It is the land of wisdom and the land of Gautam Buddha who is followed by numerous across the world. it has been the land of rulers like Chandra Gupta Maurya and Ashoka the great. One of the first known republics, Licchavi, also existed in this land even before the birth of Mahvira, who is known as the founder of Jainism. Bihar is one of the States to have the center for higher education i.e Nalanda University when rest of the world barely started gaining civilization. Chanakya the

great teacher, philosopher and advisor is an oldest example of Bihar having a jurist at his par excellence. I believe that you must be aware of the perfection of Chanakya in practicing his judicial duties. He is the one who gave incredible collection of Chanakya Neeti and Arthshastra to this world.

I think, I will fall short of words when it comes to talk about rich history of this State. By setting Chanakya's example, all I want to say, here, at this auspicious occasion, is that you all are judges and you have to perform sovereign duties, therefore, it shall be your moral duty to perform your duties with perfection and honestly that I am sure you must be fulfilling.

I firmly believe that the State has efficient and energetic judicial set up. Let me congratulate you all for having such an immense potential to uphold the Principles of Rule of Law. I am aware of the vast knowledge possessed by each individual present in this conference hall.

However, at the same time I am also aware of the challenges that the State judiciary is facing in present times. To combat such challenges it is very important that focus should be given on the areas where we are lacking.

A collective effort is needed to increase the access to justice and by reducing delays and strengthening the accountability by setting performance standards and capacities. However, steps have been taken time to time to counter such challenges. the

latest example is of National Judicial Appointment Commission Act. The Act will not only improve the appointments of judges but will also extend the freedom to the appointment of larger number of judges compared to other representatives. Its broader objective is to find competent judges for Indian Judiciary.

According to me, improvement has no limit and there always exist possibilities for betterment. Growth is a continuous process. And the energy should be vested in direction to the attainment of growth. By growth, I mean growth as a whole and not just individual. Your capabilities should be reflected in your work and not position. Position is a natural outcome of your hard work and commitment towards what you do. Thus, one should work with dignity and honesty for the attainment of growth.

Justice is something above the law. Manmade laws are only a way to reach justice. Justice should always be based on rationality, equity, ethics and fairness.

Justice is not a profession but a huge responsibility on the part of its practitioners. I again congratulate you all for having such crucial role to play in the society.

I have heard of the certain challenges that are confronted by the District Judiciary that call for immediate action. These issues are mainly of manpower planning, physical infrastructure and procedural innovation. Before I leave this stage, I hope the concerned authorities will take care of such problems faced by the courts and will endeavor to resolve them. It's painful to hear

that District Judges and Civil Judges have to face obstacles in their daily routine due to lack of proper infrastructure. Emphasis should be given on such issues that can be easily resolved. According to me, physical infrastructure should not hamper the functioning of any court of law. Rest two of the problems raised here should also get proper attention so as to ensure a better and excellent judiciary. I hope the authorities will give their best in resolving above issues urgently.

I wish all success and hard work to each one of you so that you keep the head of justice high.

Jai Hind !

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