

Address by

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde

The Chief Justice of India

on the occasion of

Inauguration of New Building of Rajasthan High Court

Hon'ble The President of India

Hon'ble First Lady

Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan.

Hon'ble the Chief minister of Rajasthan

Hon'ble Minister of law and Justice, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad

Hon'ble Minister of Jal shakti, Shri Gajendra singh

Hon'ble Justice N.V. Ramana, Judge, Supreme Court of India

Hon'ble Justice Arun mishra,

Hon'ble Justice Navin Sinha

Hon'ble Justice Ajay Rastogi

Hon'ble Justice Dinesh Maheswari

Hon'ble Justice Ravindra Bhat

Hon'ble Justice Indrajit Mahanty, Chief Justice of Rajasthan

Members of the bar

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Glorious history, rich heritage, unique customs and lofty traditions, coupled with a galaxy of eminent Judges and illustrious lawyers have combined to confer upon the State of Rajasthan a unique and enviable status. It is therefore a matter of great pride and pleasure for me to be present here in the historic 'Blue City' for the inaugural function of the new court building of the Rajasthan High Court.
2. Since its inauguration, the Rajasthan High Court, has earned fame as an institution of high standards with strong traditions and ideals. It has the proud distinction of sending many scholarly and distinguished judges to the Supreme Court of India. Over 70 years ago, on 29th August, 1949, Maharaja Sawai Mansinghji, the Raj Pramukh of the State of Rajasthan, on the occasion of inauguration of this High Court made following invocation:

"I would ask one and all to join with me in invoking the blessings of the Almighty on this great institution which is being inaugurated today; and it is our prayer that for all time to come in this Temple of Justice truth and righteousness shall prevail, that justice be done between man and man and dispensed without fear, or favour, and that freedom be maintained and defended."

I can say with confidence that his prayers have been answered in abundance.

3. Access to justice is one of the most fundamental tenets of the Constitution, therefore to ensure that such access is not diminished, adequate infrastructure needs to be provided to the courts. The presence of an immaculate physical court infrastructure would guarantee that litigants are able to navigate, interact and communicate efficaciously. This aspect elucidates the correlation between access to justice and physical infrastructure.

4. The idea of judicial infrastructure cannot be one that is static, rather it should respond and adapt to the changes in the surrounding context. More often than not, location of courts as well as modes of transportation play a pivotal role in a litigant's decision to even approach the court. The presence of this court complex adjacent to a four-lane highway will ensure that affordable transport facilities such as buses and trains are available to a litigant.
5. As an institution, we must remain committed to making justice accessible to people through strengthening existing avenues and evolving newer means to achieve affordable, quick and satisfactory settlement of disputes. At the same time, we must be aware of the changing perception about the judiciary and litigation. The length of time taken for conclusion of litigation is a big deterrent. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the use of ADR, especially pre-litigation mediation.
6. Surprisingly no courses are available for conferring a degree or diploma in mediation. We have taken the initiative and have asked the BCI to work on this avenue. The BCI has in principle agreed for the introduction of new courses in this line.
7. Technology has strengthened timely access to justice by providing real time information about cases to lawyers and litigants. Recently during the Constitution Day celebrations, we inaugurated the Official Mobile App of the Supreme Court of India, which provides useful information such as Cause Lists, Case Status, Daily Orders, Judgments, Latest Updates, Office Reports, Circulars, etc.
8. I envisage utilisation of Artificial Intelligence to improve the efficiency of our justice administration system as the next step in this process. Use of AI in administration of justice would allow us to redirect and commit judicial time

and resources to resolving complex cases requiring greater application of mind. I am proud to note that an important step in using AI to dispense justice was taken last month when we released an AI powered translation engine, 'SUVAS - Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software'. It was developed on the advice of the Hon'ble The President of India and with the assistance of National Informatics Centre and could be utilised to translate judgements of the Supreme Court to various languages.

9. Such and similar initiatives, when combined with improvement in existing infrastructural facilities, go a long way in strengthening and enhancing the justice delivery system. I congratulate the Rajasthan High Court for this brand-new magnificent building with all the state of art facilities, which will undoubtedly make this High court one of the best in the country.
10. All this could not have been possible without the assistance and support of the State Government. I am sure with better infrastructure in place it would be much easier to pursue the noble cause of dispensing justice and will always live upto its motto- '*Satyameva Jayateh*'.

Thank you, Jai Hind!