

PM stresses on 'sabka nyay'

Says rendering free legal aid to poor should be criterion in selection of judges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday suggested that free legal aid rendered by judges or lawyers to poor should be a criterion while selecting judges as this would ensure accountability and sensibility to poor.

Speaking at the foundation day celebration of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) with CJI-designate Justice TS Thakur in attendance, Modi also gave a new slogan "Sabka Nyay" (Justice for All) stressing that ensuring justice to poor was very important for India's overall development.

"I believe in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and with that there must be 'Sabka Nyay,' said PM Modi.

The Chief Justice of India HL Dattu who is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA sent a written message on the occasion celebrated as Legal Services Day where he emphasised the need for a "robust and effective

legal system" that serves the foundation for preserving rule of law, an essential pillar of democracy.

Justice Dattu in his note said, "It is of equal importance that the legal system itself be democratised, which would ensure that every citizen of our country has equal access to the legal system -- equally swift, equally effective and equally impartial."

The PM, who addressed the gathering of judges, top lawyers and legal experts, praised NALSA for extending free legal services to millions of people but suggested that the criteria of rendering free legal aid to poor must be incorporated in selection of judges. "I was telling Justice Thakur with diffidence, when there is recruitment (of judges) can we ask them how much time you had devoted for providing legal aid to poor," said the PM.

No institution can remain static, according to Modi. "Changes are inevitable in tune with the times. There is a need to change the way we think — old things are best and that is why we will not lay our hands on them is not the way," the PM added. Many believe this could be an oblique reference to the recent decision of the Supreme Court scrapping NJAC and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with CJI-designate Justice TS Thakur in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

reviving collegium.

In every system, the boundary should expand consistently, its characteristics should keep changing and power should keep growing, said Modi.

He referred to the expanding scope of legal rights citing the example of transgenders, for whom the legal system needs to be changed acknowledging at the same time that both the Government and judiciary should work together to bring this change.

Justice Thakur highlighted the role played by NALSA in eliminating burden of arrears in Courts. As on September 30, over 15.14 lakh Lok Adalats

have been organised in the country and 8.25 crore cases, including cases in the pre-litigation stage were settled, he said.

The PM said a huge section of people do not have the courage to approach courts for whom such "out of box solutions" like Lok Adalats serves enormous good. He even took a swipe at the previous regime saying, "The Government was insensitive. I am sorry to say," referring to a whopping sum of Rs 27000 crore lying unclaimed in PF accounts. "We made a system to address the issue," he added claiming that the process has been initiated to return money to the beneficiaries.



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi felicitates Member Secretary of JHALSA, Navneet Kumar; DLSA, Ranchi Chairman and Ranchi Judicial Commissioner AV Singh; DLSA Ranchi Seceretry Rajnikant Pathak for the best district legal service authority and para-legal volunteers award from eastern region at the observance of Legal Services Day and Commendation Ceremony, in New Delhi on Monday. The Judge of Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman NALSA, TS Thakur is also seen in the picture

Pioneer photo

राष्ट्रीय सागर

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विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार को पुरस्कार

रांची (हिस.)। राष्ट्रीय विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार की ओर से दिल्ली में आयोजित तीन दिवसीय नेशनल लीगल सर्विस अथॉरिटी मीट में रांची जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार को ईस्ट जोन के लिये सर्वश्रेष्ठ सम्मान से नवाजा गया। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने झालसा सचिव नवीत कुमार प्रधान न्यायायुक्त सह रांची जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार के अध्यक्ष एवी सिंह व सचिव रंजनीकांत पाठक को पुरस्कार देकर सम्मानित किया। रांची को यह सम्मान बेटा बचाओ, बेटा पढ़ाओ कार्यक्रम में बेहतर कार्य के लिए दिया गया है। इसके अलावा आदिवासियों के कल्याणार्थ लोक अदालत में बेहतर मध्यस्था करने तथा अन्य क्रियाकलापों के लिए भी रांची को चुना गया। नेशनल मीट में झारखंड से जस्टिस डीएन पटेल झालसा सचिव नवीत कुमार, डिप्टी सेक्रेटरी राजेश कुमार, एवी सिंह, रंजनीकांत पाठक शामिल हुए थे। उल्लेखनीय है कि ईस्ट जोन में छह राज्य झारखंड, बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, ओडिसा, यूपी पश्चिम बंगाल शामिल हैं।