

FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY
HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA SHRI JUSTICE N V RAMANA
AT THE EVENT HELD AT ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT.

11 SEPTEMBER, 2021

1. नमस्कार। मुझे इस पवित्र नागरी मे आकार बहुत खुशी हुई। यहाँ के लोग अपने बड़े दिल के लिए जाने जाते हैं। Unfortunately my learning of Hindi is confined to just an year in the school. Please forgive me for my inability to communicate with you in your language.
2. Today, I am overwhelmed to be here in this 'City of Kumbh'. A city with rich with history in every corner. A city known as the seat of knowledge, wisdom and justice since time immemorial. A city which gave impetus to the freedom movement with the historic Ananda Bhawan as its centre. A city in which Mahatma Gandhi declared the most peaceful war ever known to mankind against the British rulers. A city which is home to legendary freedom fighters and the city that gave at least five Prime Ministers and five Chief Justices to Independent India.
3. I am privileged to be in this holy land of "Triveni Sangamam" – the confluence of three holy rivers. The occasion is befitting in the sense that we have assembled here to perform three auspicious deeds – laying the foundation stone for National Law University, the new Multi-Level Parking and Advocates' Chamber Complex, and the unveiling of the portrait of legendary advocate late Shri Anand Bhushan Saran.
4. The Allahabad High Court has a history of more than 150 years. The Allahabad Bar and Bench have produced some of the greatest legal luminaries in the country.
5. In 1975, it was Justice Jagmohanlal Sinha from the Allahabad High Court who passed the judgment that shook the nation, when he disqualified Smt. Indira Gandhi. It was a judgment of great courage, which could be said to have directly resulted in the declaration of Emergency. The consequences of which I do not want to elaborate now.
6. Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha, the first President of the Constituent Assembly, Pandit Motilal Nehru, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Purushottam Das Tandon were all members of the

great Allahabad Bar. In the famous Chauri Chaura case, the appeal was argued by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya before this High Court. This Bar has left an indelible mark in India's freedom struggle and the drafting of our Constitution. I expect you to carry forward the extraordinary legacy, tradition and culture of this historic bar. I urge you all, to take a lead in protecting the rights, liberties and freedoms of the citizens.

- 7.** For me to be a part of this event, at the Allahabad High Court, is a special moment. At the outset, I would like to give my heartiest congratulations to Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari, the Acting Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, other Judges of the High Court, and the State Government for these momentous achievements. I would also like to congratulate the staff of the High Court, the members of the Bar and the public. This event touches upon topics that I hold extremely important.
- 8.** The importance of strengthening judicial infrastructure cannot be overstated. Sufficient judicial infrastructure can help improve access to justice, by catering to the ever-rising number of cases and litigants, and their changing needs.
- 9.** Courts in India still operate from dilapidated structures, without proper facilities. Such a situation is severely detrimental to the experience of litigants and lawyers. It is an unpleasant work environment for Court staff and Judges, making it difficult to effectively perform their functions. We neglected and failed to focus on providing good infrastructure for Court in India after the British left.
- 10.** That is the reason why I am championing the National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation, which will develop concepts of the National Court Development Project and its implementation.
- 11.** The NJIC shall be along the lines of different infrastructure development statutory bodies that work towards creating National Assets across the country. One of the design principles that the NJIC will follow, is socially responsible and inclusive architecture.
- 12.** The construction of the new Multi-Level Parking and Advocates Chambers Complex in the Allahabad High Court is an important step in creating a "barrier free - citizen friendly" atmosphere. I have been told that advocates in the

Allahabad High Court were in great difficulty as they still don't have proper chambers. I am glad to find that the needs of women, and the differently abled, have been consciously considered. This is a welcome move for advocates and litigants.

13. I hope that this new complex will re-energize the Allahabad Bar. I do not want to point any fingers or lay any blame regarding the pendency in the Allahabad High Court relating to criminal cases, which is very worrying. I request the Allahabad Bar and Bench, to work together and cooperate to resolve this issue.
14. The laying of a foundation stone for the proposed National Law University in Allahabad is a significant step. As the Hon'ble President laid the foundation stone for the National Law University, I was reminded of the words of Mahatma Gandhi, I quote:

“What is really needed to make democracy function is not knowledge of facts but right education.”

15. I hope the addition of this University will serve the nation and its people well. The growth in our legal system goes hand in hand with the growth in legal education. It is necessary for the country to have quality legal education which produces professionals who fulfil the legal needs of the ever-increasing population.
16. Today, I have also had the honour of unveiling the portrait of one of the most celebrated lawyers from the Allahabad Bar, someone who is a role model to all young lawyers and law students.
17. The late Shri ANAND BHUSHAN SARAN was one of the best and most respected senior advocates from Allahabad. He was well known for his wit and intellect, and for his ability to come up with practical solutions on the spot. He never lost his composure in any situation. However, what his juniors and associates recollect about him was his extraordinary work ethic, his punctuality, and the amount of hard work he put into all his matters.
18. Till his last days, he never wavered from his routine and was still working, without ever making excuses of ill health. This

earned him universal respect and admiration. Working closely with his son, Brother Justice Vineet Saran, I can state that my Brother has imbibed some of his best qualities by watching his eminent father.

- 19.** Lastly, I would like to take a few moments to place on record my gratitude for the support that the Hon'ble President of India always gives to the legal community. As a former lawyer himself, he understands the troubles and difficulties faced by those in the legal community and has always taken an active role in attempting to resolve any issues faced by us. It was his idea to translate the judgments of the Supreme Court to vernacular languages to increase access to justice, which has now been implemented. Whenever we meet, he always asks about the welfare of the legal fraternity, and is always thinking of improving the legal aid system for the under privileged. Since the time I met Hon'ble President this morning at the airport in Delhi, like a family elder, he has been showering me with his love and affection. Hon'ble President was kind enough to ask me to visit the cities of Lucknow and Allahabad during his tenure. I am extremely grateful for his kind gesture of facilitating my visit to these two historic cities.
- 20.** I would also like to give my regards to the Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, whose life story is truly inspiring. While she was a young teacher, she jumped into the Narmada River to save two girls from drowning and she got the gallantry award for the brave act. On the way to the venue this morning she was inquiring about Lok Adalats. It shows her concern for justice delivery for common man.
- 21.** I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Chief Minister, Shri Yogi Adityanath for his efforts and cooperation.
- 22.** I am happy to have amongst us, Shri Kiren Rijiju, the dynamic Union Law Minister. I appreciate his outlook towards strengthening judicial infrastructure to increase access to justice. I thought he is from elite background. But this morning I got to know from his that he is also from the rural background. He understands the difficulties of common people.
- 23.** Finally, let me again congratulate the Acting Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, other Judges of the High Court,

the High Court staff, members of the Bar and the State Government for these initiatives taken by them.

Thank you.