

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**

Press Release

**REGIONAL MEET OF STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES
OF NORTHERN REGION**

Chandigarh 1st October 2017: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority inaugurated the Regional Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities of Haryana Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttarakhand, UT Chandigarh and Delhi of the Northern Region of the country. The meet was organised by the National Legal Services Authority today the 1st October, 2017 at Chandigarh Judicial Academy, Chandigarh. The inaugural session of the meet was attended by Hon'ble Chief Justices and Patron-in-Chiefs, Hon'ble Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authorities of the Northern Region, Hon'ble Chairmen, High Court Legal Services Committees, Member Secretaries of the State Legal Services Authorities, District Chairpersons and Secretaries of the District Legal Services Authorities, Chief Secretaries/ and other high ranking officials from the State Governments and Representatives from Social Action Groups. His Lordship stressed on the need to provide legal services to people especially those from below the poverty line (BPL). His Lordship said that to reach out the last marginalized person in the remotest part in the country is goal of the Legal Services Institutions.

Addressing the session, His Lordship said that 51% of the population of India is below the age of 35. Youth in India is between 15 and 29 years old. "You have about 50 crores population of this Country between 15-and 29 years. This is a very volatile situation and given the scenario today, the need is to reach out to these people" Referring to the Legal Services Authorities Act, he said that the

aims and objectives of the act is to provide legal services, which includes legal aid. Justice Ranjan Gogoi further stated that the work is to provide access to justice and what is access to justice is something that needs to be discussed.

This is an area which I would like to debate with all of you, because you are the stakeholders, torchbearers, you are the people who are implementing the NALSA schemes,” he told the august gathering of Hon’ble Judges. The Supreme Court Judge has further stated that this meet has been organised to meet the unseen faces so that we can have a one to one and direct dialogue as to what is happening in the ground and what needs to be done in the ground. “You are a busy judge, but you have to do this, sacrifice, hard work and commitment. This is the quality that the Judges have, we do it everyday, in and out, without being acknowledged”.

On this occasion, His Lordship also released a book on Cyber Crimes authored by Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, UT Chandigarh. During the session, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Ranjan Gogoi informed that similar meets are also proposed to be held for the other regions of the country. The interactive session dwelt upon the issues of ensuring quality legal services, capacity building of panel lawyers, work relating to remand advocates, effective monitoring of legal services, function of Legal Assistance Establishment, Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services), conducting focused awareness programme under each scheme, assisting people in getting benefits of the Government Schemes/Policies. The meet further discussed about the field visits, involving in identifying the socio-legal issues of villages within the ambit of NALSA schemes, involving concerned government departments, NGOs, etc. for redressal of common village problems/issues, eligibility under various Government Welfare Schemes and spreading legal awareness through print/electronic media.

