



JANASANYOG, ASSAM
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

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CM Attends Bar Council Diamond Jubilee as Guest of Honour

Dr.Sarma hails Indian judiciary for Upholding Rule of Law, Rights of Citizens

Need to expedite the justice delivery mechanism: Chief Minister

Dispur, September 10: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday attended as a Guest of Honour the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim at ITA Cultural Complex, Machkhowa.

Correlating with the celebration, a national seminar on the subject "Role of Technology and in Facilitating Speedy Justice" was also held.

Addressing those present, which included the Union Minister of Law & Justice Kiren Rijiju, Judges of the Supreme Court Surya Kant, Hrishikesh Roy, Sudhanshu Dhulia, the Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court RM Chhaya, the Chief Minister congratulated the Bar Council for having successfully completed 60 years of glorious existence. The Chief Minister also lauded the Bar Council for activities such as orientation programmes for advocates, steps towards digitization of records, etc. The Chief Minister heaped praises on the Bar Council its performance of regulatory functions, raising the standard of practice in the profession of legal service.

The Chief Minister, speaking on the long and illustrious history of the country's judicial system, lauded it for providing a robust foundation to the country's democracy. Dr. Sarma also stated that judiciary has always played a key role in upholding the rule of law and maintaining the fine balance of power among the four pillars of our democracy. This has ensured the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens of this country remained intact, the Chief Minister added. "Our judiciary has not confined its powers in dispensing justice alone, he said, adding: "This hallowed institution has been a major catalyst in empowering our citizens to be well informed about their rights and also upholding them through its pronouncements."

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Referring to the Vedas, the Upanishads and other ancient texts, the Chief Minister touched upon the subject of the rich tradition of law in the country since times immemorial. He credited the practitioners from various philosophical schools in ancient India for law/justice attaining a prominent position in the ancient period. “No doubt the modern Indian Judiciary is partly a continuation of the British Raj legal system,” he said. “However, one fact still holds ground that from time immemorial, our country had a well-developed system of administration of justice,” the Chief Minister stated, adding: “The ancient Indian law was based on Principle of *Dharma* or *Nyay* that talked about the principle of Natural Justice. It is the same principle that continues to govern our judicial system even today.”

The Chief Minister lauded the Indian judiciary for strengthening the country’s legal and constitutional framework, which he said emanated from the numerous landmark judgments passed by it. It has earned a global distinction as Judiciary with a difference that seeks to build a progressive jurisprudence, he added. The Chief Minister exuded confidence the judicial institutions would always remain a sentinel of justice and a guiding force of the world’s largest functional democracy.

Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also referred to the judiciary as the saviour of Indian democracy, stating that its landmark judgments on subjects such as “basic structure”, among others, saved the Constitution from losing its spirit.

Dr. Sarma also heaped praises on the judiciary for protecting rights of Indian women, while at the same time upholding their dignity through landmark judgments on subjects like triple talaq, daughter’s right to property, etc.

Terming the judiciary, a great arbitrator, he said the landmark judgment in the Ram Janambhoomi case in 2019 addressed the claims of all stake holders and settled this long standing issue in the most remarkable and amicable manner.

Referring to the lawyers as one of the most important components of our judicial system, the Chief Minister termed them a bridge that connects the judicial system with the people seeking justice. “If court is a temple of justice and then lawyers play the role of priests in this temple of justice,” he said.



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Appealing to the advocates to be icons of dedication, honesty and kindness, Dr. Sarma requested them to hone their professional skills so as to advance themselves strongly in the workplace.

The Chief Minister also spoke upon need to expedite the justice delivery mechanism. He said many people, despite being victim of circumstances, hesitate to seek legal help, as chasing justice often becomes an expensive affair, owing to the long process involved with it. "I call upon the office bearers of the Bar Council to find out as to how it can play its role to help the weak and under privileged," he appealed. Speaking on the steps the government of Assam has taken in this direction, the Chief Minister stated that around 100 new positions would be created in lower judiciary. This, he said, would be a step towards faster dispensing of justice in the state. The Chief Minister also added that of the ₹9,000 crore approved by the Central government for improvement of judicial infrastructure, the judiciary in Assam would receive around ₹300 crore as its share. In addition to that, the government of Assam would provide another ₹300 crore in this regard. He also stated that the state government is contemplating various welfare schemes for those who retire from active practicing.

Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court R M Chhaya, Chief Justice of the High Court of Chhattisgarh Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice of the High Court of Telangana Ujjal Kumar Bhuyan, Judges and Former Judges of High Court, Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, Chairman of the Bar Council of India Senior Advocate Manan Kumar Mishra, Chairman of the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim Senior Advocate Gajanand Sahewalla, Vice- Chairman of the Bar Council of India Senior Advocate S Prabhakaran, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Bar Council of India Senior Advocate Apurba Kumar Sharma were among the dignitaries present in today's event.

CM Attends Guwahati High Court Museum Inauguration

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday attended the inaugural ceremony of the Guwahati High Court Museum, built at the old block of the Guwahati High Court premises.

Attending the ceremony as one of the chief guests, along with Supreme Court Judge Surya Kant, Union Minister of Law & Justice Kiren Rijiju, the Chief

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Minister seemed impressed with the various items, such as a handwritten copy of the Constitution of India, robes, wigs of retired and past judges, litho machine, etc, at display in the museum. Senior Judges of the Supreme Court Hrishikesh Roy and Sudhanshu Dhulia were also present as guest of honour at the event. Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court RM Chhaya played host to the invited dignitaries.

HKS /September 10, 2022