

Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna took oath as the 51<sup>st</sup> Chief Justice of India today. Expressing immense honour in heading the third wing of democracy, he emphasized – “Judiciary is an integral, yet distinct and independent part of the governance system. The Constitution trusts upon us the role of constitutional guardian, protector of Fundamental Rights, and responsibility to fulfill the important task of being service provider of justice”.

“Justice delivery framework in terms of providing equal treatment necessitates fair opportunity to succeed to all, regardless of status, wealth or power, and a just and unbiased adjudication. These mark our core principles”, the Chief asserted. “The responsibility entrusted upon us affirms our commitment as protectors of citizens’ rights and as dispute resolvers. It is our constitutional duty to ensure easy access to justice to all citizens of our great nation.”, the Chief Justice of India said.

Addressing the challenges, the Chief Justice identified the need to tackle case backlogs, making litigation affordable and accessible, and a need for simplifying complex legal procedures.

With a citizen centric agenda, the Chief Justice outlined his vision to make courts approachable and user friendly. He aims to adopt a self-evaluative approach which is receptive and responsive to feedback in its working. Making judgments comprehensible to the citizens and promoting mediation will be a priority of the Chief Justice.

The Chief Justice has underscored the need for focused reforms on criminal case management. He aims to work on reducing trial duration through adoption of a systematic approach, and positioning justice delivery mechanism to ensure that process of law is not grueling for the citizens, as one of the top priorities.

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