

**Full text of the letter addressed by Justice N V Ramana, CJI
to Minister of Law, Justice, Communications, Electronics and IT**

08 June, 2021

I am writing to bring to your kind attention certain issues that emerged during the course of my recent interaction with the Chief Justices of all the High Courts which need immediate intervention of the Union Government:

- i. To strengthen the network and connectivity beyond major urban centres, particularly in rural and tribal areas, as the digital divide is adversely impacting the functioning of the Courts in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic;
- ii. To augment the provisioning of vaccines to immunise all the functionaries associated with the Courts and their families across the country to facilitate full-scale functioning;
- iii. To recognise all the functionaries of the Courts, including the advocates, as front-line workers for the purpose of providing pandemic related relief; and
- iv. To provide financial support to advocates, especially the junior advocates, who are struggling to make both ends meet due to loss of work for more than a year since the onset of pandemic.

It would be highly appreciated, if you could take up these issues with the concerned Ministries/Departments at the highest level.

Needless to mention that the judicial infrastructure needs to be augmented with latest information and communication technology tools to facilitate Access to Justice during and post pandemic time. Further, the judicial infrastructure needs to be streamlined and revamped to deal with the challenges of pendency. A blue print of the proposal to set up the National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC) is in the final stages of preparation and will be shared with the Union Government shortly. I am of the firm belief that concerted efforts need to be put in, in order to materialize this concept, in view of the challenges put forth by the pandemic.

During the course of my interaction with the Chief Justices of all the High Courts, I have impressed on the need to expedite the process of sending recommendations through Collegium to fill up the vacancies in the respective High Courts. This was in furtherance to my communication addressed to the Chief Justices of all the High Courts soon after I had assumed the Office of the Chief Justice of India. I have been assured of positive and accelerated action by the Chief Justices.

Look forward to your active intervention in addressing the aforementioned concerns.