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CJI throws light on lack of infra in lower courts

Backlogs a cause of concern too

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Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde on Tuesday said backlog of cases and lack of infrastructure in lower courts for judges and litigants, including women and senior citizens, needed deeper attention and quick resolution.

The Chief Justice's words found an echo in the address of President Ram Nath Kovind at a programme organised by the Supreme Court to celebrate Constitution Day.

Justice N.V. Ramana quoted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's words that no matter how good or bad a Constitution was, its fate lay in the hands of the persons wielding it.

"It is our duty, while celebrating the Constitution, to constantly strive to ensure that in implementing the same, it is one that will continue to prove to be good. There is no doubt in my mind that this will be the case," Justice Ramana said.

Chief Justice Bobde said, "We do not have the luxury of dealing with the backlog of cases in isolation from the flow of new cases to our



S.A. Bobde

courts – the demands of justice mean that we will have to deal with both. Together."

Describing the subordinate judiciary as the backbone of the system, the CJI said they lacked proper facilities for litigants, including the differently-abled. The courts did not even have proper display boards to show a case's progress, only to name a few problems. He highlighted the importance of Artificial Intelligence in justice administration. The programme saw the President accept a copy of the "Indian Judiciary: Annual Report 2018-2019", which showcases the achievements of the judiciary.