

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT:

18
Minister

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER:

The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 28/3/21

Trolling of judges is unfair: Prasad

Vested interests trying to make administration of justice difficult, says CJI Bobde

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Saturday flagged the government's concern over "social media campaigns" conducted against judges for their judicial opinions and judgments.

The Minister, who is also in charge of the Information Technology, Electronics and Communications portfolios, criticised "some people" who file PILs in court, campaign on social media for a particular judgment, and later troll judges when the verdict does not meet their expectations. He termed it "campaign justice".

Judiciary should be free to work in accordance with the rule of law, Mr. Prasad said.

Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde said judges had become quite used to the PIL route being used for filing frivolous petitions. "The admi-

You can always criticise a judgment, that's your right, but if you start campaigning against a judge on social media, it is plainly not fair

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
UNION LAW MINISTER



nistration of justice is often tried to be made difficult by some vested interests. But that is something we as judges have got used to," CJI Bobde said.

They were speaking in Goa at the inaugural function of the new building of the Bombay High Court.

"I am a great supporter of social media. It is empowering. Social media enables people to ask questions, to criticise the Prime Minister, us and all. That is part of a healthy democracy. Therefore, we all encourage that," Mr. Prasad said. But he said there was a "disturbing

trend" on the rise.

"Some people file PILs, then they start a campaign on social media 'that only this type of judgment is possible in this case'. And, if the judgment does not come in accord with what they perceive to be their right, then they start not only criticising the judges but also trolling judges... You can always criticise a judgment, that's your right, but if you start campaigning against a judge on social media, it is plainly not fair," Mr. Prasad said

The Law Minister said the smooth transition of the courts to the virtual mode

during the pandemic was a "remarkable achievement". Over 82 lakh cases were heard through videoconference.

Chief Justice Bobde said courtrooms would surely shrink in the future with the e-filing of cases. "Though building more courtrooms is necessary and important, there was very little emphasis on modernising the existing courtrooms. Though the pandemic has posed a lot of problems to access to justice, it has paved the way for modernising the courtroom," he said.

The CJI said he had spent so much time on the Bench in Goa that he is often referred to as a "Goa judge". He drew attention to the fact that Goa is the only the State that implements the Uniform Civil Code as envisaged by the framers of the Constitution.