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# ‘Legal services bodies ensure justice for all’

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Chief Justice of India Justice J.S. Khehar, third from left, at the 15th All India Meet of States' Legal Services Authorities.

## Spare a thought for victims of crime, says Chief Justice

Legal services authorities are harbingers of justice for all, Supreme Court judge, Justice Ranjan Gogoi, said at the 15th All India Meet of States' Legal Services Authorities on Sunday.

Justice Gogoi said there should be a debate on amendments to statutes to ensure access to justice through legal services authorities. He said the Supreme Court Legal Services Authority was not short of funds and needed to be proactive with the best legal talents within its fold.

The judge was speaking at the meet's valedictory function.

On Saturday, Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar had said that while the legal machinery worked overtime for giving terrorists and hardcore criminals access to justice there was hardly a mechanism to reach out to their victims.

In his inaugural address, Chief Justice Khehar said he often wondered what befell the victims of rape, sexual assault and acid attacks, many of whom were bread winners for their family. "I wish to make an appeal to you today as a patron of the organisation. Let us reach out to the victims. Make 2017 a year of the victims," he added.

## **Make 2017 a year for providing relief to victims of crime: CJI Khehar**



In a reference to the Supreme Court's unprecedented midnight hearing of Mumbai blasts terror convict Yakub Memon hours before he was hanged to death in 2015, Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar said while the legal machinery works overtime for giving terrorists and hardcore criminals access to justice there is hardly a mechanism to reach out to their victims.

In his inaugural address at a legal services annual event, Chief Justice Khehar, who is also the patron-in-chief of the authority, said he often wondered what has befallen the victims of rape, sexual assault and acid attacks — many of whom were bread winners for their family.

"Ours is a strange country. The bigger the criminal, the bigger is the outrage. As we have seen before that the convict in a terrorist crime who has failed up to the Supreme Court and also in his review, can get access to justice in a manner that we extend," Chief Justice Khehar said.

"I have wondered over the years, what about the victims. I have wondered over the years, what about the families which have lost their bread earner. I have wondered over the years, what about that acid attack victim who has been defaced and cannot survive the society. I think about rape victims and their lives and I wonder why we don't reach out to them," the CJI noted.

"I wish to make an appeal to you today as a patron of the organisation. Let us reach out to the victims. Make 2017 a year of the victims," Chief Justice Khehar said at the 15th All India meet of State Legal Service Authorities.