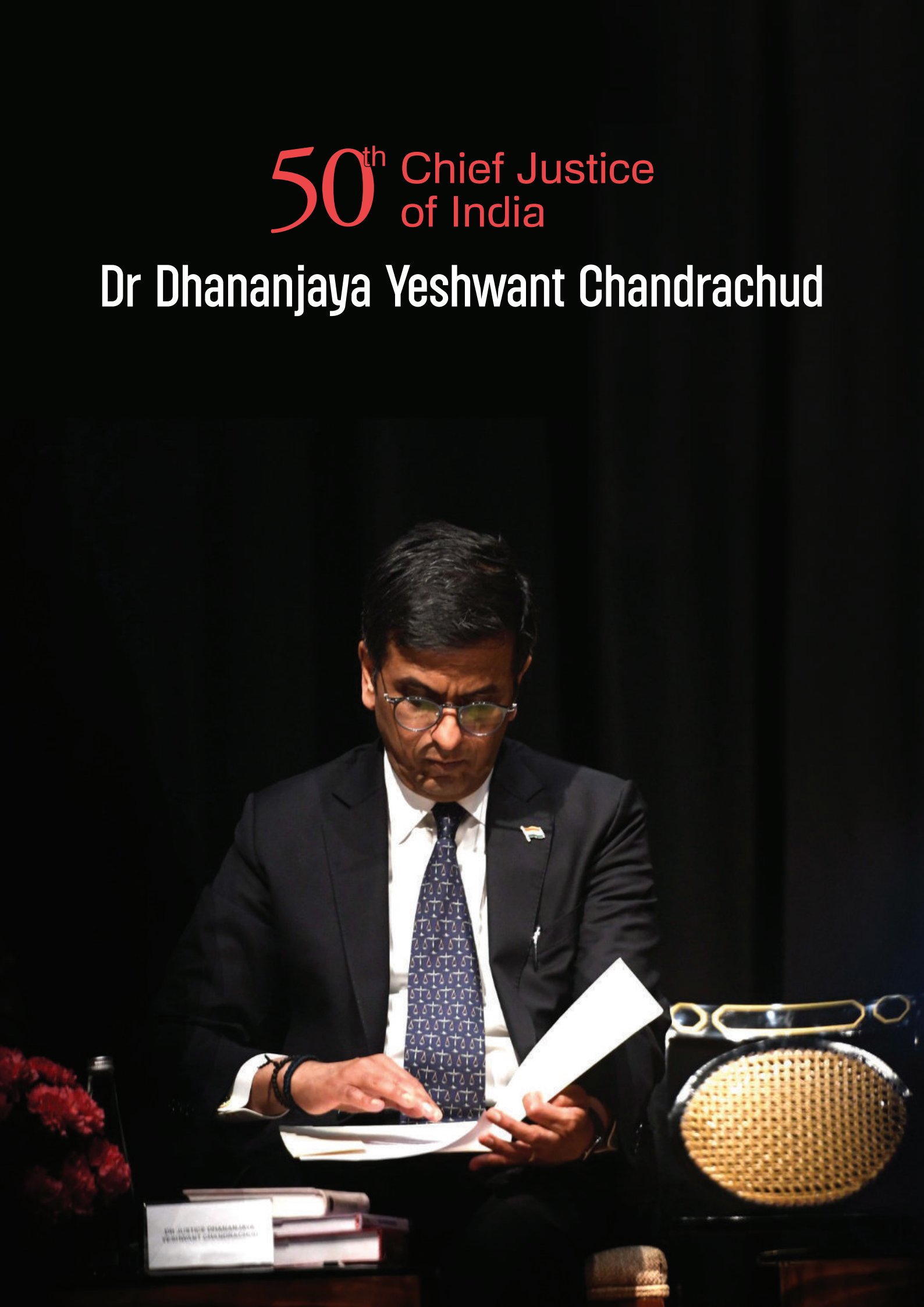
50th Chief Justice of India

Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud



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Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud

Centre for Research and Planning
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi

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Message from the Secretary General



It is with a sense of profound gratitude and respect that we bid farewell to our esteemed Chief Justice of India, Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, whose indelible contributions to the judiciary and the nation, deserve our deepest respect and admiration.

A true proponent of judicial accessibility, Chief Justice Chandrachud's initiatives have left an enduring impact on the district judiciary, where his vision for futuristic courtrooms has transformed the traditional notions of justice delivery. Emphasising inclusivity, he introduced technological advancements to bring the courtroom experience closer to citizens. His pioneering efforts in embracing digital technology has redefined court functioning, empowering litigants, advocates, and judges alike, and setting a precedent for a tech-driven judiciary that resonates with modern demands.

Chief Justice of India's vision for a more accessible and equitable judiciary, coupled with a steadfast commitment to transparency and accountability, has left an enduring legacy. As a nation, we are fortunate to have had his guidance at the helm of our highest court during these transformative times.

On behalf of the Officers and Officials of the Supreme Court of India, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud for his invaluable service. This publication stands as a tribute to a towering figure whose work will continue to inspire future generations of jurists and citizens alike.

Atul M Kurhekar
Secretary General
Supreme Court of India



O Captain!
My Captain!

Introduction

In his eight years at the Supreme Court of India, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud has guided us with his juristic intellect and empathy, leading us toward a brighter tomorrow. Chief Justice of India has established a reputation for his progressive legal views, commitment to judicial reforms, and significant contributions to landmark cases. With a prolific output of judgments, he has consistently demonstrated his dedication to upholding the rule of law and protecting fundamental rights. Since assuming the role of 'Chief Justice of India', (Dr) Justice D Y Chandrachud inherited a complex legal landscape with a substantial backlog of cases. He prioritised streamlining judicial processes, enhancing access to justice, and promoting transparency in the judiciary.

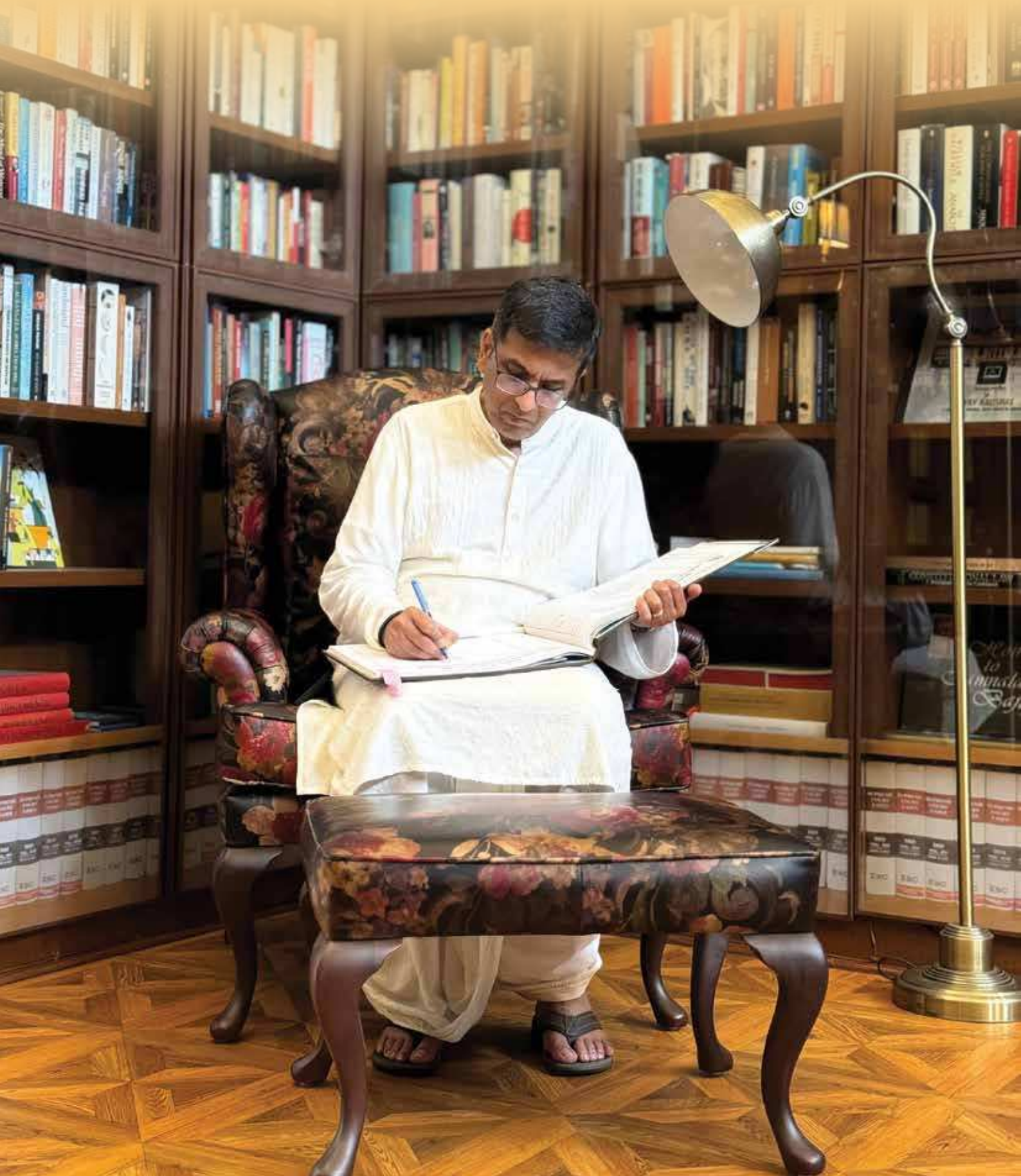
This edition offers an insightful glimpse into the remarkable legacy of the Chief Justices', wherein he established himself as a forward-thinking and reform-minded leader. During his tenure, (Dr) Justice D Y Chandrachud has authored numerous landmark judgments, having impactful precedents of socio-economic value, casting the utmost importance on Constitutionalism, including those on the right to privacy, decriminalisation of same-sex relations, and very recently on prevention of child marriage.

His leadership has been instrumental in driving reforms aimed at improving the efficiency and accessibility of the Indian justice system. Beyond his judicial contributions, the 50th Chief Justice of India has been instrumental in driving several key reforms within the Indian judiciary. He has overseen the implementation of digital initiatives, such as the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and e-filing systems, to enhance access to justice. Additionally, he prioritised the welfare of judges and court staff by focusing on training, infrastructure, and healthcare initiatives. Under (Dr) Justice D Y Chandrachud's guidance, the Supreme Court took major steps to improve the accessibility and inclusivity within the premises. The Court established committees on accessibility and diversity and also implemented measures to ensure that the judiciary has representation from wider section of our society.

As the Chief Justice of India prepares to pass the mantle, it is evident that he has set forth to engrave an enduring legacy, with steadfast dedication. He not only upheld the law but also championed equal treatment for all, embodying the profound ethos of *Justitiam* Carpe – seizing justice for all.

Unveiling the Legacy: Chief Justice of India

Dr D Y Chandrachud



Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud took oath as the Chief Justice of India on 9 November 2022. Before his appointment to the Supreme Court in May 2016, he was the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court (October 2013 – May 2016). CJI Chandrachud was a judge of the Bombay High Court for thirteen years (March 2000 – October 2013).

CJI Chandrachud obtained LLM and SJD degrees from Harvard Law School and later joined the Bombay Bar. He became a Senior Advocate and served as the Additional Solicitor General of India. As an advocate, he championed various causes, including privacy rights, HIV+ workers' rights, and religious and linguistic minority rights. He also taught Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Bombay. As a Supreme Court Judge, Justice Chandrachud delivered landmark judgments on homosexuality, adultery, privacy, disability, caste, gender, and environment. He mandated permanent commissions for women in the armed forces and wrote notable dissents upholding liberty and freedom.

As Chairperson of the Supreme Court e-committee, he led the digital transformation of India's judicial system, aiming for access, transparency, and accountability. The e-committee has established virtual courts, enabled video-conferencing, digitised records, and implemented e-filing. Meanwhile, the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a repository of cases and judgments. Since becoming the Chief Justice of India, (Dr) D Y Chandrachud has spearheaded administrative and judicial reforms, including launching the e-SCR project, implementing neutral citations, and live-streaming Constitution Bench proceedings.

Under the aegis of CJI Chandrachud, the Supreme Court of India has taken initiatives to reduce the structural barriers that preclude members of marginalised communities from accessing justice. One such step in this endeavour has been the 'Sensitisation Module for the Judiciary on LGBTIQA+ Community', released by the Court to sensitise the members of the judiciary on important aspects of gender and sexual identity. The Supreme Court has also taken steps to make its infrastructure inclusive and accessible.

CJI Chandrachud, is not only a great judge but an acknowledged legal scholar as well. Due to his jurisprudential acumen he has been invited to premiere institutions to deliver lectures. These include Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, Australian National University and the University of Witwatersrand. He has addressed several international conferences including the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Environmental Program, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts.

Judicial Philosophy and Historic Judgments

Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud's tenure as a Supreme Court judge and subsequently as Chief Justice has been marked by a deep commitment to constitutional morality, individual rights, and a dynamic interpretation of the Indian Constitution. CJI Chandrachud is known for prioritising personal liberty, dignity and autonomy, while also balancing these with the state's obligations to uphold democracy, equality, and social justice.

CJI Chandrachud's vision of the Constitution reflects a belief in evolution and adaptability. During the M K Nambyar Memorial Lecture on 26 September 2024, CJI Chandrachud observed, "Constitutional doctrine evolves with society, and no generation…could have a monopoly over solutions or confidence in its ability to foresee the future." CJI Chandrachud argued that rigid adherence to the "original intent of the framers" would risk confining the Constitution within a static historical frame, contrary to its design as a "living instrument." This philosophy of adaptability permeates his judgments, especially those concerning fundamental rights, social justice, and gender equality.

Expanding Fundamental Rights

CJI Chandrachud has significantly contributed to expanding the scope of fundamental rights, particularly under Articles 14 (Right to Equality), 19 (Right to Freedom), and 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) of the Indian Constitution. In *Justice K S Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)*, a 9-judge bench, including Justice Chandrachud, rendered a landmark decision recognising the right to privacy as integral to personal liberty under Article 21. This judgment extended privacy protections to include bodily integrity and informational privacy, setting a precedent for future cases involving personal freedom.



In *Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)*, Justice Chandrachud recognised the right to die with dignity under Article 21, allowing passive euthanasia and empowering individuals to make end-of-life decisions via "living wills." This reflects his progressive stance on personal autonomy, supporting the idea that life's sanctity extends to dignified death. In *Shafin Jahan v. Asokan K M (2018)*, Justice Chandrachud emphasised that the right to marry freely falls under the personal freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, critiquing state overreach and the inappropriate application of the parens patriae doctrine.

CJI Chandrachud's stance on reproductive rights was similarly progressive, as seen in *X v. Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Delhi (2022)*, which expanded abortion access to unmarried women, reflecting his conviction in bodily autonomy and reproductive rights. CJI Chandrachud's firm rejection of the "two-finger test" in *State of Jharkhand v. Shailendra Kumar Rai (2022)* also demonstrated his sensitivity to safeguarding the dignity of sexual assault survivors, ensuring legal protocols align with contemporary medical ethics.

Championing Gender and LGBTQ+ Justice

CJI Chandrachud's rulings have played a crucial role in shaping the discourse on gender and LGBTQ+ rights. In *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018)*, Justice Chandrachud played a key role in striking down Section 377 of the IPC, decriminalising homosexuality. Justice Chandrachud's opinion emphasised that sexual orientation is an essential attribute of dignity and liberty, protected under Articles 14, 15 (Prohibition of Discrimination), and 21. This historic judgment challenged Victorian-era morality, advancing LGBTQ+ rights and aligning Indian law with global human rights standards. CJI Chandrachud's concurrence in *Supriyo v. Union of India (2023)* reflected his recognition of queer couples' right to relationships, distinguishing the right to choose a partner from the right to marry, and advancing LGBTQ+ rights in a nuanced manner.

In *Joseph Shine v. Union of India (2018)*, Justice Chandrachud struck down Section 497 of the IPC, which criminalised adultery, denouncing it as a patriarchal and discriminatory law that violated women's rights to equality and autonomy. Justice Chandrachud's progressive views on gender equality also influenced the judgment in I*ndian Young Lawyers' Association v. State of Kerala (2018)*, where he declared the exclusion of women from the Sabarimala Temple unconstitutional, asserting women's equal religious rights.

CJI Chandrachud has also promoted gender equality in traditionally male-dominated fields, as seen in *The Secretary, Ministry of Defence v. Babita Puniya (2020)*, where he advocated for permanent commissions for women officers in the military, translating constitutional guarantees of equality into practical opportunities. Additionally, Justice Chandrachud introduced intersectional perspectives to gender justice in *Patan Jamal Vali v. State of Andhra Pradesh (2021)*, acknowledging the compounded vulnerabilities of those marginalised by intersecting identities, such as caste, gender, and disability.

Commitment to Transparency

CJI Chandrachud's tenure has enhanced democratic transparency and access to justice. In *Swapnil Tripathi v. Supreme Court of India (2018)*, Justice Chandrachud endorsed Live-streaming of the court proceedings, affirming the public's right to access judicial processes. CJI Chandrachud's judgment in *Association for Democratic Reforms*

v. Union of India (2024) criticised the Electoral Bonds Scheme for undermining transparency, emphasising voters' right to know political funding sources to reinforce democratic accountability. CJI Chandrachud's nuanced reasoning extended to parliamentary privileges in *Sita Soren v. Union of India (2024)*, where he asserted that bribery could not be shielded under legislative privileges, overturning a precedent that had previously allowed immunity for legislators involved in bribery.

Federalism and Regional Governance

CJI Chandrachud has made significant contributions to the advancement of federalism in India. In *Government of NCT of Delhi v. Union of India (2023)*, CJI Chandrachud upheld the Delhi government's authority over civil servants in day-to-day administration, defending principles of representative governance and safeguarding federalism within India's constitutional framework. The judgment in *In Re Article 370 of the Constitution (2023)*, while supporting the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, also called for restoring statehood, advocating a balanced approach to regional stability and national unity.

Justice Chandrachud's tenure as a Supreme Court judge, and subsequently as Chief Justice of India, has had a lasting impact on the Indian judiciary. Throughout this period, CJI Chandrachud focused on expanding individual rights, advancing gender and LGBTQ+ justice, promoting transparency, and strengthening federalism. A commitment to an inclusive and forward-thinking vision of constitutional law has significantly shaped the legal landscape. As a progressive custodian of the Constitution, CJI Chandrachud's legacy emphasises the fundamental values of justice, equality, and the rule of law, leaving a strong mark on the future of India's constitutional framework.

Historic Judgments of the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud during his tenure at the Supreme Court of India

Justice K S Puttaswamy (Retd.), and Anr. v. Union of India and Ors, 2017 INSC 801

(Nine-Judge Bench comprising
then Chief Justice J S Khehar,
Justice Jasti Chelameswar,
Justice S A Bobde,
Justice R K Agrawal,
Justice Rohinton F Nariman,
Justice A M Sapre,
Justice D Y Chandrachud,
Justice S K Kaul, and
Justice S A Nazeer)

Dated : **24 August 2017**

The Supreme Court unanimously declared the right to privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, overruling earlier judgments in *M P Sharma* and *Kharak Singh* that denied this status. The nine-judge bench held that privacy is intrinsic to personal liberty, dignity, and autonomy, encompassing both bodily integrity and informational privacy. The Court established a three-fold test for any state intrusion into privacy: legality, necessity, and proportionality. The Court held that the right is not absolute but must be protected against arbitrary state interference. Justice Chandrachud's judgment emphasised privacy as intrinsic to personal liberty, dignity, and autonomy, laying the foundation for future rights-related cases.

Common Cause (A Regd Society) v. Union of India, 2018 INSC 223

(Five-judge Bench comprising then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice A K Sikri, Justice A M Khanwilkar, Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justice Ashok Bhushan)

Dated : **9 March 2018**

The Supreme Court recognised the right to die with dignity as part of the right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution. The petition sought a declaration to enable terminally ill individuals to execute Advance Medical Directives or living wills. The Court reviewed both Indian and international rulings, including *K S Puttaswamy v. Union of India*, highlighting how essential privacy, autonomy, and bodily integrity are to human dignity. The Court distinguished between active and passive euthanasia and allowed the use of Advance Medical Directives to uphold personal choice. The judgment emphasised that forcing medical treatment on a patient without their consent violates their dignity and bodily autonomy.

Shafin Jahan v. Asokan K M and Ors, 2018 (4) SCR 955

(Three-Judge Bench comprising then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice A M Khanwilkar, and Justice D Y Chandrachud)

Dated : **9 April 2018**

The Supreme Court affirmed Hadiya's right to autonomy and self-determination concerning her marriage and religious beliefs. The three-judge bench criticised the High Court for misapplying the *parens patriae doctrine*, which is applicable solely to minors or individuals deemed mentally incapacitated. The Court found that the High Court had incorrectly exercised its Habeas Corpus jurisdiction in this case, emphasising the importance of personal freedom and the right to choose one's partner without unwarranted state interference. Justice Chandrachud's judgment, rooted in the principles of liberty and non-interference by the state in personal choices, highlighted his commitment to defending personal autonomy.

Navtej Singh Johar & Ors. v. Union of India Thr. Secretary Ministry of Law and Justice, 2018 INSC 790

(Five-Judge Bench comprising then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, Justice A M Khanwilkar, Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justice Indu Malhotra)

Dated : **6 September 2018**

The Supreme Court delivered a unanimous verdict decriminalising homosexuality by striking down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. The five-judge bench held that sexual orientation is a fundamental aspect of liberty, dignity, privacy, individual autonomy, and equality. The Court held that intimate relations between consenting adults of the same sex fall outside the legitimate interests of the state and stated that Section 377, rooted in victorian-era morality, is incompatible with the constitutional values of India. The Court ruled that the provision violates Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21, which protect fundamental rights, particularly the rights to equality, freedom of expression, and the right to life and personal liberty. This ruling not only expanded the scope of privacy and individual autonomy but also marked a historic step in dismantling colonial-era laws that conflicted with contemporary constitutional values. Justice Chandrachud's judgment was instrumental in aligning India's constitutional jurisprudence with global human rights standards.

Swapnil Tripathi v. Supreme Court of India, 2018 INSC 886

(Three-Judge Bench comprising the then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice A M Khanwilkar, and Justice D Y Chandrachud)

Dated : **26 September 2018**

The Supreme Court acknowledged the importance of transparency in judicial proceedings and decided to implement live streaming of its hearings, particularly for cases of constitutional and national significance. The Court held that the public's right to access these proceedings is rooted in the constitutional right to access justice. However, the Court also stipulated that this right is not absolute, establishing a set of Model Guidelines to determine when live broadcasts should occur. This landmark judgment aimed to enhance public awareness of judicial processes while maintaining the discretion of courts regarding the broadcasting of proceedings.

Joseph Shine v. Union of India, 2018 INSC 898

(Five-Judge Bench comprising then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, Justice A M Khanwilkar, Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justice Indu Malhotra)

Dated : **27 September 2018**

The Supreme Court ruled that Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalised adultery, is unconstitutional as it violates Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution. The five-judge bench characterised the provision as a manifestation of patriarchal norms, noting that it effectively positioned the husband as the master, thereby reinforcing gender inequality. The Court also found Section 198(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which allowed only husbands to prosecute their wives' lovers, to be manifestly arbitrary. By striking down these provisions, the Court emphasised the need for laws that uphold individual dignity and equality rather than perpetuating outdated gender roles. Justice Chandrachud's articulation of the values of equality and fairness helped reshape the discourse on gender justice.

Indian Young Lawyers' Association v. State of Kerala, 2018 (9) SCR 561

(Five-Judge Bench comprising then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, Justice A M Khanwilkar, Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justice Indu Malhotra)

Dated : **28 September 2018**

The Supreme Court ruled that the custom prohibiting women aged 10 to 50 years from entering the Sabarimala Temple was unconstitutional. The majority (4:1) judgment held that the exclusion of women based on their menstruation status violated their fundamental rights to equality under Article 14, freedom of religion under Article 25, and the right against discrimination under Article 15. The Court rejected the claim that the devotees of Lord Ayyappa constituted a separate religious denomination under Article 26, and determined that the exclusion was not an essential religious practice. The Court further invalidated Rule 3(b) of the Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (Authorisation of Entry) Rules, 1965, which allowed such exclusions based on custom. In dissent, Justice Indu Malhotra argued that courts should not interfere in religious practices unless they are oppressive or social evils like Sati. The judgment sparked widespread debate, leading to numerous review petitions, which remain pending.

M Siddiq (D) Thr Lrs v. Mahant Suresh Das & Ors, 2019 INSC 1231

(Five-Judge Bench comprising then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Justice Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice S Abdul Nazeer)

Dated : **9 November 2019**

The Supreme Court awarded the disputed Babri Masjid/ Ram Janmabhoomi land to the deity Shri Ram Virajman, recognising it as the birthplace of Lord Ram. The Court directed the Sunni Waqf Board to be granted a 5-acre alternate site in Ayodhya for constructing a mosque. The 2010 Allahabad High Court judgment, which had divided the land between the Nirmohi Akhara, Ram Lalla, and the Sunni Waqf Board, was set aside. The Court held that the placing of idols in 1949 and the subsequent demolition of the mosque in 1992 were unlawful acts but ruled that the deity had the legal right to the land. Justice Chandrachud's insightful handling of this complex case demonstrated his ability to balance religious and constitutional concerns while maintaining the rule of law.

The Secretary, Ministry of Defence v. Babita Puniya & Ors., 2020 INSC 198

(Division-Bench comprising Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Ajay Rastogi)

Dated : **17 February 2020**

The Supreme Court addressed the issue of permanent commissions for women officers in the Indian Army. The Court ruled against the government's February 2019 guidelines, which restricted permanent commissions to women officers on a prospective basis, deeming it a violation of their fundamental right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution. The Court clarified that while Article 33 allows for restrictions on fundamental rights within the armed forces, it does not preclude women from holding permanent positions. Emphasising the importance of equality, the Court mandated that Short Service Commissioned women officers are entitled to permanent commissions, and their eligibility should be assessed without regard to the duration of their service.

Patan Jamal Vali v. State of Andhra Pradesh, 2021 INSC 272

(Two-Judge Bench comprising Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice M R Shah)

Dated : **27 April 2021**

The Supreme Court applied the principle of intersectionality, which recognises the compounded forms of discrimination that arise from overlapping social identities such as gender, caste, and disability. The accused, a man from a dominant caste, was convicted of sexually assaulting a blind woman who belonged to a Scheduled Caste. The Court held that in sentencing, the intersectional nature of the victim's caste and disability should be considered. The Court upheld the conviction under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC), and sentenced the accused to life imprisonment, acknowledging the heightened vulnerability of the victim due to her intersecting identities. Justice Chandrachud's nuanced approach recognised the compounded vulnerabilities faced by marginalised communities, furthering the cause of social justice through constitutional interpretation.

X v. Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Delhi & Ors., 2022 INSC 740

(Three-Judge Bench comprising Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice A S Bopanna and Justice J B Pardiwala)

Dated : **29 September 2022**

The Supreme Court ruled that unmarried women are entitled to safe and legal abortions under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971. The three-judge bench held that excluding unmarried women from the scope of Rule 3B of the MTP Rules, which allows abortion between 20-24 weeks for certain categories, lacked a rational basis. The Court decided that unmarried women must be included within the ambit of Rule 3B if the pregnancy results from a change in marital circumstances. The Court held that prohibiting unmarried women from accessing abortion while permitting married women to do so within the same gestational period violates Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law. Justice Chandrachud's progressive stance on reproductive rights was central to this judgment, where he upheld the autonomy of unmarried women to access safe abortion services, broadening the scope of Article 21.

State of Jharkhand v. Shailendra Kumar Rai, 2022 INSC 1139

(Division Bench comprising Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli)

Dated : **31 October 2022**

It was held that "two-finger test" must not be conducted as it has no scientific basis and neither proves nor disproves allegations of rape. It instead re-victimizes and re-traumatizes women who may have been sexually assaulted, and is an affront to their dignity. The Court issued directions to the Union Government as well as the State Governments, that it is ensured that the guidelines formulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are circulated to all government and private hospitals, workshops are conducted for health providers to communicate the appropriate procedure to be adopted while examining survivors of sexual assault and rape, curriculum in medical schools is reviewed with a view to ensuring that the "two-finger test" is not prescribed as one of the procedures to be adopted while examining survivors of sexual assault and rape.

Government of NCT of Delhi v. Union of India, 2023 INSC 517

(Five-Judge Bench comprising Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice M R Shah, Justice Krishna Murari, Justice Hima Kohli, Justice P S Narasimha)

Dated : **11 May 2023**

The Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Delhi government, affirming its control over civil servants and day-to-day administration within the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. The case arose from a dispute between the Union government and the NCT Delhi government, particularly regarding the scope of the Lieutenant Governor's (LG) powers under Article 239AA of the Indian Constitution. The Court held that the LG is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in matters where the Delhi Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws, except for public order, police, and land. The decision came in response to the 2021 Amendment to the Government of NCT Delhi Act, which attempted to curtail the Delhi Assembly's powers. The Court ruled that the Delhi government, not the Union, has control over its civil servants, asserting that the Amendment undermined federalism, separation of powers, and representative democracy.

Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty & Anr. v. Union of India, 2023 INSC 920

(Five-Judge Bench comprising
Chief Justice of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud,
Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul,
Justice S Ravindra Bhat,
Justice Hima Kohli,
Justice P S Narasimha)

Dated : **17 October 2023**

The 5-judge Constitution Bench wrote 4 opinions on the Same Sex Marriage/Marriage Equality matter where they agreed on some points and disagreed on others

The Supreme Court held that the right to marry is not a fundamental right under the Constitution. The Court upheld the constitutional validity of Section 4 of the Special Marriage Act and Section 4 of the Family Marriage Act that only recognises marriage between heterosexual couples. The Court distinguished between the right to choose a partner and the right to marry. By a 3:2 majority, it upheld the "right to relationship" for queer couples but ruled that a joint reading of Articles 19, 21, and 25 does not impose a positive obligation on the State to recognise civil unions akin to marriage. Even though the right to marry was not recognised as a fundamental right, CJI Chandrachud's concurrence reflected his commitment to queer rights, specifically recognising the "right to relationship."

In re Article 370 of the Constitution, 2023 INSC 1058

(Five-Judge Bench comprising
Chief Justice of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud,
Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul,
Justice Sanjiv Khanna,
Justice B R Gavai,
Justice Surya Kant)

Dated : **11 December 2023**

The Supreme Court upheld the 2019 abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, which revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and integrated the region fully into India's constitutional framework. While the Court declared unconstitutional the replacement of "Constituent Assembly" with "Legislative Assembly" in Article 370(3), it ruled that the President had the power to abrogate the Article to achieve the aim of full integration. The Court recognised Article 370 as a temporary provision, intended to address transitional circumstances, and emphasised that its abrogation did not violate the Constitution. The judgment also called for elections by September 2024 and recommended steps to restore statehood and address historical grievances in the region.

Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India, 2024 INSC 113

(Five-Judge Bench comprising
Chief Justice of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud,
Justice Sanjiv Khanna,
Justice B R Gavai,
Justice J B Pardiwala, and
Justice Manoj Misra)

Dated : **15 February 2024**

The Supreme Court held that the Electoral Bonds Scheme, 2018, which permitted anonymous donations to political parties, violated the voters' right to information under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. The Court ruled that the scheme compromised transparency in political funding. As a result, the Court ordered the cessation of bond sales and directed the State Bank of India to submit records of all bonds purchased since 12 April 2019 to the Election Commission of India. The Election Commission was further instructed to make this information publicly available on its official website.

Sita Soren v. Union of India, 2024 INSC 161

(Seven-Judge Bench comprising
Chief Justice of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud,
Justice A S Bopanna,
Justice M M Sundresh,
Justice P S Narasimha,
Justice J B Pardiwala,
Justice Sanjay Kumar and
Justice Manoj Misra)

Dated : **4 March 2024**

The Supreme Court overruled the earlier precedent set in *P V Narasimha Rao v. State (CBI/SPE)* and addressed two critical issues: the completion of the offence of bribery under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988, and the scope of legislative immunity under Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution. The Court ruled that bribery is complete upon the mere act of "obtaining," "accepting," or "attempting" to obtain a bribe, irrespective of whether the intended action is carried out. Regarding legislative immunity, the Court clarified that Articles 105(2) and 194 do not shield members of Parliament or state assemblies from prosecution for bribery. Immunity is meant to protect free speech and robust legislative debate, not to cover criminal acts like bribery. The judgment emphasised that corruption undermines democratic institutions and held that legislative privileges should not serve as a defense against anti-corruption laws. While recognising the ruling's importance in tackling corruption, the Court also noted the potential risk of misuse and emphasised the need for balanced implementation.

M K Ranjitsinh v. Union of India, 2024 INSC 280

(Three-Judge bench comprising
the Chief Justice of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud,
Justice J B Pardiwala and
Justice Manoj Misra)

Dated : **21 March 2024**

The Supreme Court recognised the right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change as part of the right to equality under Article 14 and the right to life under Article 21. The case related to the deaths of the Great Indian Bustards due to collision with overhead transmission wires installed at solar panel projects. The Court directed the constitution of an expert committee to examine the scope, feasibility, and extent of installing overhead and underground power lines in areas considered 'priority' for the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard. The Court noted that solar power is important for India as it not only meets the country's growing energy demands but also helps mitigate the adverse effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Court held that it is imperative for States like India to uphold their obligations under International Law, including their responsibilities to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and protect the fundamental rights of all individuals to live in a healthy and sustainable environment. The Court also held that the right to a healthy environment encapsulates the principle that every individual is entitled to live in an environment that is clean, safe, and conducive to their well-being. The Court recognised that States are compelled to prioritise environmental protection and sustainable development, thereby addressing the root causes of climate change and safeguarding the well-being of present and future generations. CJI Chandrachud's forward-thinking judgment expanded the scope of environmental rights, linking climate justice with constitutional protections under Articles 14 and 21, setting a benchmark for environmental jurisprudence.

State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh, 2024 INSC 562

(Seven-Judge Bench comprising
Chief Justice of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud,
Justice B R Gavai,
Justice Vikram Nath,
Justice B M Trivedi,
Justice Pankaj Mithal,
Justice Manoj Misra,
Justice S C Sharma)

Dated : **1 August 2024**

The Supreme Court upheld the validity of sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in a 6:1 majority decision. The judgment overruled the earlier decision in *E V Chinniah v. State of Andhra Pradesh* and allowed States to introduce sub-classification for equitable distribution of benefits among SCs and STs, similar to what is permitted for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs). CJI Chandrachud, writing for himself and Justice Manoj Misra, wrote that sub-classification is permissible under Articles 14 and 341, provided it is justified with empirical data and does not allocate 100% of reservations to a sub-class. Justices Gavai, Nath, Mithal, and Sharma concurred, emphasising the application of the "creamy layer" principle to SCs and the duty to give more backward SC groups preferential treatment. Justice Trivedi dissented, arguing that sub-classification would amount to altering the Presidential list, which only Parliament can do. The Court ruled that while sub-classification is allowed, it must ensure balanced representation and avoid exclusive reservations for any sub-class.

Exclusive Interview: A Conversation with Ms Kalpana Das



In an open and candid discussion, Ms Kalpana Das shares her life journey, her values, and her experiences that make her a formidable voice in human rights advocacy, gender equity, and veganism. Known for her resolute commitment to equality, she has inspired countless individuals through her work and her choices.

A Childhood Free from Boundaries

Ms Das recalls her upbringing as refreshingly unique, marked by a distinct absence of religious and caste-based discussions. "I knew we were Hindus, but I didn't know that different religions had their own festivals. During our stay in Kerala, we had Muslim family friends, and on Eid, we would join them for a proper vegetarian meal. It didn't cross my mind that Eid wasn't our festival," she laughs. "Similarly, they would come to ours for Diwali, and we would all celebrate Onam and even Christmas together. All these festivals felt like a part of my life, making my childhood more inclusive and enriched."

Breaking Away from the 'Expected' Path

From a young age, Ms Das forged her own path, rejecting the conventional science stream in favour of studying commerce, with a focus on marketing and business strategy. She admits that despite her early career success, something felt missing. "In my early 20s, I wondered about my true purpose. Waking up and focussing on the sales target felt hollow." She decided to shift into education, taking a position with the British Council. "It felt meaningful, but there was still something missing," she recalls.



One day, a poster in the foyer reading 'Zero Tolerance Against Any Kind of Violence Against Women' struck a chord. She walked into the director's office, expressed her interest in joining the cause, and was encouraged to apply. Ms Das described the application process as rigorous and overwhelming. "It was on the intranet, and the Director insisted I read everything about the Council's work, the conventions we had ratified, and where India stood. I studied relentlessly, preparing myself for six or seven rounds of exams and interviews before I finally secured the job. That's when I realised that this was where I belonged: making a positive impact on society."

Meeting her Life Partner, CJI, Dr D Y Chandrachud

Ms Das fondly recalled their serendipitous meeting. "I wasn't even thinking of settling down when we met," she said with a smile. "We met in London for work, very professionally. Eventually, after months or maybe year, he proposed. At first, I wasn't sure, but his gentle and kind-hearted nature won me over. We are complete opposites: I am fiery and quick to make decisions, while he is calm and thoughtful. He's ice, and I am fire," she says warmly. "Together, we make a great team. We complement each other and bring out the best in one another."



Respect for All, Even Critics

Ms Das admires her husband's calm, respectful demeanour, even towards critics—a valuable trait that he retains even in his role as the Chief Justice of India. "Despite facing criticism, he remains respectful and kind, even to his critics. Social media has become a breeding ground for disinformation, and he has faced attacks based on twisted or false narratives. Ms Das shares, "One incident that comes to mind is his recent visit to Kanhersar, a small, agricultural village in Pune. He mentioned spending time each morning reflecting and praying, which became distorted online," she says. "It's upsetting to see such misrepresentations, but he remains unruffled, finding balance in his faith." She reveals that his personal prayer space includes not only Hindu idols but also idols of Jesus and Mary, added by their foster daughter Mahi. "We have even gone to dargah at 4:00 am in the morning. Yet, his words were twisted into something they weren't, giving rise to baseless criticisms. But even with all the fake news and negativity, I still consider these past twelve years—from when he served as Chief Justice of Allahabad to now—as glorious. To have roses, there must be thorns; you can't just



CJI, Dr D Y Chandrachud and Ms Kalpana Das along with their two foster daughters, Mahi and Priyanka

have a bed of roses." There's no real protection against such malicious misinformation, but my suggestion for a dedicated Supreme Court Communication Division was well-received and implemented. This division now works to curb false narratives and share accurate information.

A Changed Perspective on the Judicial System

Coming from a non-legal background, Ms Das admits she used to view the judiciary with a degree of skepticism. Her perspective changed after her marriage. "I had only a superficial understanding of how the judiciary worked. But after coming into direct contact with it, I realised how hard judges work, often behind the scenes," she says. "Media tends to highlight small errors but overlooks the enormous contributions made daily by the judiciary, from the Supreme Court to District courts. It's about striving for excellence and public trust. Even during court recesses, judges continue working on judgments, supported by law clerks researching precedents to ensure that it's a good piece of judgment or order coming up. The goal is always to deliver the best possible outcome, with no focus other than justice." Praising the judiciary's technological progress, especially since COVID-19, Ms Das shares, "The progress made during and after COVID-19 has been phenomenal. International Chief Justices, even from countries like Germany, now look to India as a model. We have gone far beyond traditional practices, adopting innovations that are transforming the Indian Judiciary."

Emotional Intelligence and the Strength of Kindness

When asked about her husband's emotional intelligence, Ms Das beams, "Oh, his emotional intelligence is supremely high. He's calm, which makes him incredibly grounded. I, on the other hand, can be strict and less patient. But we balance each other out. His subtle reactions and composed demeanor are often misunderstood, but he conveys his messages with grace."



Advice to Women Pursuing Success

In her final remarks, Ms Das offers advice to women climbing the career ladder. "First, take care of yourself. Your physical and mental health is paramount. Don't sacrifice yourself unnecessarily. When you feel good about yourself, you can achieve so much more, both personally and professionally. Second, invest in your financial future. Visualise where you want to be at 80 and start planning now. And never bow to social pressure or tolerate any form of abuse. Be it physical, emotional, or intellectual abuse, do not allow it."

Ms Kalpana Das is a force of nature, unafraid to speak her mind and inspire change. Through her advocacy, she continues to make a meaningful impact on society and inspires many young women to lead their lives according to their own demands.

Celebrating 75 Years of Supreme Court

The Apex institution has completed 75 years since its establishment. To commemorate this the year-long celebrations and the intensive work done by the Supreme Court family is highlighted in the publication. The publication showcases the dedication to reflecting on the Supreme Court's journey and engaging with the public through a wide range of activities. From documentaries and publications that capture historical moments to the organization of seminars, conferences, and legal awareness programs, these initiatives bring forth the Supreme Court's role in shaping the Indian legal landscape.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

On 28 January 2024, the Supreme Court marked the commencement of the Diamond Jubilee Year. The celebration began in the presence of the Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and the Judges of the Supreme Court. CJI Chandrachud delivered a profound address recognising the historical significance of the occasion, stating that 'the Supreme Court was established with a sense of idealism that laws would be interpreted by a 'Constitutional Court' in accordance with the rule of law and not by colonial values or social hierarchies.' And further, the day was not only a celebration of the day when the Supreme Court came into being, but it also was a celebration of the decades worth of hard work by succeeding generations of judges and lawyers that went into making this institution a People's Court. CJI Chandrachud underscored the foundational principles embedded in the Constitution and acknowledged the Court's role in combating injustice, interpreting laws following the rule of law, and its efforts to enhance accessibility through landmark judgments. CJI Chandrachud further concluded that we must reflect on our journey and renew our pledge to uphold the Constitution within and beyond our courtrooms. Our mission to make the Judiciary accessible to all would be incomplete without the support of our High Courts.



28 January 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, with Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi, at the Commencement of "Diamond Jubilee Year celebrations"



28 January 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, chairs a Ceremonial Bench with the Supreme Court Judges and the Chief Justices of 25 High Courts across the country to commemorate the first sitting of the Supreme Court

Supreme Court's Annual Lecture Series

The Supreme Court of India held its first sitting on 28 January 1950. To commemorate this and reaffirm its commitment to fostering access to justice, an annual lecture series was decided to be conducted. Therefore, for the first lecture, Justice Sundresh Menon, Chief Justice of Singapore, was invited as the Chief Guest. Justice Menon delivered the lecture on the theme of "The Role of Judiciary in a Changing World" on 4 February 2023.

Thereafter, on 10 February 2024, the Supreme Court of India hosted the second edition of its Annual Lecture Series. Ms Hilary Charlesworth, Judge, International Court of Justice, served as the Chief Guest and delivered a lecture titled 'The International Court of Justice: A Legal Forum in a Political Environment.' The event began with an opening address by Justice Surya



4 February 2023, '1st Supreme Court Annual Lecture' commemorating the first sitting of the Supreme Court, delivered by Chief Justice of Singapore



10 February 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and Ms Hilary Charlesworth, Judge, International Court of Justice, during the "Second Annual Lecture Series"

Kant. CJI Chandrachud further shared his memories of Judge Charlesworth from their time together at Harvard Law School, where they both earned their LLM and doctorate degrees in the 1980s.

Supreme Court Law Clerks' Moot Court Competition



28 April 2024, Felicitation of the winners of the first "Supreme Court Law Clerks' Moot Court Competition 2024"

The Supreme Court of India organised the first ever 'Supreme Court Law Clerks Moot Court Competition 2024' on 27 and 28 April 2024, which was aimed at enhancing the advocacy skills of Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates working in the chambers of the Supreme Court Judges and the Registry of the Supreme Court. This initiative aimed to provide a platform for the Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates to diversify their skill set with real-life court scenarios and make them more court adept in their future endeavors.

Special Lok Adalat

The Supreme Court of India has been a sentinel of justice, upholding the rule of law for seventy-five years. Therefore, as part of the series of activities to commemorate the 75th year of the establishment of this institution, the Court organised a mega settlement drive by way of Special Lok Adalat from 29 July to 3 August to assist the parties in resolving their cases by mutually accepted settlements. The whole drive involved 27 judges and 88 members of the Bar, leading to the settlement and disposal of approximately a thousand cases.



29 July 2024- 3 August 2024, Group photo of Supreme Court Judges, Senior Advocates of the Court, and members of the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association during the "Special Lok Adalat Week"

Special Lok Adalat Week

29 July to 3 August 2024



3 August 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, at the Concluding Ceremony of the "Special Lok Adalat Week"





3 August 2024, DLSA, Bokaro and East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, presenting the litigants with the cheques of the settlement award at the "Special Lok Adalat Week"





3 August 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, presents 424 Compassionate Appointment Letters to Coal India Limited (CIL) appointees under its CSR initiatives





3 August 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, presents scholarship cheques worth Rs 45,000 per year to 1,645 children who lost their parents to COVID-19 under CIL-ASHIS (Ayushman Shiksha Sahayata) Scheme

'Laapataa Ladies' and '12th Fail' special screenings held at the Supreme Court of India

As part of its 75th anniversary celebrations, the Supreme Court of India hosted special screenings of *Laapataa Ladies* on 9 August 2024, and *12th Fail* on 25 September 2024 at the C Block Auditorium in the Administrative Buildings Complex. *Laapataa Ladies*, directed by Kiran Rao and produced by Aamir Khan, centers on the themes of gender equality and the challenges women face due to societal biases. Following the screening, a discussion between the filmmakers and CJI Chandrachud highlighted the film's message on gender sensitisation. *12th Fail*, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, narrates the inspiring journey of Manoj Kumar Sharma, an IPS officer who overcame academic failure and financial hardships. CJI Chandrachud, along with Mr Sharma, IRS officer Ms Shraddha Joshi, and actors Vikrant Massey and Medha Shankar, attended this screening. Both screenings aimed to promote dialogue on social issues like gender equality, resilience, and human perseverance, using cinema as a powerful medium for engaging conversations on important social themes.



9 August 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Ms Kalpana Das (mind behind this initiative), Ms Kiran Rao, Director, and Mr Amir Khan, Producer, attend the screening of 'Laapataa Ladies,' at Auditorium, Supreme Court of India



25 September 2024, The screening of '12th Fail' at Auditorium, C Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

National Conference of the District Judiciary

The judicial landscape in India saw a major milestone in 2024 with two landmark events that reinforced the commitment to strengthening the judiciary from the grassroots level. The first was the "District Court Judges' Conference" held in Kachchh, Gujarat, followed by the "National Conference of the District Judiciary" (NCDJ) in New Delhi. These conferences, conceptualised under the leadership of CJI Chandrachud, underscored the importance of unity and collaboration across all tiers of the judiciary to enhance the administration of justice.

The first event, the "District Court Judges' Conference," occurred on March 2-3, 2024, in the serene district of Kachchh, Gujarat. This conference marked a significant milestone, as it was the first time the Supreme Court of India, the High Courts, and the District Judiciary came together for an interactive platform to discuss challenges, share experiences, and offer suggestions for a more cohesive judicial system. Organised by the Supreme Court in collaboration with the High Court of Gujarat, the event witnessed participation from 250 District Judges



2 March 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, at "the All India District Judges' Conference", Kachchh, Gujarat

in person, while more than 2,000 judges joined virtually.

The two-day "National Conference of the District Judiciary," organised by the Supreme Court of India, took place from August 31 to September 1, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Conference on August 31, wherein a commemorative Supreme Court Postal Stamp and a Silver Coin were released on the occasion of the 75 years of the Apex Court's establishment. The president of India, Ms Droupadi Murmu, delivered valedictory address and released Flag and Insignia designed by the NIFT of the Court.



31 August 2024, Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi, along with the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, releases a postal stamp of denomination of Rs 10 to commemorate the 75 years of the Supreme Court's establishment



31 August 2024, Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi, along with the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, release a silver coin of the denomination Rs 75 to commemorate the 75 years of the Supreme Court's establishment





1 September 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, releases a documentary on the Supreme Court's 75-year history with landmark Judgments



1 September 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, release the digital publication of 'Courts of India' in 8 languages during the NCDJ





1 September 2024, President Droupadi Murmu and Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, unveil the Supreme Court's new flag and insignia

Case Disposal and Judicial Efficiency

Under the visionary leadership of the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, the Supreme Court has witnessed remarkable advancements in case management and technological upgradation. By prioritising transparency, streamlining procedural complexities, and embedding technology at every possible level, the Chief Justice has transformed the Supreme Court into a more accessible, efficient, and responsive institution. These changes have resulted in an unprecedented reduction in case backlogs.

A cornerstone of CJI Chandrachud's reforms has been the commitment to transparency and technological integration. Effective 14 September 2023, the Supreme Court adopted a system wherein a diary number is automatically generated and assigned to each case as soon as it is filed, including defective matters. The diary number tracks these cases promptly and includes them in the overall pendency count, ensuring an accurate reflection of pending cases. From 9 November 2022 to 1 November 2024, **1,11,498** cases were filed (including defective mattes and diary numbers), **5,33,142** cases were listed and 1,07,403 cases were disposed of. Notably, within 10 months in 2024, **48,550** matters have already been disposed of. During this period **1033 (104 main + 929 connected)** Three Judges' Bench Matters have been disposed of. Bail matters have been an area of special focus, with **21,358 bail** matters disposed of against **21,000** filed during CJI Chandrachud's tenure. Economic offenses, such as those under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), have also received priority, with **907** cases disposed of against **961** filed.

In the same spirit of efficiency, CJI Chandrachud's tenure has marked a noteworthy change vis-a-vis the handling of the older cases. Now, up to 10 pending "after notice" matters that date back to 2019 are listed daily alongside regular cases. CJI Chandrachud's prioritisation of long-pending constitutional matters has been equally remarkable, as seen in the disposal of 33 Constitution Bench matters, including critical cases that demanded the wisdom of larger, multi-judge benches. CJI Chandrachud's reforms have also made the judicial process more inclusive and active during court vacations. For instance, he constituted **17 benches in 2023** and **20 benches in 2024**, during the summer break focusing on urgent cases, including bail applications, habeas corpus petitions, transfer petitions, labour, and service matters.

Chief Justice's technological initiatives, further extend to the Supreme Court's internal operations. He has mandated paperless systems wherever possible. For example, discontinuing hard copy cause lists and implementing digital processing for letter petitions in the PIL (English) Section. In the Copying Branch, the introduction of the Seal Register for certifying copies has standardised the process. Moreover, in the Decree Sections (XIII & XIII-B), the

Chief Justice updated the old format of decrees to align with contemporary legal standards. From January 2024 to date, **7,262** decrees have been issued, and the section now operates with zero backlog.

Chief Justice of India, has also revolutionised the 'Mentioning Procedure,' making it more accessible and less cumbersome. Today, an Advocate/Litigant who wishes to get his/her most urgent matter listed on the same day can send an email between 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. requesting the same. This change is complemented by increased efficiency in the Filing Counter operations, which now verifies cases with near-zero pendency, ensuring that verified matters are listed within one week or sooner.

With these multifaceted reforms, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud has redefined judicial operations, moving toward a system that prioritizes transparency, accessibility, and prompt justice. By aligning the Supreme Court's procedures with technological advancements and establishing a structured, responsive framework, he has set a new standard for judicial efficiency that is likely to benefit the justice delivery system for years to come.

Infrastructure

The Supreme Court of India under the aegis of the Chief Justice of India, (Dr) D Y Chandrachud took major steps in ensuring that the Court is accessible to every stakeholder. Throughout his tenure, CJI Chandrachud has focused on improving court infrastructure to make it more accommodating and inclusive for all. His beliefs are reflected in his efforts, which have encompassed various aspects, such as the construction of new facilities, the renovation of existing ones, and the introduction of modern technology.

In the spirit of continuous education, a Training and Examination Centre was inaugurated to provide structured training and examination facilities for judicial and administrative purposes.

Complementing this, a Staff Library was also established to encourage a reading culture among court officials. It houses a diverse collection of legal, academic, and general-interest books and magazines and utilises RFID technology to streamline book lending and returns. The library also includes resources for departmental and judicial exams, along with print and e-newspapers in multiple languages. A new wing of the Judges' Library was also opened, housing an extensive collection of books, including a section with materials from the personal collection of the late Soli Sorabjee, former Attorney General and Constitutional Expert. This particular collection honors Sorabjee Sorabjees' legacy and adds unique value to the library.



24 April 2023, Chief Justice of India along with Judges of the Supreme Court inaugurates the new wing of the Judges' Library



1 February 2024, Inauguration of the new Staff Library, Supreme Court of India



21 March 2024, 'Mother and Child' Sculpture, refurbished and re-located at the Main Lawn (Low Security Zone), Supreme Court premises



The Supreme Court Museum has been transformed into the National Judicial Museum and Archives (NJMA) within the main complex of the Court. The establishment of the NJMA was envisioned by the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, with the goal of showcasing the rich legal history and the evolution of the judicial system in our country. This museum will not only house a repository of legal artifacts and historical records but also function as an educational hub, offering insights into the development of jurisprudence and the judiciary's role in shaping the nation.

The NJMA was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud on 7 November 2024, and is located in the east wing of the Supreme Court's main campus, where the Judges' Library previously stood. The library has now been relocated to Block A of the Administrative Building Complex.











A TAPESTRY OF JUSTICE: FROM ANCIENT ROOTS TO MODERN COURTS

This museum serves as a gateway to a deeper exploration of the history of Indian judicial institutions. It offers a broad overview of the courts' past, capturing the essence of their institutional histories. However, it does not aim to encompass the full diversity of India's legal system. The museum acknowledges the absence of local and subaltern legal traditions, reflecting its focused scope.

The narrative presented here is descriptive and does not critically examine the moral values underlying the colonial legal framework and their influence on the Indian judiciary today. While the contributions of post-independence lawyers and judges are profound, we are only able to cover a few of them.

The infrastructural developments within the Supreme Court Complex, however, go beyond mere physical enhancements; they represent a commitment to values such as inclusivity, accessibility, representation, knowledge, and equality within the legal fraternity. Under CJI Chandrachud's guidance, these initiatives resonate throughout the legal community, reflecting a broader vision for justice. A significant symbol of this vision is the bronze statue of Dr B R Ambedkar unveiled in the Court's lawns during his tenure, which stands as a testament to the ideals of justice and representation that these improvements seek to promote.



26 November 2024, a 7.3 ft. high bronze statue of Dr B R Ambedkar, installed at the central lawn, main campus of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India, under the able guidance of CJI Chandrachud, also witnessed the expansion of the Supreme Court Premises. Various projects were undertaken during the months of June and July pertaining to the renovation of the existing court infrastructure and the construction of new ones. The corridors outside Courts 1, 2, and 3 are now air-conditioned. The Registrar Court has been upgraded and expanded, with the Registrar now sitting full-time. Lawyers' cubicles have been prepared, and the waiting rooms outside these cubicles have been remodeled to align with the building's exterior.

On 21 March 2024, CJI Chandrachud inaugurated a media enclosure at the Supreme Court campus in New Delhi, located near the Supreme Court Lawns, to support media rights and enhance public trust in judicial proceedings.

Another key project focused on developing futuristic courtrooms (Nos 6-9), integrating modern amenities to enhance the judicial processes efficiency and experience. These projects include courtrooms equipped with advanced audio-visual systems, digital display boards, and improved seating arrangements for advocates and litigants, creating a more conducive environment for justice dispensation. Additionally, special repairs to the iconic central dome above Court No 1 were carried out to preserve architectural heritage while maintaining structural integrity.



Media Enclosure, Supreme Court of India



Futuristic Court Rooms

In keeping with lawyers' needs, CJI Chandrachud has overseen the addition of practical amenities. A consultation room, established near the Bar Lounge, provides a dedicated space for legal discussions. At the same time, a newly renovated Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) lunchroom offers an updated space for dining and informal meetings. Additionally, cubicles for SCBA advocates were constructed, giving advocates their own workspaces within the premises. A badminton court was also inaugurated for lawyers, further promoting physical wellness.



8 July 2024, Inauguration of the new Registrar's Court, Supreme Court of India



11 July 2024, Inauguration of the new Multi-Facilitation Centre, Supreme Court of India

In addition to professional facilities, a Multi-Facilitation Centre has been introduced, expanding the court's support services and providing a comprehensive resource hub for visitors. As part of financial services within the campus, a new branch of the Bank of Maharashtra has also been opened, adding convenience for staff and visitors alike. Lastly, a new Registrar's Court and a conference hall were inaugurated, enhancing the spaces available for administrative and judicial functions within the Supreme Court.

The Court's support for all is evident in the addition of a crèche (childcare center) within the Court's administrative complex, providing convenient childcare facilities for staff members highlighting an understanding of work-life balance for all employees.



23 August 2024, Inauguration of the conference hall in the Main Building, Supreme Court of India



New Insignia of the Supreme Court of India



29 August 2024, Inauguration of the new branch of 'Bank of Maharashtra' at Sixth Floor, E Block, Supreme Court of India



29 August 2024, Inauguration of 'Creche (Child Care Centre)' at Second Floor, E Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

To enhance the overall experience of staff and guests, a spacious new canteen was established, featuring a menu with popular North and South Indian dishes. The space is equipped with modern kitchen appliances and accommodates a sizable number of diners.

Through these well-rounded infrastructural developments, CJI Chandrachud has transformed the Supreme Court into a model of judicial administration, reflecting a commitment to accessibility, efficiency and wellness. These additions signal a forward-looking vision, ensuring the Supreme Court remains a supportive, technologically advanced and inclusive institution dedicated to serving the needs of everyone within its purview.



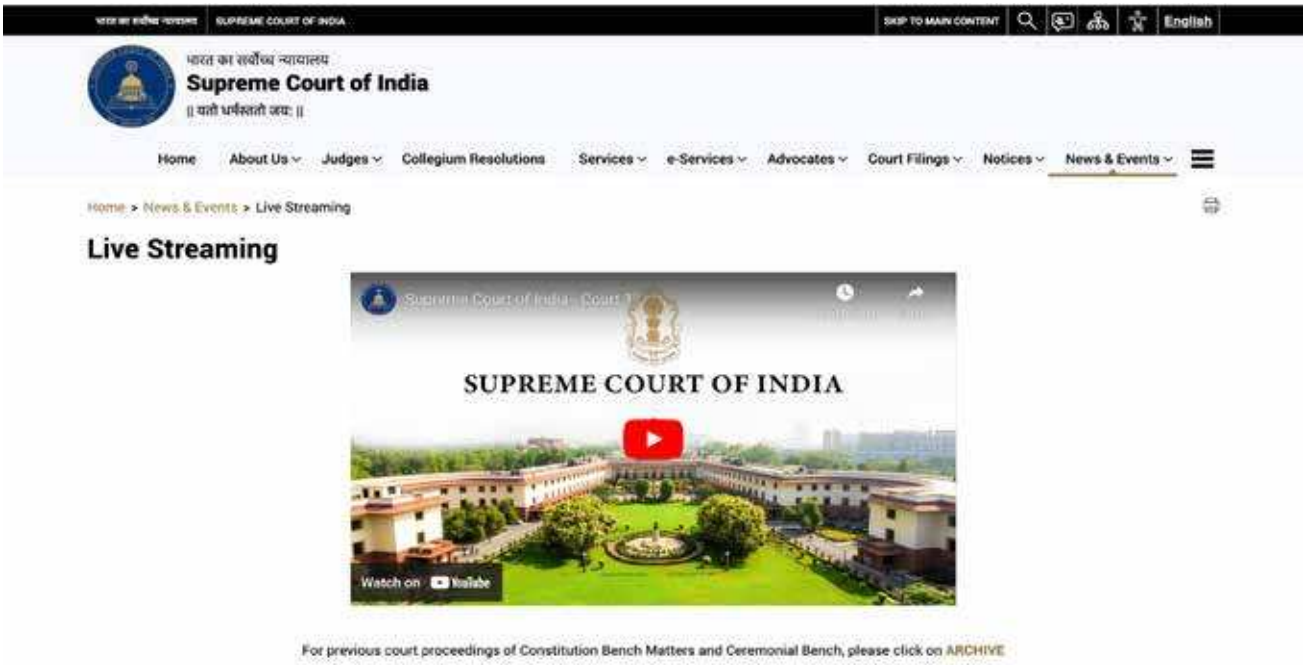
14 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud at "the Groundbreaking Ceremony of Expansion Building"

Technology and Digitalisation

Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud has always batted for accessibility in all his initiatives and his vision for the judiciary is rooted in the principle that— justice should not only be accessible but actively reach out to citizens across the country. He has seen technology as a transformative force capable of closing the gaps that often exist between the judiciary and the people it serves, envisioning a court system where no one feels disconnected from justice due to location, resources or lack of access to legal support. Under his leadership, the Indian judiciary has made strides in breaking down these barriers, aiming to make justice a lived, accessible experience for every individual.

One of the most significant tenets of the Chief Justice's mission is the belief that courts are at their best when they are transparent and approachable. His initiatives in digital transformation echo his commitment to making the judicial system accountable and open to scrutiny. By ensuring that Constitutional cases are live-streamed, he has invited citizens into the heart of the court's operations, creating a sense of shared ownership over judicial processes and outcomes. In his view, technology is not a distant solution but a bridge, allowing people from all backgrounds to connect with the legal system and feel part of the judiciary's work.

The shift to digital hearings through video conferencing is testimonial of this inclusive approach. The Supreme Court's virtual accessibility means that a lawyer or litigant from a remote village can now appear in the highest



Platform for Webex Live Streaming



The Supreme Court is committed to a paperless future, evident through its emphasis on the e-filing of cases. Upgraded software applications, including e-filing 2.0, operate round-the-clock, and allow for efficient electronic filing, the curing of defects, and quicker listing. The Integrated Court Management Information System (ICMIS), updated to streamline case management, scheduling, and document handling, also reduced reliance on paper. The Court plans to deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify filing defects and speed up the filing process in the future

court of the land, an opportunity that would have been unimaginable just a few years ago. The Hybrid Hearing System offers a seamless means to participate in Court hearings either physically or in virtual mode which has been instrumental in promoting access to justice, it has continued to remain a favourite among stakeholders. A total of 8,82,413 matters have been heard and 1,95,764 disposed of with the help of Video Conferencing till 3 November 2024.

A pilot programme launched in February 2023 utilises artificial intelligence (AI) to automatically transcribe arguments presented before Constitution Benches. This innovative technology generates real-time transcripts of courtroom exchanges, displayed on large screens within the courtroom for all parties involved. Additionally, these readily accessible transcripts are uploaded to the Supreme Court website (https://main.sci.gov.in/vernacular_judgment) for wider public access. As on 3 November 2024, 7,000 pages of transcribed arguments in 18 Constitution Bench matters have been generated through the use of AI-based tools. CJI Chandrachud has, time and again, expressed that such accessibility transforms the very nature of the Supreme Court, from a building in Delhi to a truly national institution serving every corner of India. By allowing people to connect from afar, the Supreme Court extends beyond geography and redefines justice as a universally available resource.

Taking justice at the doorstep a step further the Supreme Court implemented a WhatsApp messaging service that provides Advocates-on-Record with real-time updates on crucial case information, including cause lists, filings, orders and judgments. This innovative initiative has significantly reduced paper consumption and streamlined access to case data. The Registry has successfully transmitted over 3.25 lakh messages to stakeholders via WhatsApp. Using digital integration to its best this step helps increase accessibility while promoting environmental sustainability.

At the administrative level, CJI Chandrachud has propelled a culture shift toward efficiency, transparency and sustainability. His vision includes a paperless court that utilises digital

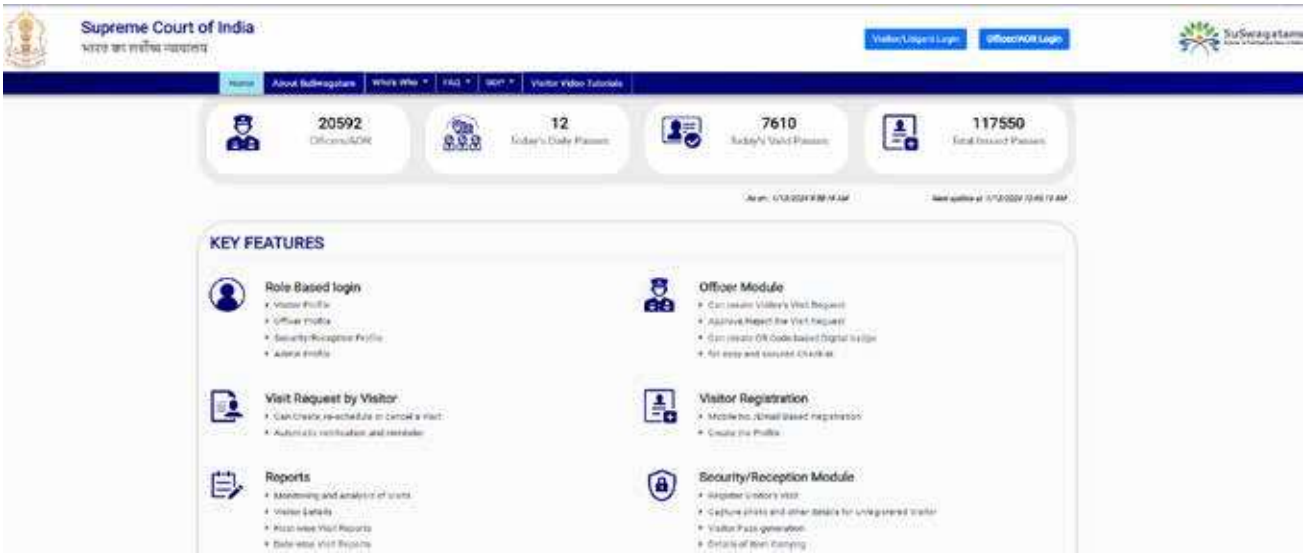
tools to streamline processes, preserve records and reduce environmental impact. Through policies like the uniform email system and the introduction of digital payment software, he has focused on making internal processes faster and more reliable. By implementing systems such as the e-Office and e-HRMS, CJI Chandrachud has set a new standard for administrative professionalism and eco-conscious operations, aiming for a judiciary that is not only effective but also respectful of resources.

Committed to a paperless future, the Supreme Court of India's electronic filing (e-Filing) module launched on 12 May 2023, has revolutionised the way legal professionals interact with the Court. By providing a convenient and secure online platform, lawyers can file petitions, pleadings, and other documents electronically, eliminating the need for physical submissions. This has significantly reduced the administrative burden on the Court and improved efficiency for legal practitioners. As on 3 November 2024, 49,307 fresh cases and over 2,10,375 filings comprising of fresh cases, interim applications, miscellaneous documents and caveat petitions have been filed through the e-Filing module.

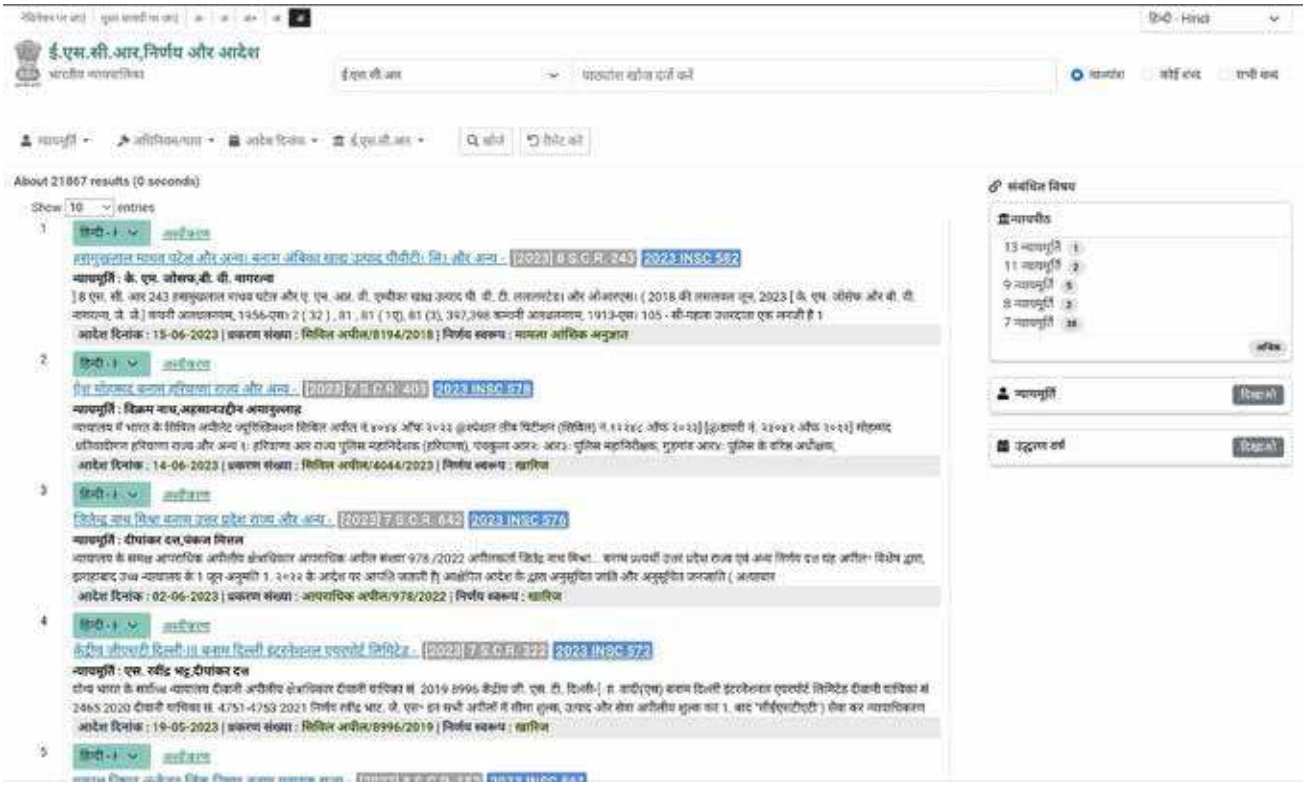
FASTER 2.0 is the improved version of the FASTER module, which was launched by the Chief Justice of India to make the justice system more efficient and reduce delays by ensuring that court orders are transmitted electronically to the District Courts and prison authorities in a timely manner. By leveraging technology, FASTER 2.0 aims to prevent instances where prisoners remain incarcerated despite having been granted liberty by the courts. As on 4 November 2024, a total of 7,529 orders have been transmitted through the FASTER module.



Moreover, CJI Chandrachud's commitment to public engagement is reflected in the development of the RTI online portal and the eSCR portal, which provide direct, unfettered access to court information. The eSCR portal offers free access to decades of Supreme Court judgments. As on 4 November, 2024 there are 36,936 judgments in English language available on the eSCR portal of the Supreme Court of India. The Court's web-based RTI portal launched on 24 November 2022 was a historic step towards transparency and eliminating the need for physical paperwork. As



SuSwagatam for the issue of e-passes



Screenshot of judgments on e-SCR (Hindi)

on 3 November 2024 through the Online RTI portal 8,620 applications, 1,259 appeals, and 146 miscellaneous requests have been filed and processed. The portal has also been replicated by several High Courts with the help of the Supreme Court of India. This unprecedented step towards transparency empowers people to understand the judiciary's workings, placing critical legal information within easy reach of all.

Hailed for ensuring massive reduction in paper circulation, previously caused by physical/paper-based filing of appearance slips by Advocates, the portal facilitates submission of appearance slips in electronic mode. As on 25 October 2024, over 27,65,038 online appearances have been filed in a paperless form.

The acronym Digi SCR stands for Digital Supreme Court Reports. The Digi SCR was a visionary initiative, under the leadership of CJI Chandrachud and the Judges of the Editorial Committee of the Supreme Court that marked a paradigm shift in legal information dissemination. The Digi SCR primary focus is on dissemination of legal information on the principles of accessibility, transparency, and environmental responsibility. Serving as the official law report of the Supreme Court judgments in India, it provides judgments in a digital, open-access format. This step replaces traditional print editions, offering an invaluable resource to law students, young lawyers, and the wider public while contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions.



Screenshot of the Digi SCR



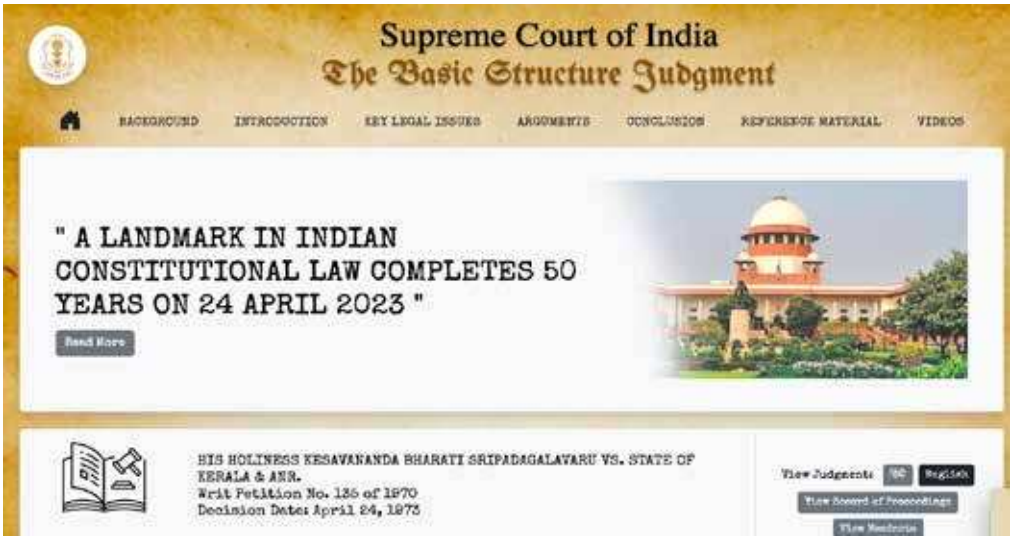
e-Sewa Kendra and Facilitation Centre

CJI Chandrachud has also facilitated cross-institutional collaboration, exemplified in partnerships with IIT Madras and the Singapore Supreme Court, to explore AI's potential in legal processes. Through regular training sessions and institutional reforms, he ensures the judiciary remains adaptable, efficient, and attuned to public needs, continuously strengthening public trust in the justice system.

National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is another celebrated initiative in making information accessible to people, developed under the guidance and vision of CJI Chandrachud. By connecting all tiers of the judiciary on one platform, the NJDG enables detailed insights into case filings, pendency, and disposal statistics, giving citizens and policymakers a transparent view of judicial trends. In his leadership, CJI Chandrachud has prioritised a data-driven judiciary, one that continuously learns, adapts and responds to the needs of the people it serves.



1 November 2024, National Judicial Data Grid(NJDG)



Kesavananda Bharati Webpage

Furthering accessibility, the E-Committee's ICT training empowers visually challenged judicial staff and projects like the Kesavananda Bharati Webpage and summaries of landmark judgments in regional languages enhance citizens' understanding of the law.



Display Boards Ver. 1.0



Display Boards Ver. 2.0



Display Boards Ver. 3.0

Another remarkable step is the display boards which are ubiquitous in and around the campus of the Supreme Court of India. The display boards serve as the fastest and most effective tool for dissemination of the daily list of business of all courtrooms. The popularity of display boards amongst the members of the bar is such that the IT team of the Supreme Court of India has launched three different versions of display boards, which on a real-time basis inform the stakeholders about the cases listed before Hon'ble Courts. The latest version of the display board Version 3.0 installed outside courtrooms 1 to 5 shares all the relevant information such as Bench quorum, matter in session and a quick response (QR) code enables the user to access the paperless cause list.



The Supreme Court of India is organising Second Hackathon Event 2024 in commemoration of seventy-five years of the establishment of the institution https://innovateindia.mygov.in/sc-hackathon-2024/

In reimagining the judiciary through technology, CJI Chandrachud has created a framework where the court's doors are open to every citizen, both physically and digitally. His legacy lies in transforming the judiciary from a distant entity



The official webpage about Dr Ambedkar's law practice was released on Constitution Day

into a responsive and citizen-centred institution. Through each digital initiative, he has made the courts more inclusive, efficient and attuned to the public's needs guided by a vision of justice that is as accessible as it is fair.

Infrastructure improvements at the Supreme Court also factored in the need for judicial efficiency through technology. The Command Control Centre, commonly known as the "War Room," has been established as a centralised monitoring facility. It provides real-time data on the listing, institution, and disposal of cases, with state-of-the-art equipment to track case files and ensure efficient case management. This advanced setup facilitates informed decision-making, enabling the judiciary to monitor delays and rationalise case allocations effectively.

In line with the vision of the CJI the Supreme Court has been equipped with a futuristic on-premises data centre to strengthen its IT infrastructure by ensuring that all IT services, and computer applications are accessible in high-availability mode. The data centre is housed at the Administrative Building Complex, Supreme Court of India. The data centre is equipped with integrated smart racks, uninterrupted power supply (UPS), compute – rack servers, storage infrastructure such as unified storage, object storage, network infrastructure - routers, spine switch, leaf switches, out-of-band switch, aggregation switch, fabric controller, etc., security devices – firewalls, internal IPS (virtual), NAC solution, back-up solution, configuration and integrations of ICT infrastructure, such as switches and security solutions etc. with the current ICT landscape of the Supreme Court of India. Additionally, The Supreme Court of India has availed cloud services by on-boarding the National Government Cloud, MeghRaj 2.0 (NGC/MeghRaj). The Supreme Court of India has successfully onboarded 15 of its computer applications, software on the NGC to provide seamless and robust access to all stakeholders. The NGC cloud services have empowered the Registry to provide IT services in a scalable, flexible and secure manner.





Newly created War Room, Ground Floor, Main Building, Supreme Court of India

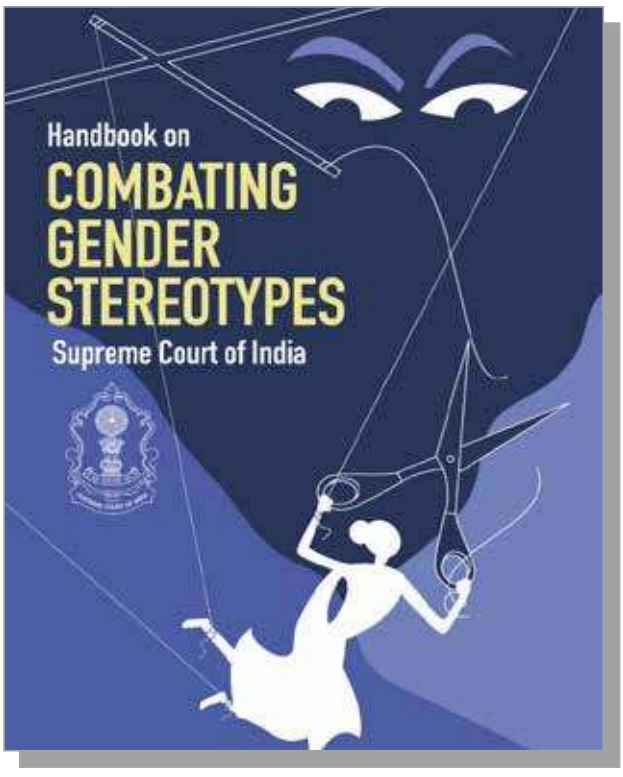




New Data Centre at Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

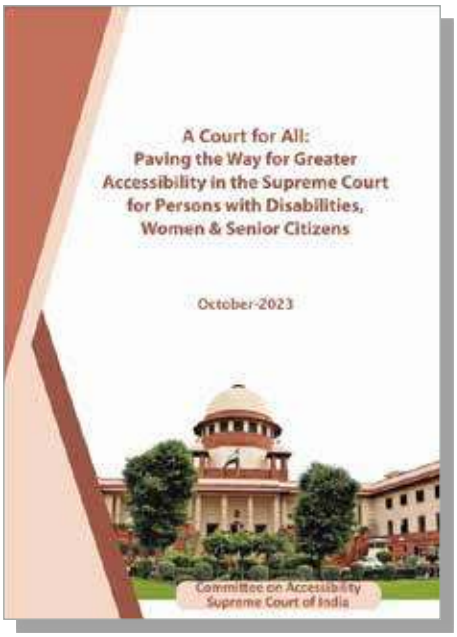
Gender and Accessibility

Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud has been an ardent advocate for gender sensitisation and making the courtrooms more accessible. CJI Chandrachud has now and then through his various interviews, speeches and initiatives, emphasised the role of the advancement of women by creating an inclusive environment that supports them in making unconventional choices. Further, his emphasis on inclusivity beyond the gender spectrum has paved the way towards an environment that propagates acceptance and non-discrimination. He has always been empathetic towards the needs of persons with disabilities and thus has strived to physically and mentally make a more inclusive and conducive environment for the advancement of people with special needs. CJI Chandrachud has now and then reiterated how judges have tried to make themselves and the court institutions more accessible to persons with disabilities. Gender sensitisation and accessibility are the cornerstone of a fair and just society. It serves as a vital tool in dismantling inherent biases and fostering an environment where everyone, regardless of gender, can live and work with dignity and respect. By championing the cause of gender equality, we only uphold the principles of dignity, respect and equality enshrined in the Constitution of India.



CJI Chandrachud's vision can be seen in the form of various initiatives ranging from 'Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes', which was launched, featuring a glossary of gender-unjust terms and proposes alternative words and phrases for use in legal documents. This comprehensive guide is designed to assist judges, lawyers, and legal professionals in recognising and avoiding harmful gender stereotypes in legal proceedings and judgments. The handbook provides practical examples, case studies, and best practices to promote gender-sensitive approaches in the judicial system, contributing to more equitable justice delivery

CJI Chandrachud released a Report titled 'A Court for All: Paving the Way for Greater Accessibility in the Supreme Court for Persons with Disabilities, Women & Senior Citizens.' Herein, the Supreme Court Committee on Accessibility meticulously studied the physical infrastructure (tangible facilities) and functional accessibility (operational elements and services) of the Supreme Court premises. The Committee has also made efforts to understand the unique challenges faced by women and senior citizens



in the Court. The Committee made several suggestions to make the Supreme Court premises more inclusive and accessible which included the provision of accessible route maps, accessible pathways, sign language interpreters, and lactation rooms.

Further fostering inclusivity, the Chief Justice of India inaugurated the Mitti Cafe in the left wing of the Supreme Court building. The not-for-profit cafe is mostly run by differently-abled staff and works towards the economic independence and dignity of individuals with physical, intellectual, and psychiatric disabilities.



10 November 2023, Miti Cafe was inaugurated in the Supreme Court

Accessibility and inclusivity also include within its ambit, access to justice for which NALSA, together with the International Legal Foundation (ILF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), hosted the 1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid in New Delhi on 27-28 November 2023. The Chief Justices' Roundtable on Equal Access to Justice for All in the Global South adopted the 'New Delhi Principles,' a set of 12 principles, that enable equal access to justice for all which are equal protection of laws, non-discrimination, and equality, right to a fair trial, legal representation in criminal cases, legal representation in civil cases, right to legal aid, accessibility and affordability, technology innovations and advancements, legal education



27 November 2023, Inaugural Session of the 1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid, New Delhi





19 January 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud addresses the participants at GSICC training session on 'Gender Sensitisation and Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace'

and public awareness, public participation and accountability, continuous improvement and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

A training session on 'Gender Sensitisation and Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace' was organised by the Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) of the Supreme Court, for the members of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCAORA) chaired by the Chief Justice of India Dr D Y Chandrachud. This training session was vital in its impact of creating a gender-inclusive environment that helps in the promotion of women in unconventional decision-making.



21 March 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud inaugurates the newly created Accessibility Help Desk, near e-Sewa Kendra, Supreme Court of India

The Supreme Court of India takes pride in establishing a dedicated Accessibility and Inclusion Section as part of the Registry. The Accessibility and Inclusion Section has set up a single window – "Accessibility Help Desk", near e-Sewa Kendra, 'D' IN Gate, Main Building Complex, Supreme Court of India. The e-Sewa Kendra has been extremely significant in making justice accessible for all and has attended 9,122 queries of advocates, litigants and stakeholders, as on 3 November 2024.



28 September 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud released the 'Handbook Concerning Persons with Disabilities' at the "National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disability and Intersectionality of Disabilities"

The Juvenile Justice Committee, Supreme Court of India organised the National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on 'Protecting the Rights of Children Living with Disability (focus

on CiCL and CNCP) and Intersectionality of Disabilities' at the Supreme Court of India. It was the ninth round of Consultation and included four technical sessions and marked the culmination of several State Consultations that took place across the country. The four sessions included Technical Session I: Global Instruments, National Legislations, Central and State Schemes and Services, Technical Session II: Family Based Alternative Care Services and Social Support for Children with Disabilities, Technical Session III: Mental & Physical Health and Education: Effective Convergence and Implementation and Technical Session IV: Intersectionality in Victim-Centric Laws and Convergence of Legal Provisions.



Kiosks at Supreme Court of India, enhancing accessibility for the stakeholders

14 self-help e-service kiosks have been installed throughout the campus, to let visitors avail key e-services of the Court. The users can track cause lists of various Benches, progress of their cases including hearing dates, orders passed, and judgments delivered, important circulars and notices and a variety of useful information easily with the help of these kiosks. The introduction of these kiosks has significantly reduced waiting times and improved overall efficiency, creating a more transparent and user-friendly environment within the Supreme Court of India.

Initiatives for Supreme Court Advocates

Chief Justice of India Dr D Y Chandrachud has often referred to the Bar as a two way bridge between the Court and the Citizens. Lawyers provide insight into the challenges faced by individuals and communities, which helps the courts deliver fair and equitable outcomes. CJI has maintained that a strong and well-supported Bar is pertinent in maintaining public trust in the legal system. During his tenure, CJI Chandrachud, has not only led initiatives for the judiciary's overall growth but has also introduced numerous facilities and overseen developments specifically designed to benefit the bar.



5 February 2024 , Inauguration of the Supreme Court Bar Association's (SCBA) new Consultation Room near the Bar Lounge, ground floor

CJI Chandrachud prioritised improving the physical spaces available to legal practitioners within the Supreme Court. These developments include the inauguration of the Consultation Room at the Supreme Court Bar Association which allows lawyers to hold private consultations with clients and colleagues, facilitating effective communication and collaboration. Additionally, the Arbitration and Consultation Room, opened in the M C Setalvad Lawyers' Chamber Block, is equipped for meetings and video conferencing, making it easier for lawyers to engage in alternative dispute resolution processes. These facilities are designed to reduce the burden on the court system by promoting arbitration and mediation.

Recognising the pressures faced by legal practitioners, CJI Chandrachud has implemented several supportive measures. A dedicated medical facility for Supreme Court employees and lawyers has been established to ensure they have access to healthcare services, promoting their physical and mental well-being. Additionally, the new canteen for the Bar, serves as a communal space for lawyers, staff, and registry personnel,





1 August 2024, Inauguration of the new 'Ladies Lounge' at the first floor, west wing, main campus, Supreme Court premises

providing meals and snacks to propagate a sense of community and allow legal professionals to connect and collaborate informally. A ladies lounge, specifically constructed for female lawyers of the bar, has been added to Supreme Court Complexes.

To help lawyers keep pace with changes in the legal field, the importance of ongoing education has been recognised. Initiatives to conduct regular workshops and seminars have been encouraged, focusing on current laws, practices, and emerging legal trends. These programs aim to enhance the skills and knowledge of legal professionals, ensuring high standards of legal representation. Additionally, the Advocates' Library are also some initiatives that are underway to facilitate better access to resources.

CJI Chandrachud is also a strong advocate for making the justice system accessible to all. By promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and establishing facilities that facilitate communication between lawyers and clients, he encourages the use of mediation and arbitration as effective means to resolve disputes outside of court. This approach reduces delays and enhances access to justice for individuals who may not have the resources for lengthy litigation. Efforts are being made to ensure that legal resources are accessible to a broader segment of society, particularly marginalised communities, including providing legal aid and support services to those in need.



24 October 2024, Inauguration of the Advocates' Library and Advocates' Wellness Centre at Eighth Floor, D-Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India

In summary, CJI Chandrachud views the Bar as a critical link in the justice system. He values its role in advocating for justice, promoting diversity, and supporting legal professionals. By recognising and addressing the needs of the Bar, he is working to strengthen the entire judiciary and enhance its responsiveness to the public. Diversity within the judiciary is another key aspect of CJI Chandrachud's vision. He understands that a judiciary reflecting India's diverse society is essential for fair representation. Under his leadership, the Supreme Court Collegium has taken steps to improve diversity in judicial appointments.

Under the leadership of the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, the Supreme Court has implemented significant reforms to the Advocates-on-Record (AoR) Examination, enhancing the accessibility and fairness for candidates pursuing AoR status. Acknowledging the unprecedented challenges faced by candidates during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, a one-time relaxation for candidates was granted, ensuring that the December 2021





17 September 2024, Inauguration of the renovated Delhi Government Health Centre (DGHC) opposite Post Office, near Gate B, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India

Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates (CDSA)

Date of meeting of the Permanent Committee / Full Court Meeting	Category	Remarks
10 July 2023	Framing "Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court of India, 2023"	-
16 October 2023	Designation of former Chief Justices/Judges of High Courts as Senior Advocates	49
19 January 2024	Designation of Advocates-on-Record/Advocates as Senior Advocates	56 (including 11 women)
6 March 2024	Designation of Advocates-on-Record/Advocates as Senior Advocates	5 (including 1 woman)
14 March 2024	First-time online applications for designation as Senior Advocates were invited from Advocates-on-Record /Advocates	-
14 August 2024	Designation of former Acting Chief Justice/ Judges of High Courts and as Senior Advocates	8
	Designation of Advocates-on-Record/Advocates as Senior Advocates	39 (including 10 women)

examination would not count as an attempt under Regulation 11(iv), which limits candidates to five attempts was granted. In December 2022, 262 candidates successfully qualified, while 199 qualified in June 2023. Notably in June 2024, the AoR examination set a record with 1,205 candidates marking a pioneering transition to a computer-based format.

Through his initiatives, CJI Chandrachud has worked to create a judiciary that is inclusive, supportive and responsive to the public. By prioritising diversity and well-being, he is ensuring that the Bar remains a vital link between the courts and the people, committed to the principles of fairness and equality.

Initiatives for the Staff

Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud has now and then emphasised the importance of the judiciary and its functioning, including the critical role of court staff. He has spoken about the need for a supportive environment that recognises the contributions of court personnel, who are essential for the smooth operation of the judicial system. CJI Chandrachud has vehemently worked on the necessity for improving working conditions and ensuring adequate resources for court staff, acknowledging that their efficiency and morale directly impact the delivery of justice. He advocates for a system where the staff is respected and valued, thereby enhancing the overall functioning of the judiciary.

CJI Chandrachud has recognised the need to keep the court staff up to date with the ever-changing technological upgrades through training and capacity-building programs to enhance their skills and ensure they are well-equipped to handle the challenges of modern judicial processes. Further emphasis has been placed on keeping the mental and physical well-being of the court staff in check through drives and health camps. CJI Chandrachud has highlighted that a well-functioning court system relies on the commitment and competence of its personnel.

His initiatives are a sheer reflection of his vision of shaping an efficient court system which is



13 December 2023, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud addresses the audience on the occasion of prize distribution ceremony of Felicitation of the Winners of the Annual Sports, Cultural and Other Events 2023, in the Supreme Court of India



21 June 2024, Special Yoga Session organised by the Supreme Court on the occasion of International Yoga Day

visible through the Training Programme on 'Leadership and Ethical Training' conducted for the concerned officers of the Registry wherein CJI Chandrachud announced the year-long training program for the officials of the Supreme Court. In his address, he also laid special emphasis on the importance of gender sensitisation along with training in ICT skills.

With the inauguration of the the new Health and Wellness Centre at the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court which offers Zumba dance and cardio classes in addition to standard gym equipment for court staff and the commencement of 'Supreme Court Sports, Cultural and Other Events - 2023,' CJI Chandrachud has encouraged court staff to



30 November 2023, The Supreme Court Employees Welfare Association, in coordination with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), organised a blood donation drive in the Additional Building Complex

follow a "holistic pattern of living" to promote their physical and mental well-being.

The Supreme Court of India recognises the importance of yoga and thus celebrated the International Day of Yoga with great fervour and enthusiasm. This significant event brought together judges, lawyers, and staff members to partake in a day dedicated to the holistic practice of yoga. The celebration was a testament to the court's commitment to promoting physical and mental well-being among its members. The Yoga Day celebration at the Supreme Court of India was a resounding success, serving as a shining example of the court and CJI Chandrachud's commitment to the well-being of its members.



22 February 2024, Inauguration of 'AYUSH Holistic Wellness Centre' in the premises of the Supreme Court of India



13 August 2024, Inauguration of the Mega Health Screening Camp organised in coordination with Max Hospital, Shalimar Bagh. Medical Camp on Cancer Awareness and Cardiology organised at Room No 111, C Block, 1st Floor, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India



Chief Justice of India, along with the officials of the Registry in one day workshop on the Leadership and Ethics

Chief Justice of India inaugurated the AYUSH Holistic Wellness Centre which was set up through the collaborative efforts of the Supreme Court Registry and the All India Institute of Ayurveda and aims to serve the mental and physical well-being of Judges of the Supreme Court and the over 2,000 employees of the Court's Registry.



15 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and Dr Sudha Murty, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee) attends the HPV Vaccination Awareness Programme at the Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Administrative Buildings Complex

International Conferences

The CJI has been working tirelessly to enhance judicial competencies, by investing in judicial education and training, and pursuing continuous innovation in the justice system. The visionary contributions and participation of Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud has been instrumental in advancing India's judicial engagement on the global stage. Through both virtual and in-person appearances across continents, the Chief Justice and the judiciary furthered India's commitment to a responsive, inclusive, and forward-thinking legal system.

The 4th Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC), hosted virtually by the Federal Court of Australia and the New South Wales courts, marked a collaborative approach to commercial law and arbitration. Dr Chandrachud, along with participating Justices, explored innovations that could bridge jurisdictional boundaries and support international dispute resolution, enhancing India's role within the global legal community.

In 2022, the Chief Justice's speech on "Facing Criticism from the Outside and Engaging with the Public Criticisms – Separating the Justified from the Unfair," at the 18th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific, resonated deeply. He emphasized the delicate balance of judicial independence with public accountability, reflecting India's broader values of transparency and trust in the judiciary. This insightful discourse was a keystone in defining India's modern judicial philosophy and underscored the need for judiciary-public alignment amidst evolving expectations.

In 2023, Chief Justice Chandrachud's engagements with global institutions expanded India's judicial discourse. From Cambridge and Edinburgh in the UK, where he addressed topics on global change and pro bono legal education, to Germany, where he met with constitutional and higher court officials, the Chief Justice championed India's progressive jurisprudence. His presence at the Singapore Academy of Law's annual lecture on "Seven Decades of the Indian Constitution: The Life of a Nation" in September 2023 was a landmark moment, showcasing the judiciary's adaptability and India's constitutional resilience.

The Chief Justice's leadership continued to resonate across events such as the Indo-German Judicial Dialogue, the Delhi Arbitration Weekend, the National Conference of District Judiciary, and the Supreme Court-Permanent Court of Arbitration conference on "International Arbitration and the Rule of Law." Each occasion provided platforms to reinforce India's arbitration infrastructure, judicial training, case management, and dedication to a progressive legal framework.

In recent engagements like the 2nd Indo-Singapore Judicial Roundtable, Dr Chandrachud

led discussions on critical issues such as climate change, artificial intelligence, and the right to a healthy environment, reflecting India's proactive stance in global environmental and technological challenges. The sessions underscored India's judiciary as a custodian of fundamental rights, drawing from precedent cases like M K Ranjitsinh v. Union of India, and reinforced the judiciary's responsibility in sustainable governance.

Dr Chandrachud's inspirational addresses and initiatives underscored an era of judicial evolution, embedding India's commitment to justice, technology, international cooperation, and societal resilience within both local and global frameworks. Through these impactful contributions, the Chief Justice of India illuminated a path forward for a judiciary that harmonises tradition with future readiness, imparting justice for all.


AND
THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
12TH INDO-BRITISH LEGAL FORUM MEET
16 MARCH 2024






and
Federal Constitutional Court of Germany


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वैशाख २२, २०८१ (May 4, 2024)
रेडिसन होटल, लाजिम्पाट, काठमाडौं (Radisson Hotel, Lazimpat, Kathmandu)
केन्द्रीय बाल न्याय समिति
Central Child Justice Committee



Tributes from across the Indian Judiciary

Justice Ranjana Desai

Former Judge, Supreme Court of India

Chief Justice of India, (Dr) D Y Chandrachud, feels just like a younger brother to me. While he may appear strict and tough on the outside, he is, in truth, a wonderful person with a kind, gentle, and deeply emotional soul. His compassion shines through in the way he consistently seeks to help those in need, always reaching out to support the poor and provide assistance. He lives a very simple life which is one of the things that I resonated with immediately. And today he is someone I can rely on at any point of my life.

Pankaj Sharma

District Judge, Commercial Court,
Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, Chhattisgarh

Chief Justice of India has been a shining light and a beacon of hope, especially for the District Judiciary for affording it a voice which is so desperately needed. Just to observe the vision and devotion of His Lordship CJI sir towards District Judiciary fills me with a renewed sense of purpose and inspires me to do my bit for the betterment of this esteemed institution. I have sought to take in the positivity and optimism of the Conference as my guiding light for future endeavours. The virtues of humility and patience are found reinforced simply by observing and listening to His Lordship CJI sir.

Sanjay Choudhary

Civil Judge & Judicial Magistrate (Gujarat State)

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Your Lordship for listening to the concerns and challenges faced by judicial officers. It is truly the first time in history that someone has come forward to address the plight of subordinate judges in such a comprehensive manner. Your efforts toward improving our financial well-being have already made a significant difference, and through Your Lordship, we see a beacon of hope for a stronger and more independent judiciary.

Kaustubh Nagesh Marathe

Jt. CJJD & JMFC, Georai,
Dist. Beed, Maharashtra

It is indeed my privilege and honour to express myself before a patron in chief of the Indian Judiciary. I am grateful that persons like us, at district/taluka level have been given the platform to express our opinions and give our little inputs for appropriate resolution benefiting the entire judicial fraternity in District courts of India.

Virendrasinh Gemalsinh Rana

Assistant Director, Gujarat State Judicial Academy, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

Under the able leadership of your Lordships, the whole system of Justice Delivery is putting all the

efforts to serve the society at large in letter and spirit. I personally feel that the way in which your Lordship approaches the issues and interacts with even the smallest part of the system, has created faith in our hearts. We are feeling safe in the hands of a leader like Your Lordship. Hearing your Lordship while dealing with any matter or while addressing the stakeholders on occasion, we have felt that the words are coming from the bottom of the heart.

TM Deshmukh-Naik

2nd Add. Small Cause Judge, Small Causes Court, Nagpur, Maharashtra

I am thankful to the Supreme Court and High Court for seeking their opinions, suggestions and ideas from the District Court Judges. Supreme Court Chief Justice Mr D Y Chandrachud, considering the situation of District Court Judges, showed interest and love towards them and seeking opinions and suggestions from them for their development is worth writing in golden letters in history. Addressing District Court Judges as not only the foundation of the Judiciary but also the backbone of the Judiciary, Chief Justice, Dr D Y Chandrachud has earlier done this in a conference at Kutch, Rajasthan. So the District Court Judge has been assured that there will be no more darkness under the lamp.

S J Ramgadiya

District and Addl. Sessions Judge, Pusad, Dist. Yavatmal, Maharashtra

I cannot restrict myself to expressing a few words of gratitude for giving me the opportunity to witness and participate in the historic celebration of the 75th years of the Supreme Court of India, and also to see you with us for the entire two days. Your continuous encouragement to us, to discuss improving our justice delivery system, means a lot to every member of the District Judiciary. It is a lifetime experience, a treasure, an unforgettable and proud moment for me to be part of this special occasion. I would describe this moment as the happiest, amazing, wonderful and unique moment in my entire judicial career of twenty five years. Thank you so much Lordship for the same. We assure to perform our duties at the highest levels of integrity, dedication, and commitment to justice.

Nidhi Jain, Ankit Gyan and Divya Pandey

Assistant Editors, Supreme Court Reports

A heartfelt thanks to Dr D Y Chandrachud, an extraordinary Chief Justice of India. A visionary and a stalwart of the Indian Judiciary whose unwavering commitments for the cause of justice are unparalleled. His significant endeavours strengthened the fabric of the official journal, the Supreme Court Reports. Under his exemplary leadership, the e-SCR/Digi SCR Project made the judgments along with headnotes from the year 1950 onwards available to all for free of cost on the Supreme Court website. This move has immensely benefited the legal fraternity and the general public at large.

Manisha Sharma

Junior Court Assistant, Editorial

CJI Dr D Y Chandrachud has been very considerate and encouraging not only for the law fraternity but also for the registry of the Supreme Court of India. Be it motivating the staff to take out time for themselves on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, or attending the movie screenings which deliver strong social messages, after a whole day of work at the court, he truly walks the talk about work life balance and keeping oneself fit through yoga. His undying efforts to

make the court's infrastructure accessible for everyone, set a benchmark for each one of us to look around ourselves for the opportunities we could have to make the surroundings more welcoming for the specially abled persons. He has the gift of the gab and will hold your attention for however long he would be speaking with such eloquence. Apart from possessing a vast and exemplary knowledge of law, he is a very empathetic person, as is evident by the judgments pronounced by him which will surely stand the test of time. We have a lot to learn from him and look forward to his further contributions to society which will surely be inspiring.

Aayushi Sharma

Junior Court Assistant, Editorial

I joined the Supreme court of India as a Junior Court Assistant in February 2024 and had the good fortune of witnessing CJI D Y Chandrachud's remarkable insights on various subjects. Along with The prestige of working in the Apex Court of the country comes the responsibility of equal measure. However, Justice Chandrachud has left no stone unturned in alleviating employee stress and fostering a positive work culture; ranging from hosting eminent personalities like Sudha Murty and planning leadership expeditions in the salubrious mountains of Uttarakhand, to increasing the workforce in order to meet the rising demands of the Court. In a recent event hosted by the SCI regarding HPV vaccinations for the staff, which he fondly refers to as his second family, he talked about how it's not only important to raise our daughters strong, but also to raise our sons sensitive. As a woman living in today's world where true leaders are hard to come by, it is refreshing to witness the perspective of a visionary and empathetic leader at the helm of the Judiciary.

As the 50th Chief Justice of India, Justice Chandrachud has made us proud to see a son of Maharashtra reach the pinnacle of the Indian judiciary. Throughout his distinguished career, he has remained true to his conscience, infusing the judiciary with wisdom, fairness, and a vision for a different work culture. In a society governed by any political system, the aspirations for liberty and equality stand paramount, and Justice



Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya

Chandrachud has zealously protected these values. His gentle influence has transformed the judiciary, earning him the respect and admiration of all. Having shared the bench with him, I can attest to the comfort and inspiration he provides, particularly to law students. I commend Justice Chandrachud for his leadership in advancing the e-Courts project, digitising the judiciary with innovations such as online case adjudication, real-time data exchange, and user-friendly e-filing systems. His commitment to modernising the judicial system is evident in his unwavering dedication to ensuring access to justice for all. His legacy will endure not only in the judgments rendered but also in the values he instilled in those around him. Though he retires, we believe his dedication to justice will continue in new roles.

Nitin Thakker

President, Bombay Bar Association

Justice Chandrachud's compassion is a common thread in his judgments, reflecting a unique, human perspective that understands justice as a lived reality for individuals. His transformative rulings in cases like Puttaswamy and Joseph Shine demonstrate his unwavering commitment to constitutional ideals, championing equality, dignity, and inclusion. His dynamic interpretations of Articles 14, 19, and 21 have shifted paradigms, emphasising substantive over formal equality. Justice Chandrachud has dedicated his career to ensuring representation for all segments of society, making justice accessible and inclusive through initiatives like translating judgments into regional languages. His embrace of virtual hearings and digitization has extended the reach of justice nationwide. As we celebrate his exceptional contributions, let us be inspired to continue advocating for the rights of all individuals and ensuring that the principles of equality and justice resonate throughout our society. On behalf of the Bombay Bar Association, I wish Your Lordship a great future and all the best.

Dr Birendra Saraf

Advocate General, State of Maharashtra

Justice Chandrachud's tenure has been marked by unwavering commitment to upholding the Constitution and empowering every citizen to seek justice with confidence. He has tirelessly advocated for marginalised groups, ensuring their rights are protected. His judgments have earned India international recognition for being sensitive to societal needs, embodying the principle that every individual deserves fair treatment. He introduced significant administrative reforms, embracing technology to enhance the judicial system, ensuring justice is accessible to all. Despite his remarkable achievements, he has remained the same warm and affectionate person I first met nearly three decades ago. Justice Chandrachud has shaped the judiciary with his dedication and passion, challenging the status quo for the betterment of the nation. His legacy will inspire future generations, and on behalf of the Maharashtra bar, I wish him happiness, good health, and continued success in his future endeavours.

Ferzana Beheramkamdin

President, Bombay Incorporated Law Society

Justice Chandrachud has, since the beginning of his career, been one of us, having practised in our court until his elevation as a judge, a position he held for 13 years before becoming Chief Justice of Allahabad in 2013, then a judge of the Supreme Court in 2016, and the 50th Chief Justice of India in November 2022. His Lordship is supremely intelligent, with a fantastic memory, clarity of thought and expression, and a deep knowledge of law, all coupled with compassion. This is evident in his judgments

on privacy, free speech, personal liberty, and gender justice, and in his interactions with others. Despite attaining the highest position in the Indian judiciary, he has remained humble and approachable, as he was when I first spoke to him outside this court. His own observation in the case of Navtej Singh Johar highlights his belief that recognising others who are different is a sign of our evolution. We warmly welcome His Lordship back to our court and wish him eternal joy and contentment in the future.

Mr Prashant Relekar

President, Advocates Association of Western India

Often regarded as a reformist and visionary, His Lordship has navigated complex legal challenges that will resonate in Indian history. His Lordship's career is marked by a commitment to constitutional principles and safeguarding individual rights, exemplified by his landmark judgment in Justice K S Puttaswamy vs. Union of India, which upheld the right to privacy as a fundamental right. As Chief Justice, he has pushed for judicial reforms and modernization of court processes, setting a standard for judicial activism that balances progress with the rule of law. His vision of a just and inclusive India will inspire future generations of judges and legal practitioners. His Lordship's contributions to the legal system have redefined justice in India, and his legacy will continue to guide us. We express our deepest gratitude for his wisdom, dedication, and balanced judgment, and we wish him peace, good health, and fulfilment in the next chapter of his life.

Anju Arora

PS to Registrar
Posted at the Residential Office of the CJI

It has been an absolute privilege to serve under the guidance of the 50th Chief Justice of India for more than 8 years. His kindness, work ethic, and deep empathy define him not only as a great judge but also as an extraordinary human being. The way he interacts with the staff and their families is nothing short of exemplary, demonstrating a level of care and respect that is rare to find. His intellectual brilliance is matched only by his humility and grounded nature. He is always calm, composed, and approachable, which makes him a brilliant speaker as much as an incredibly attentive listener. I extend my heartfelt wishes for the Chief Justice's continued happiness and divine blessings.

Reflections


















Supreme Court of India
and
Supreme Court Bar Association
Constitution Day Celebrations - 2023




SUPREME COURT OF INDIA






75
National Conference of the District Judiciary
Sunday | 1 September 2024

Note of Gratitude

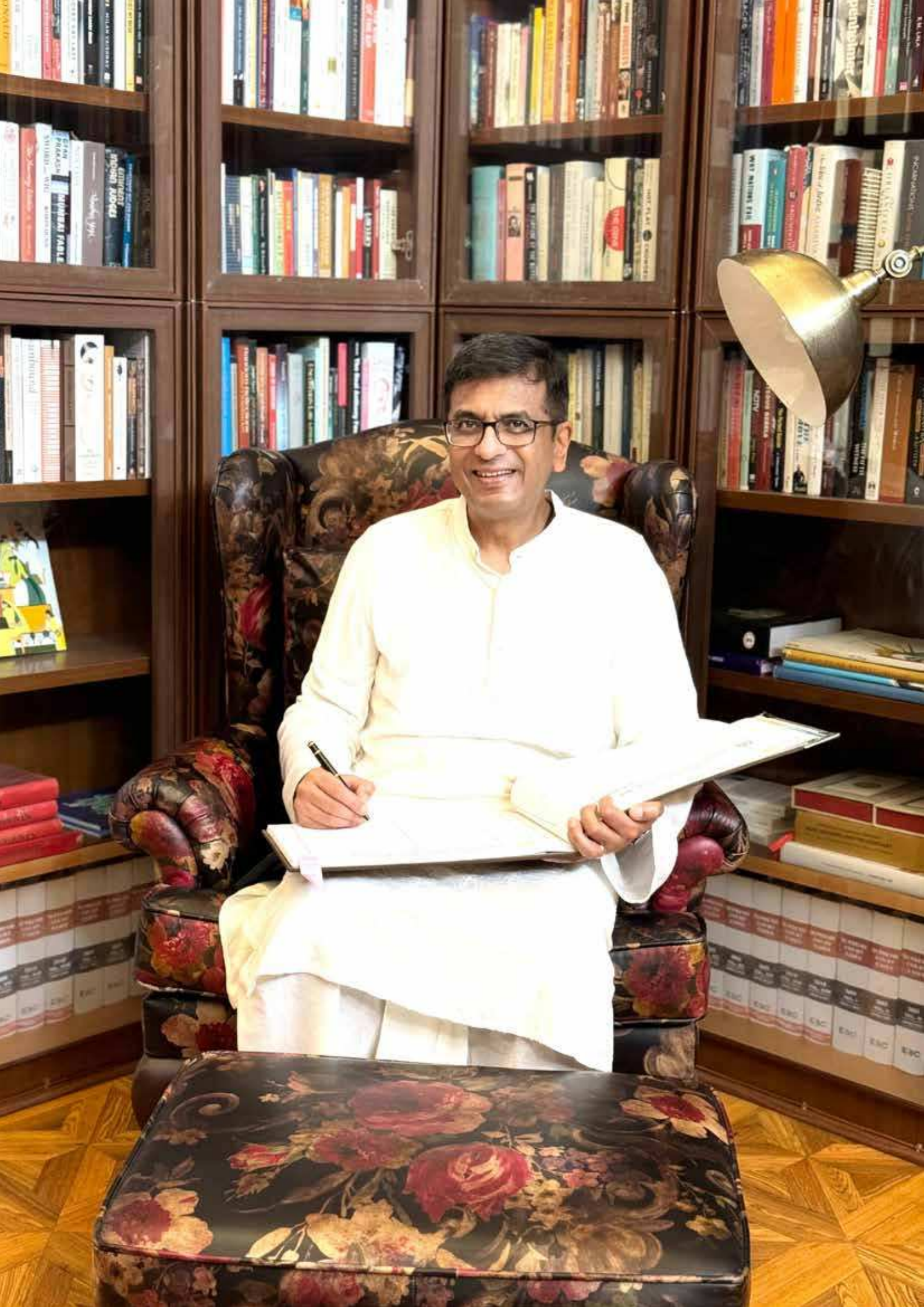


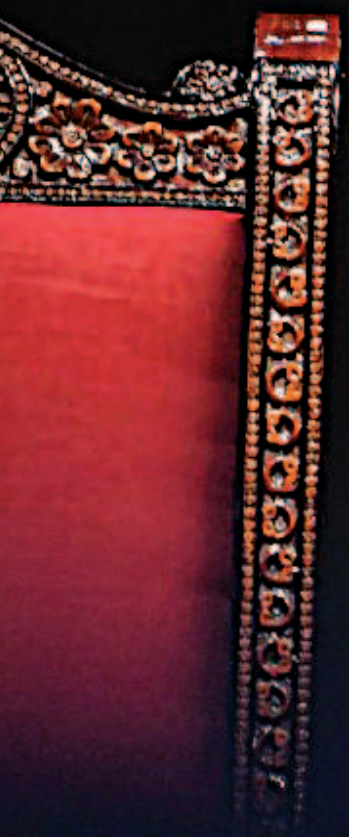
The Centre for Research & Planning (CRP) extends its sincere gratitude to the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachu for his visionary guidance and invaluable support in transforming CRP into a key driver of judicial research, innovation, and planning.

Over the past two years, Chief Justice Chandrachud's commitment to data-driven research and strategic planning has enabled the CRP to significantly broaden its initiatives. Under his leadership, the CRP has had the privilege of contributing to national judicial conferences and seminars, and producing key publications. These include the release of 'State of the Judiciary – A report on Infrastructure, Budgeting, Human resources, and ICT'; 'Handbook Concerning Persons with Disabilities', and 'Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes'. CRP has also been entrusted with the task of publishing a montly newsletter 'Supreme Court Chronicle'. The newsletter ensures that readers get to see the workings and initiatives of the Court in a transparent manner. Meanwhile, among many remarkable initiatives of the CJI, has been the preparation of case summaries, by the CRP.

Similarly, the CRP has advanced its work in policy development with the creation of a Draft White Paper on Uniformity in ACR (Annual Confidential Reports) and the Paper on Judicial Academy Curriculum, both of which represent foundational efforts to standardise the judicial training and performance evaluations across India. On 5th November, 2024, the Supreme Court also released its three publications at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President unveiled the book on 'Justice for the Nation: Reflections on 75 Years of the Supreme Court of India,' 'Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion' and 'Legal Aid through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India' prepared by the Centre for Research for Research and Planning. Additionally, the CRP's expansion in terms of both resources and capacity has allowed it to undertake significant projects like SC-JUDICARE aimed at improving case categorization, legal aid accessibility, and case management.

The CRP team headed by the Director, Dr Sukhda Pritam (Additional Registrar) remains deeply inspired by Chief Justice Chandrachud's guidance, trust, and encouragement. His dedication to judicial progress has not only enriched CRP's role in research and planning but has also left an indelible mark on the development of jurisprudence in India. For this, the CRP expresses its sincere gratitude, honouring the Chief Justice's legacy that will continue to inspire our work toward a more responsive and resilient justice system.





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