



Supreme Court Chronicle



Issue IV | Special Edition - Supreme Court Diamond Jubilee Year | February 2024

Highlights

- Diamond Jubilee Celebrations
- Ceremonial Bench - Commemorating the First Sitting of the Supreme Court
- Initiatives for Supreme Court Advocates
- Strengthening District Courts: A Step Towards Independent District Judiciary



Ceremonial Bench of the
Judges of the **Supreme Court**
28 January 2024



It gives me immense pleasure to introduce the special Diamond Jubilee edition of the *Supreme Court Chronicle*. On 28 January 2024, the Supreme Court of India celebrated the Foundation Day and commenced the Diamond Jubilee year of its inception. As we enter into the 75th anniversary of our nation's highest court, we must reflect on its remarkable evolution amidst the backdrop of profound societal changes.

Embracing the digital era, the Supreme Court has undergone a transformative journey, exemplified by a new user-friendly website, introduction of Digi-SCR— providing free access to legal resources, and the implementation of Digital Courts 2.0. All of this marks a significant leap forward, leveraging cutting-edge technology to streamline judicial processes and ensure expeditious dispensation of justice.

Within the pages of this issue, there is a section titled “Strengthening District Courts: A Step Toward Independent District Judiciary”, which deals with initiatives undertaken to address the grassroots challenges in the district judiciary. Among other interesting offerings include a sampling of reported judgments, important initiatives undertaken for Supreme Court Advocates and a round-up of other Court events for the month of January 2024.

As the Diamond Jubilee year of the Supreme Court commences, we celebrate not only the rich legacy of the Supreme Court but also its forward-looking approach in harnessing technology to serve the needs of a modern society.

Happy Reading!

Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud
Chief Justice of India

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Fresh from the Bench

The State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors v Association of Retired Supreme Court and High Court Judges at Allahabad & Ors, 2024 INSC 4

Summoning of government officials by courts

In its judgment dated 3 January 2024, a three-judge bench comprising the Chief Justice of India, **Dr D Y Chandrachud**, **Justice J B Pardiwala** and **Justice Manoj Misra** held that the Allahabad High Court did not have the power under Article 229 of the Constitution to direct the State Government to notify Rules proposed by the Chief Justice pertaining to post-retiral benefits for former Judges of the High Court. The Court in this case issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be followed by courts while summoning government officials and cautioned courts against humiliating such officials or making unnecessary comments on their physical appearance, educational background or social standing. The Court said that the SOP must be followed by all High Courts and emphasised that courts must steer clear from arbitrarily summoning

officials. The Court noted that personal presence of officers may be required in evidence-based adjudication, summary proceedings and non-adversarial proceedings (where the Court requires assistance on complex policy issues). The Court remarked that if the issues can be addressed through affidavits and other documents, personal presence may not be necessary and should not be directed as a routine measure. The Court observed that in cases where in-person appearance of the official is required, the court should, as a first option, allow the officer to appear before it through video conferencing. The Court further held that when the personal presence of an official is directed, the reason should be recorded as to why such presence is required.

All India Judges Association v Union of India & Ors, 2024 INSC 26

Implementation of Second National Judicial Pay Commission recommendations

In its judgment dated 4 January 2024, a three-judge bench comprising the Chief Justice of India, **Dr D Y Chandrachud**, **Justice J B Pardiwala** and **Justice Manoj Misra** directed all states to implement the recommendations of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission with respect to salaries and service conditions of members of district judiciary. The Court also directed the

High Courts to constitute a committee named 'Committee for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary' to oversee the implementation of salaries and service conditions and to deal with grievances of judicial officers. The Court noted that it is important that judges lead a life with financial dignity to ensure judicial independence. The Court held that separation of power

demands that the officers of the judiciary be treated separately and distinct from the staff of the legislative and executive wings. Judges are not employees of the State but are holders of public office who wield sovereign judicial power. In that sense, judges are only comparable to members of the legislature and ministers in the executive.

Thus, the Court noted that there cannot be an objection that judicial officers receive pay which is not at par with executive staff or legislative staff. The Court also held that there is a need to maintain uniformity in the service conditions of judicial officers across the country.

Bilkis Yakub Rasool v Union of India & Ors, 2024 INSC 24

Power of remission of state governments

In its judgment dated 8 January 2024, a two-judge bench comprising **Justice B V Nagarathna** and **Justice Ujjal Bhuyan** set aside the order of the Gujarat government granting remission to 11 convicts. These convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment for multiple murders and gang rapes, including that of Bilkis Bano (the petitioner herein), during the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat. The Court noted that Section 432 of CrPC provides for power to suspend or remit sentence by the appropriate government. The Court explained that the government of the State within which the offender is tried and sentenced is the appropriate government to consider the

application for remission and not the government where the offence is committed or the convicts are imprisoned. The Court held that the government of Maharashtra is the appropriate government to grant remission as the trial and sentence of the convicts took place in the State of Maharashtra. Hence, the government of Gujarat's order granting remission to the convicts was invalid and against the rule of law. The Court also noted that the exercise of power by the State of Gujarat was an instance of usurpation and abuse of power. Accordingly, the court directed the convicts, who were given premature release in August 2022, to surrender back to jail within two weeks.

Algammal & Ors v Ganesan & Anr, 2024 INSC 28

No right of specific performance on failure to pay within timeline

In its judgment dated 10 January 2024, a two-judge bench comprising **Justice Vikram Nath** and **Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah** held that a buyer who fails to comply with the timeline for payment cannot seek specific performance of the agreement to sell. The Court observed that in the

present case, there existed an onus to pay the entire balance of consideration by the buyer within six months. The Court noted that the buyers had not even offered to pay the remaining amount before the expiry of the six months implying that there was no readiness and willingness on the part of

the buyers to comply with their obligations in terms of the Agreement. The Court ruled that when a contract stipulates a specific time frame within which the consideration needs to be paid

by the buyer to the seller, then the buyer must strictly make the payment within the timeframe, otherwise, the buyer can not avail the remedy of specific performance of the sale deed.

Asma Lateef & Anr v Shabbir Ahmad & Ors, 2024 INSC 36

Consequences of failure to file written statements

In its judgment dated 12 January 2024, a three-judge bench comprising **Justice B R Gavai**, **Justice Dipankar Datta** and **Justice Aravind Kumar** held that a Court cannot pronounce judgment in a suit merely on the default of the defendant to file a written statement if the plaintiff does not prove his case. The Court noted that in order to be entitled to a judgment in its favour, a plaintiff is required to prove his pleaded case by adducing evidence. The Court explained that Order 8, Rule 10 (Procedure when party fails to present written statement called for by Court) of the Civil

Procedure Code provides two alternatives: either to pronounce judgment against the defendant defaulting to file the written statement; or to pass such other order as deemed fit. The first alternative (passing judgment) is not always mandatory. The Court observed that the rule is permissive, granting two options to the court and if in every case a judgment is pronounced against a person in response to non-submission of the written statement then it would render the second part of Rule 10 otiose.

Raja Gounder & Ors v M Sengodan & Ors, 2024 INSC 47

Right of children born out of void and voidable marriages to parent's property

In its judgment dated 19 January 2024, a two-judge bench comprising **Justice M M Sundresh** and **Justice S V N Bhatti** held that children born out of void and voidable marriages are considered legitimate as per Section 16 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and are entitled to inherit their parents' properties, whether self-acquired or ancestral. The Court clarified that such children are not coparceners in the ancestral property and cannot

claim the ancestral property in their own right but are entitled only to their parents' share of the ancestral property. The Court also noted that the admission of the common ancestor (father) to treat the children born out of a void marriage as his legitimate children would entitle such children to the same share in his property as the children born out of a valid marriage.



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud presenting a memento to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi in the presence of the Judges of the Supreme Court, Minister of State for Law and Justice (I/C), President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Chairman of the Bar Council of India, at the commemoration of Diamond Jubilee Year

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Supreme Court marked the commencement of the Diamond Jubilee year of the Foundation Day on 28 January 1950. The celebration began in the presence

of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and the Judges of the Supreme Court.

“

भारत के संविधान निर्माताओं ने स्वतंत्रता, समानता और न्याय के सिद्धांतों वाले स्वतंत्र भारत का सपना देखा था। भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इन सिद्धांतों के संरक्षण का निरंतर प्रयास किया है। अभिव्यक्ति की आजादी हो, व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता हो, सामाजिक न्याय-सोशल जस्टिस हो, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने भारत की वाइब्रेंट Democracy को निरंतर सशक्त किया। सात दशकों से भी लंबी इस यात्रा में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने Individual Rights और Freedom of Speech पर कई महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय किए हैं। इन फैसलों ने देश के Socio-Political परिवेश को एक नई दिशा दी है।

...देश की पूरी न्याय व्यवस्था सुप्रीम कोर्ट के दिशा निर्देशों और मार्गदर्शन पर निर्भर होती है। ये हमारा कर्तव्य है कि इस कोर्ट की Accessibility भारत के अंतिम छोर तक हो और इससे हर भारतीय की आवश्यकताएं पूरी हो सकें। इसी सोच के साथ कुछ समय पहले e-Court Mission Project के तीसरे चरण को स्वीकृति दी गई है। इसके लिए दूसरे फेज से 4 गुना ज्यादा राशि को मंजूरी दी गई है। मुझे खुशी है कि देश भर की अदालतों के Digitisation को चीफ जस्टिस चंद्रचूड़ खुद मॉनीटर कर रहे हैं। Ease of Justice के प्रयासों के लिए मैं उन्हें बधाई देता हूं।

—The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi

”



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud addressing the audience on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Supreme Court of India

During the celebrations, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud delivered a profound address expressing gratitude to the dignitaries and recognising the historical significance of the occasion:

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. It affirmed the belief that the Judiciary should serve as a bulwark against injustice, tyranny, and arbitrariness. The Supreme Court is an institution of resolution and justice. The fact that people approach it in large numbers speaks to how far we have succeeded in discharging that role. Today is not only a celebration of the day when the

Supreme Court came into being, it also is 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.

The Chief Justice of India 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. Briefly summarising the achievements of the court, the Chief Justice of India mentioned that the e-filing platform, which was launched in May 2023, offers a host of improved features making 24x7 filing of cases simpler, expeditious and convenient. Due to this, the Supreme Court experienced a substantial increase in e-filings, with nearly 1,28,000 filings to date. Currently, e-filing facilities are available in 25 States, resulting in a remarkable 29 lakh cases being e-filed.

The Chief Justice of India, highlighted the successful adoption of e-office, with thirty-six branches of the Supreme Court Registry onboard and 4,000 office files processed online. With the introduction of the SuSwagatam portal, visitors now generate passes online in a paperless mode, with 1,23,000 entry passes generated so far. Further, the Supreme Court has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras to explore areas that can be completely automated to leverage technology and artificial intelligence for enhancing efficiency.

The Chief Justice of India concluded his address by highlighting four issues:

First, emerging out of an adjournment culture to a culture of professionalism in Courts; second,



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi in the presence of the Judges of the Supreme Court, Minister of State for Law and Justice (I/C), President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Chairman of the Bar Council of India, at the commemoration of Diamond Jubilee Year

ensuring that the length of oral arguments does not interminably delay judicial outcomes and lead to the capture of judicial institutions by the powerful and the mighty; third, the provision of a level playing field for first generation lawyers and men and women from marginalised segments of society who have the will to work hard and the potential to succeed; and fourth, to beginning the conversation on long vacations and to decide, in consultation with the Bar, whether alternatives such as flexi-time for lawyers and judges is possible.

We must reflect on the journey that we have traversed 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. I thank the judges and the staff of all the High Courts as indeed I thank my own colleagues and staff in the Supreme Court in facilitating our initiatives which are being launched today.



The Prime Minister of India, the Chief Justice of India, Judges of the Supreme Court, the Minister of State for Law and Justice (I/C), Attorney General of India, Solicitor General of India, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Chairman, Bar Council of India at the commemoration of Diamond Jubilee Year

Supreme Court Website

The new website of the Supreme Court was launched for an enhanced user experience, characterised by a dynamic and functional design, a user friendly interface, and robust content management. It provides users with convenient access to comprehensive information about the organisation, pivotal technology based services, crucial documents, and important updates. The website has been meticulously crafted within the ‘Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service’ (S3WAAS) framework of National Information Centre (NIC), prioritising accessibility for differently-abled users.



New Supreme Court Website

Digital Courts 2.0

‘Digital Courts 2.0’ was launched through a collaborative effort between the e-Committee and the Department of Justice under the e-Courts project. Leveraging the power of artificial intelligence, particularly in transcribing speech to text, the platform empowers judges to efficiently dictate orders, judgments, and record testimonies in real-time. Incorporating National Informatics Centre’s artificial intelligence-powered tool AI-Shruti, the platform further facilitates automatic speech recognition for multiple languages, thereby streamlining the transcription process.



Digital Courts 2.0

Digi-SCR



Digi-SCR

The Editorial Section in collaboration with the Judges' Library has developed an important platform called the Digi-SCR. This platform offers a user friendly digital format, ensuring ease of accessibility.

“Digi-SCR” is a ground breaking platform dedicated to providing citizens with access to legal judgments in a user-friendly digital format. It offers free access to all 519 volumes of the Supreme Court reports

dating back to 1950, presented in a convenient and open-access structure. Users can choose from various viewing modes, including HTML and PDF formats, and benefit from extensive search parameters, enhancing searchability. The platform's key features include a fortnightly release schedule for swift dissemination of judgments, exclusive digital publishing to reduce environmental impact, an intuitive website for optimized navigation, and open access for law students and the wider public.

This initiative empowers legal education and practice, fosters scholarship, and promotes transparency and accountability within the legal system. Moreover, it significantly contributes to environmental sustainability by eliminating the carbon footprint associated with print publications. In essence, Digi-SCR represents a pioneering frontier in legal knowledge dissemination, advocating for progress, transparency, and a sustainable future.



Team Digi-SCR

Dr Uma Narayan (centre), Registrar (Editorial) with her team at the Editorial Section and Judges' Library, who were instrumental in developing Digi-SCR Platform



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

Ceremonial Bench—Commemorating the First Sitting of the Supreme Court

Over the span of seventy-five years since its inception, the Supreme Court has undergone profound transformations, both in its structure and in the legal framework within which it operates. From a modest beginning with six Judges, it has now expanded to a formidable strength of thirty-four. In its nascent stages, even preliminary hearings were conducted by a Bench of six, addressing a caseload of around one thousand two hundred and fifteen cases in 1950,

with judgments pronounced in only a fraction of those.

Today, the Supreme Court operates with a more streamlined approach, typically convening with a Bench of two Judges, unless the complexity of the case warrants a larger panel. Recent years have seen a concerted effort to tackle the backlog of cases, with a proactive measure towards reducing pendency. In 2023 alone, a remarkable 52,221 cases were disposed of and much credit is owed to technology, which has been instrumental in expediting processes, particularly through e-filing systems that minimise delays.



First sitting of the six Judges of the Supreme Court along with 13 Chief Justices from various High Courts on 28 January 1950

Foreign Delegation in Diamond Jubilee Celebrations



From left to right: Justice Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha (Chief Justice of Nepal), Justice B V Nagarathna, Justice Sanjay Karol, Justice Bela M Trivedi, Justice Kinley Dorji (Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan), Justice Rehana Bibi Mungly-Gulbul (Chief Justice of Mauritius), Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice Hima Kohli, and Justice B R Gavai on Diamond Jubilee Celebrations



From left to right: Justice Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha (Chief Justice of Nepal), Justice Obaidul Hassan (Chief Justice of Bangladesh), Attorney General of India, R Venkataramani and Justice Kinley Dorji (Judge, Supreme Court of Bhutan)



Justice Jayantha C Jayasuriya (Chief Justice of Sri Lanka) heading towards the auditorium on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Initiatives for Supreme Court Advocates

On 11 January 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud inaugurated the function of 'Arbitration and Consultation Room' at Ground Floor, M C Setalvad, Lawyers' Chamber Block. As part of this initiative, the Supreme Court will provide all the facilities related to arbitration and mediation proceedings in these rooms including meeting facility, video conferencing facility, etc.



The Supreme Court on 19 January 2024 designated 56 advocates as senior advocates, eleven out of whom are women (Credits: Bar and Bench)

On 19 January 2024, the Supreme Court released the list of 56 lawyers for senior designation by the Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates (CDSA) headed by the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud. Among these chosen individuals were 11 women and 34 first-generation lawyers. The committee included Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice B R Gavai, as well as Attorney General R Venkataramani and senior advocate Kiran Suri, who serves as a nominated member of the Bar. While addressing the audience on the occasion of Diamond

For access to 3PDF option through e-filing 2.0

1. AOR login to their e-filing portal.



2. In "My Cases soon to be listed" section, 3-PDF option is available only in matters to be listed before Court No. 1

AOR e-filing portal

Jubilee Celebrations on 28 January 2024, the Chief Justice of India hailed this milestone and mentioned that, “Before the beginning of 2024 only 12 women were designated as senior advocates in the history of the Supreme Court, over the last 74 years. Now, the Supreme Court designated 11 women coming from different parts of the country as senior advocates in one selection. Our legitimacy will endure from the inclusion of diverse sections of the population in our system therefore we need to make more efforts to bring different sections of society into the legal profession.”

The Supreme Court launched a project to help share scanned (digitised) paper books with

Advocates-on-Record (AOR) on a pilot basis with effect from 25 January 2024. The project was launched after an issue about variations in page numbers of scanned and digitised paper books during court proceedings was flagged. In order to overcome such variations, causing grave inconvenience and loss of invaluable time for the Court and the members of the Bar, the Supreme Court in its notice dated 24 January 2024, notified that the “Registry shall be sharing the scanned and digitised paper books with the concerned Advocates-on-Record through e-Filing 2.0 platform with an objective, to facilitate synchronised browsing and reference of page numbers during the course of court hearings.”

Strengthening District Courts: A Step Towards Independent District Judiciary

The district judiciary serves as a cornerstone of our independent judicial system, which is, in turn, part of the basic structure of the Constitution. It stands as a bulwark for justice, a fundamental aspiration articulated in the preamble which holds a vital position in the judicial system. Furthermore, it is the district judiciary that functions as the primary point of access for litigants, ensuring the availability of justice to all members of society.

Therefore, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, in his bottom-up approach is committed to a reformed district judiciary ecosystem. In his tenure as the Chief Justice of India, he has thus far worked tirelessly to address the grassroot challenges in the district judiciary, aiming to strengthen and support them, while also eliminating the subordination

stigma associated with their role. Speaking at the felicitation ceremony organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association on 14 November 2022, the Chief Justice of India acknowledged the increase in women judge strength in district judiciary. “Interestingly now, many more women are coming into the district judiciary. The last recruitment which took place in the State of Rajasthan, over 60% of the new recruits were women. There is a generational shift which is going on in the district judiciary,” emphasised the Chief Justice of India.

While addressing the issue of lack of infrastructure in district judiciary and the colonial perception of subordination, the Chief Justice of India mentioned, “If we have to change, we have to change the face of the district judiciary, first and foremost. We have

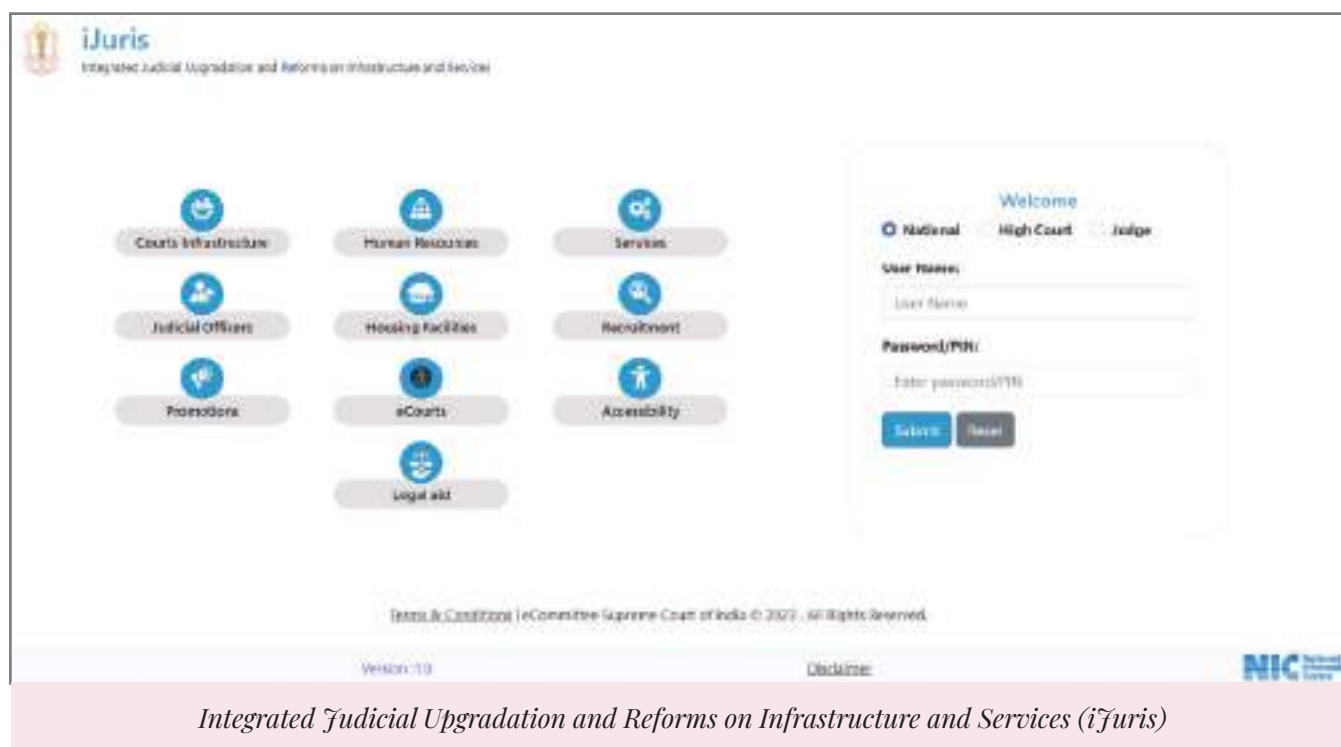
fostered a culture of subordination. We call our district judiciary, as subordinate judiciary. I make the conscious effort not to call our district judges as subordinate judges because they are not subordinate, they belong to the district judiciary...we have to change our mindsets about how we perceive the district judiciary.”

The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, has undertaken a plethora of initiatives and reforms both on administrative and judicial sides. Serving as the Chairperson of the e-Committee, he launched the Digital Accessibility program, significantly enhancing the accessibility of the Indian judicial system for individuals with disabilities. Under the leadership and guidance of the Chief Justice of India, the e-committee successfully inaugurated the first Digital Accessibility Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training for visually challenged judicial officers and court staff at Indian Institute of Public Administration. And as of 18 January

2024, 302 individuals have been trained in 15 batches since the inauguration.

In furtherance of his efforts, the Chief Justice of India introduced an online platform integrated with the National Judicial Data Grid called ‘**Integrated Judicial Upgradation and Reforms on Infrastructure and Services**’ (**iJuris**), for online updation and monitoring of statistics of the district judiciary. Data based on six heads related to court complexes, individual courts, judicial strength, accessibility, and legal services authorities is updated on a real time basis by all the High Courts and District Courts to examine the current state of the infrastructure and human resources of the judiciary.

The Chief Justice of India’s momentous inauguration of the new District Court Complex (Nyaya Mandir) in Rajkot, Gujarat, on 6 January 2024, symbolised a significant leap forward in the pursuit of inclusive and modern judicial facilities.





New District Court Complex (Nyaya Mandir) at Rajkot, Gujarat

This exemplary establishment, equipped with amenities such as crèches and accessible toilets, alongside cutting-edge technology integration, marks a pivotal milestone in ensuring equitable access to justice. The launch of e-filing 3.0 for Gujarat's district judiciary, coupled with the introduction of a video conferencing witness deposition centre and an AI-based text-to-speech callout system by the Gujarat High Court, represents a groundbreaking advancement in legal proceedings.

Such initiatives not only underscore the judiciary's proactive approach to embracing innovation but also reflect the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud's commitment to enhancing accessibility and efficiency in the delivery of justice.



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud inaugurating the District Court Complex (Nyaya Mandir) at Rajkot, Gujarat

Legal Aid

In commemoration of India's 75th year as a Republic, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched a Pan-India Campaign on the theme "Restoring the Youth." The campaign launched by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Executive Chairman of NALSA, aimed at identifying juveniles in prisons. Providing them with essential legal assistance in filing necessary applications for claiming juvenility before the concerned court and facilitating their transfer to Child Care Institutions in identified cases.

NALSA organised two important programmes in January 2024 namely the State Level Conference of District Legal Services Authorities of Madhya Pradesh on 13 January 2024 at Bhopal and the Launch of Pan-India Campaign, "Restoring the Youth: Pan-India Campaign for Identifying Juveniles in Prisons and Rendering Legal Assistance – 2024" on 25 January 2024.



Executive Chairman, NALSA, Justice Sanjiv Khanna chaired the first-ever State Level Conference of District Legal Services Authorities of Madhya Pradesh on 13 January 2024 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Justice Sanjiv Khanna while launching the campaign, emphasised, "Criminals are made by circumstances. No one is born a criminal. The path towards criminality is often a result and consequence of experiences and circumstances mostly shaped by neglect, external influences or lack of guidance." 'Restoring the Youth' is a call to action, aligning with the principles of juvenile justice, marking a significant step towards ensuring implementation of the juvenile justice laws in letter and spirit.



Justice Sanjiv Khanna during the virtual launch of Pan-India Campaign – "Restoring the Youth: Pan-India Campaign for Identifying Juveniles in Prisons and Rendering Legal Assistance" organised by NALSA on 25 January 2024

Training Hub



On 6 January 2024, a workshop on “Response to Emergency Contingency” and a demo on the use of fire hose reels and fire extinguishers was conducted for 26 staff members of the Supreme Court registry. The session was led by Colonel (retired) K B Marwah, Additional Registrar (Security), and Fire Department Trainers



On 13 January 2024, Deputy Registrar, Mr Rajan Singh, conducted an orientation training programme on “Supreme Court Officers and Servants (Conditions of Service and Conduct) Rules, 1961,” for 71 newly promoted Court Assistants



On 20 January 2024, Additional Registrar/Central Public Information Officer (CPIO), Ms Himani Sarad, and Assistant Registrar, Mr Ravi Shanti Bhushan, conducted an Orientation Training Programme on the “Right to Information Act, 2005,” for 71 newly promoted Court Assistants

Event Roundup

A training session on ‘Gender Sensitisation and Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace’ was organised by Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) of the Supreme Court on 19 January 2024, for the members of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCAORA). The programme was chaired by the Chief Justice of India Dr D Y Chandrachud, Chairperson of GSICC, Justice Hima Kohli, along with the President of SCBA, Adish C Aggarwala. Among the guests, the Secretary-General, Registrars of the Supreme Court of India, office bearers of the SCBA, SCAORA, and members and volunteers of GSICC were also present.



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud addressing the participants at GSICC training on 19 January 2024



Chairperson, GSICC, Justice Hima Kohli addressing the participants at GSICC training on 19 January 2024



The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli, Chairperson GSICC along with the President SCBA, Adish C Aggarwala and Member Secretary GSICC, Dr Sukhda Pritam at ‘Gender Sensitisation and Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace’ training held on 19 January 2024



Group Photo taken during the 'Gender Sensitisation and Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace' training held on 19 January 2024

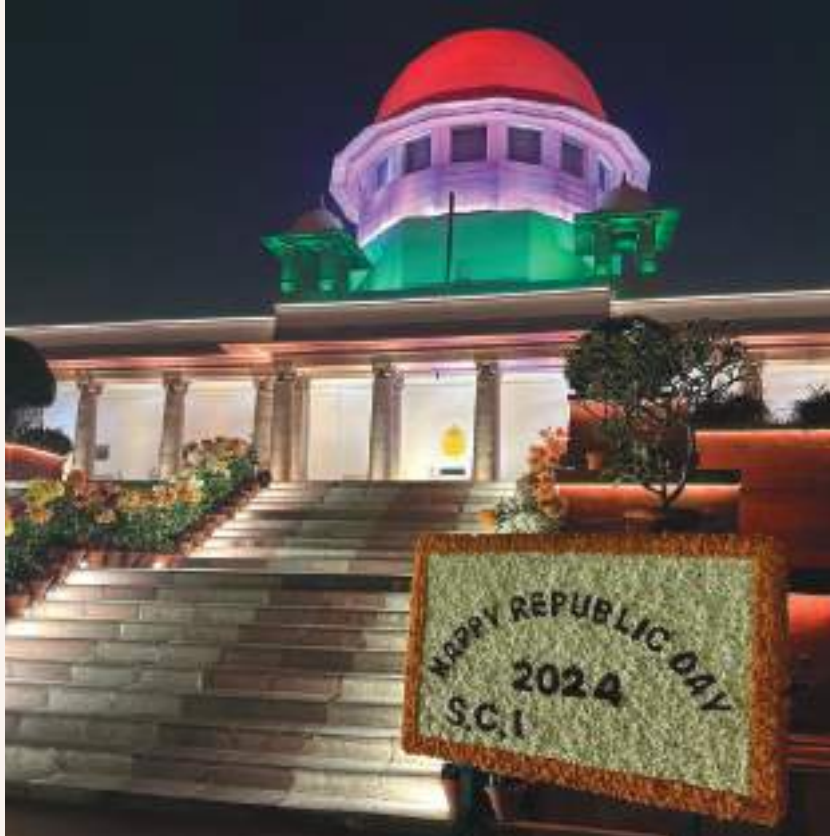
Oath Ceremony



Justice Prasanna B Varale, taking oath as Judge of the Supreme Court on 25 January 2024

Justice Prasanna B Varale was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on 18 July 2008, and made permanent on 15 July 2011. He was elevated as the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court on 15 October 2022. On 25 January, Justice Prasanna was elevated as the 34th Judge of the Supreme Court.

*On 26 January 2024,
the Supreme Court of India lit up in
tricolour on the occasion of Republic Day*



*On 30 January 2024,
the Supreme Court
observed Martyrs' Day*

*On 30 January 2024,
the Chief Justice
of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud
paid tributes to
Mahatma Gandhi
on his 76th death
anniversary at Rajghat*



SCBA Scoop

On Swami Vivekananda Jayanti, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) conducted a blood donation camp in association with the Indian Red Cross Society on 12 January 2024, in the Supreme Court lawns. The Chief Justice of India

along with other Judges of the Supreme Court of India, inaugurated the camp. A total of 71 SCBA members and numerous volunteers donated blood on this occasion.



From left to right: Justice K V Viswanathan, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice Aniruddha Bose, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice P S Narasimha, and Justice Rajesh Bindal at the Blood Donation Camp organised by Supreme Court Bar Association on 12 January 2024



Justice M M Sundresh at the 1st Sachin Das Invitational Cricket Tournament inauguration conducted by the Supreme Court Advocates Cricket Association at Modern School, New Delhi on 13 January 2024



On 27 January 2024, Supreme Court Bar Association organised a National Conference on Advocates Protection Act, at VK Krishna Menon Bhawan, Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi



Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah on 15 January 2024, presided as the Chief Guest at the 'Festive Season' celebration organised by the Executive Committee of Supreme Court Bar Association at Cafeteria for Litigants, Supreme Court

Beyond the Court



On 6 January 2024, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia presided as the Chief Guest and delivered a convocation address at the 17th convocation ceremony of the National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS) at Kochi

South Zone-II: Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology”



On 6 January 2024, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice Abhay S Oka presided over the sessions conducted at South Zone-II: Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology at Dr M C R, H R D Institute, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad



Justice Abhay S Oka presiding over Session-2 on the theme ‘Elements of Judicial Behaviour’ conducted at South Zone-II: Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology at Dr M C R, H R D Institute, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

The South Zone-II: Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology” was organised by National Judicial Academy (NJA) in collaboration with the High Court for the State of Telangana and the Telangana State Judicial Academy at Dr MCR HRD Institute, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. On 6 January 2024, Justice Abhay S Oka presided over Session-2 on the theme ‘Elements of Judicial Behaviour’ and the Session-3 titled ‘Judgment Writing Tools’ was presided over by Justice Ujjal Bhuyan. On 7 January 2024, Justice Rajesh Bindal presided over Session-4 on the theme “Overview of e-Courts Projects” as a resource person.

Justice Rajesh Bindal presiding over Session-4 on the theme “Overview of e-Courts Projects” conducted at South Zone-II: Regional Conference on Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology at Dr M C R, H R D Institute, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad





On 12 January 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud released the book 'Roses without Thorns' penned by Attorney General for India, R Venkataramani in presence of Justice B V Nagarathna at Audi-1, Bharat Mandapam (TIPO), New Delhi



From left to right: Justice B V Nagarathna, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Solicitor General, Tushar Mehta, Justice Bela Trivedi and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah at the book launch 'Roses without Thorns' on 12 January 2024

West Zone-I Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology”



Justice Dipankar Datta addressing the audience at the inaugural session of the West Zone-I Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology” at Uttan, Maharashtra on 13 January 2024



Justice Rajesh Bindal presided over Session-5 on the theme “Emerging and Future Technology for Effective Judicial Governance” of the West Zone-I Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology” at Uttan, Maharashtra on 14 January 2024



On 13 January 2024, Justice Dipankar Datta chaired the inaugural session of the West Zone-I Regional Conference on “Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology” organised by the National Judicial Academy in collaboration with the Bombay High Court and the Maharashtra Judicial Academy at Uttan, Maharashtra, and delivered the a keynote address. Justice Datta also presided over Session-2 on the theme ‘Elements of Judicial Behaviour.’ The Session-3 on the theme ‘Judgment Writing Tools’ was presided over by Justice Abhay S Oka. On 14 January 2024, Justice Rajesh Bindal presided over Session-5 on the theme “Emerging and Future Technology for Effective Judicial Governance.”



*On 15 January 2024,
Justice Surya Kant presided as the
keynote speaker at the launch of the
Malaysian International Mediation
Centre at Kuala Lumpur*

*Justice Surya Kant with
Justice Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat
(Chief Justice, Federal Court Malaysia)
at the launch of Malaysian
International Mediation Centre
on 15 January 2024,
Kuala Lumpur*



*Justice Surya
Kant presided
as the Chief
Guest at
the Asian
International
Arbitration
Centre's (AIAC)
seminar on
'Perspectives
from the Bench
and Bar on
Arbitration
in India and
Malaysia' on 16
January 2024*



On 20 January 2024 Justice Ujjal Bhuyan presided over Session 1 – Fair Trial and Session 2 – The Triple Method of Plea Bargain, Compounding and Probation at the National Conference on ‘Sentencing, Probation and Victim Compensation,’ held by the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal

Justice Aravind Kumar presided over Session 4 – Court and Case Management and Session 5 – Interim Orders and Judicial Discretion during an orientation course for newly elevated high court judges on 21 January 2024 at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal



On 27 January 2024, Justice Surya Kant presided as the Chief Guest at the North-India Conference on “Work Life Balance in the Legal Profession – A Gendered Perspective” organised by Punjab and Haryana Federation of Women Lawyers, Chandigarh

Glimpses of the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Supreme Court of India







First Sitting of the
6 Judges of the **Supreme Court**
28 January 1950

Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001

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