Supreme Court Chronicle

Issue X | Special Lok Adalat Edition | August 2024

Highlights

- *Special Lok Adalat*
- *Success Stories from and beyond Special Lok Adalat*
- *Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony of Sports, Cultural, and Other Events-2024*
- *Oath Ceremony*

न्याय सब के द्वार

Special Lok Adalat

29 July to 3 August 2024



Chief Justice's Corner



Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce the Special Lok Adalat edition of the *Supreme Court Chronicle*. On 29 July 2024, the Supreme Court commenced this mega settlement drive, which lasted for a week, as part of the series of activities to commemorate the 75 years of the apex institution. Initially there were 7 Special Lok Adalat Benches designated for this purpose, but after seeing the remarkable response, 13 Benches had to be constituted before the end of the week, consisting both the Supreme Court judges and senior members of the Bar.

After months of dedicated effort, the Special Lok Adalat Week concluded successfully, with remarkable disposal of more than 1000 cases. In this issue, readers will also learn about the process that underwent in making this Lok Adalat special, the distribution of scholarships to 1,645 children who lost both parents to Covid-19 along with the distribution of employment letters to 424 individuals, whose parents or spouse passed away while in service. Among other highlights is the oath ceremony of the newly appointed Judges as well as the annual prize distribution ceremony of 'Sports, Cultural, and Other Events-2024.'

This month's edition also features the various trainings that have been conducted for Supreme Court staff and employees. Readers will also find information about the engagements of the Judges beyond the Courtroom, a sampling of reported judgments, important initiatives undertaken, and the roundup of key events for July 2024.

Happy Reading!

Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud
Chief Justice of India

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Fresh from the Bench

Nipun Malhotra v Sony Pictures Films India Private Ltd, 2024 INSC 465

Guidelines to the Visual Media to Ensure a Dignified Portrayal of Persons with Disabilities

In judgment dated 8 July 2024, the division bench comprising the **Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud**, and **Justice J B Pardiwala**, issued guidelines to the visual media to ensure a dignified portrayal of persons with disabilities. The case was related to the use of derogatory terms and stereotypical portrayal in a movie for characters with certain medical conditions and persons with disabilities. The Court held that the creative freedom of the filmmaker under Article 19(1)(a) cannot be protected if the overall work of the filmmaker shows a stereotypical portrayal of persons with disabilities. It violates the right to dignity and the right against discrimination of persons with disabilities. The Court distinguished between "disabling humour", which disparages persons with disability, undermining the dignity of individuals, from "disability humour", which challenges traditional views on disability and is used to eliminate prejudices. The Court also laid guidelines for the decision-making authorities to assess the overall message of any film on the dignity of individuals.

Army Welfare Education Society v Sunil Kumar Sharma, 2024 INSC 501

Service Dispute with Employees of Army Welfare Education Society Not Adjudicable in Writ Petition

In judgment dated 9 July 2024, the division bench comprising **Justice J B Pardiwala** and **Justice Manoj Misra** held that the Army Welfare Education Society (hereinafter, "AWES") does not qualify as 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution of India. While the school operated by the Appellant Society provides education to children of army personnel, widows, and ex-servicemen, a task that involves a public duty, the relationship between them and the Respondents remains that of employees and a private employer, governed by a private contract. The Bench highlighted that the dispute between the school and its staff pertains to service conditions, where public elements do not come into play. AWES, is a private, unaided society and the employee-employer relationship with its staff remains private and contractual which would not engage public law elements. The Court stated that in private contractual relationships, legitimate expectation is inapplicable and that promissory estoppel is the relevant doctrine. The Court observed that no explicit or implicit promises by AWES regarding maintaining salary and service conditions could be demonstrated. Therefore, AWES has no statutory obligation to match salaries with government institutions.

Mohd Abdul Samad v State of Telangana, 2024 INSC 506

Divorced Muslim Woman can seek Maintenance from Husband under S 125 CrPC

In judgment dated 10 July 2024, the division bench comprising **Justice B V Nagarathna** and **Justice A G Masih** held that any divorced Muslim woman could seek maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of CrPC, in addition to the remedy under Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (hereinafter "1986 Act,") if she is unable to maintain herself. The Court observed that the remedies under Section 3 of the 1986 Act and Section 125 of CrPC operate in separate domains and can be harmoniously constructed.

In a separate but concurring judgment, **Justice Nagarathna** added that the right to maintenance under Section 125 is a social justice measure in consonance with ensuring the life of dignity for women and the Constitutional objectives under Article 15(3) read with Article 39(e). She observed that the remedy under Section 125 is available to any divorced Muslim woman even if she doesn't qualify for the definition of a divorced woman under Section 2(a) of the 1986 Act. She observed that the scope of the 1986 Act, does not militate or dilute the application of Section 125 CrPC. She further added that a Muslim woman who is illegally divorced can additionally seek subsistence allowance under Section 5 of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019.

Parvinder Singh Khurana v Directorate of Enforcement, 2024 INSC 546

Interim Stay of Operation of Order to Bail to be given in Exceptional Cases

In judgment dated 23 July 2024, the division bench comprising **Justice Abhay S Oka** and **Justice Augustine George Masih** held that in an application made under Section 439(2) of the CrPC or Section 483(3) of the BNSS or other proceedings seeking cancellation of bail, the High Court or Sessions Court can exercise power to grant an interim stay of operation of order to bail only in exceptional cases when a very strong prima facie case of the existence of the grounds for cancellation of bail is made out. The Court illustrated that a prima facie case could be where a bail order is given without reasons or application of mind or where there is proof of serious misuse of liberty by the accused. The Court reasoned that a stay on bail order amounts to taking away liberty of the accused guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution that is restored by the bail. The Court observed that if the circumstances are such that it warrants an interim order, the High Court may add additional bail conditions on the undertrial-accused rather than granting the stay of the bail order. The Court also added that an ex-parte interim stay can only be granted in very rare and exceptional cases recording reasons for its conclusion, and it shall also hear the accused on short notice on the continuation of the stay.

Gene Campaign and Anr v Union of India, 2024 INSC 545

Split Verdict on Genetically Modified Mustard Approval

In judgment dated 23 July 2024, the division bench comprising **Justice B V Nagarathna** and **Justice Sanjay Karol** delivered a split verdict on petitions that challenged the Union Government's approval for the release of genetically modified mustard. The Court directed the Union government to frame a National Policy on Genetically Modified (hereinafter, "GM") crops, in consultation with all stakeholders including representatives from State Governments.

Justice Nagarathna held that the approval granted by the Union government for environmental release of transgenic mustard DMH-11 should be invalidated, as there was no consideration of the adverse effects of the transgenic crops on human, animal, and plant health. She directed the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (hereinafter, "GEAC") to submit a report on whether DMH-11 mustard is a herbicide resistant crop in consultation with all stakeholders, and to make the report public. She further directed the Union Government to ensure that the composition of the GEAC is suitably reformed in accordance with the Technical Expert Committee and Parliamentary Standing Committee reports.

Justice Karol held that the question of ban on herbicide resistant crops is a matter of public policy and cannot be invalidated in view of precautionary principle. This principle stipulates that in case of scientific uncertainty, appropriate actions must be taken to prevent irreversible harm to the environment. He directed that field trials of DMH-11 shall continue strictly in accordance with the imposed conditions. He further directed GEAC to conduct independent studies on GM organisms and upload it in its website in a timely manner. Given the differing opinions, the matter was directed to be submitted to the Chief Justice of India for the formation of an appropriate Bench to re-examine the issue.

Mineral Area Development v M/S Steel Authority Of India & Ors, 2024 INSC 554

Royalty on Mining Leases under the MMDR Act is not a Tax, and the States have the Power to Levy Tax on Mineral Rights

In judgment dated 25 July 2024, nine-judge Constitution Bench comprising the **Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud**, **Justice B V Nagarathna, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Abhay S Oka, Justice J B Pardiwala, Justice Manoj Misra, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Justice S C Sharma** and **Justice A G Masih** held by a majority of 8:1 that royalty as envisaged under Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (hereinafter referred as "MMDR Act") is not tax but rather a contractual consideration in a mining lease. The Court also held that States have the power to levy tax on mineral rights enumerated in Entry 50 of List II, and the enactment of the MMDR Act of 1957 does not operate as a limitation under the said entry. The Court clarified that the States have legislative competence under Article 246 read with Entry 49 List II to tax mineral-bearing lands using mineral produce as a measure to impose tax while adding that "limitations" mentioned in Entry 50 of List II do not operate on Entry 49 of List II.

In her dissenting opinion, **Justice Nagarathna** held that royalty, as defined under Section 9 of the MMDR Act, 1957, is a statutory levy within Article 366(28) of the Constitution and not solely derived from lease agreements. She emphasised that "any limitations" imposed by Parliament under Entry 50 List II should be given the widest amplitude and would include provisions of the MMDR Act. She further added that Entry 50 List II would be subject to general entry in Entry 54 List I. She observed that Entry 49 List II does not extend the State's power to impose tax on mineral-bearing lands; therefore, States do not have the power to impose any royalty-like measure. She held that Entry 50 is a specific entry in relation to Entry 49, that upholds the Parliament's power to impose limitations on State taxation through the MMDR Act.

Gaurav Kumar v Union of India, 2024 INSC 558

Excessive Enrollment Fee cannot charged by State Bar Councils

In judgment dated 30 July 2024, the division bench comprising the **Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud**, and **Justice J B Pardiwala** held that State Bar Councils (hereinafter, "SBCs") are prohibited from charging any "enrolment fees" beyond the explicit legal stipulations provided under Section 24(1)(f) of the Advocates Act, 1961. Any imposition of such excessive fees and charges by the SBCs at the time of enrolment are violative of Article 14 and Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution. The Bench emphasised that imposing excessive fees as a prerequisite for enrollment erects significant barriers, particularly for individuals from marginalised communities seeking to enter the profession. The Court clarified that other fees for services provided to advocates cannot be included in enrolment fees. According to Section 24(1)(f) of the Advocates Act of 1961, the prescribed enrolment fee for general category advocates is Rs 600 for SBCs and Rs 150 for the Bar Council of India. For advocates from SC/ST categories, the respective fees are Rs 100 and Rs 25. The Court noted that this decision will apply prospectively. Thus, SBCs are not obligated to refund any excess enrolment fees collected prior to the date of this judgment.

Yash Developers v Harihar Krupa Co-operative Housing Society Limited & Ors, 2024 INSC 559

Slum Rehabilitation Scheme Tied to Right to Life, Not a Real Estate Development Project

In judgment dated 30 July 2024, the division bench comprising **Justice P S Narasimha** and **Justice Aravind Kumar** held that the slum rehabilitation scheme should not be considered a real estate development project. The scheme serves a public purpose that is deeply tied to the right to life of citizens living in deplorable conditions. The Supreme Court ruled that the Slum Rehabilitation Authority and its Chief Executive Officer are legally required to complete slum rehabilitation projects within the established timeframe. The court highlights that Section 13(2) of the Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance, and Redevelopment) Act, 1971 authorises the competent authority to renegotiate agreements if redevelopment is delayed. The court further indicated that a writ of mandamus could be issued against authorities failing to perform this duty. The Supreme Court urged the executive branch to conduct a performance audit of the Act to ensure its objectives are met, and recommended that Justice of the High Court establish a bench for a suo motu review of the Act's implementation.

Special Lok Adalat

For 75 years, the Supreme Court of India has been a sentinel of justice, upholding the rule of law. 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 2024 to assist the parties in resolving their cases by a mutually accepted settlement.

Stage 1- Preparations for the Special Lok Adalat

The preparation for the one-week event spanned over several months during which there were several coordination meetings both in-house as well as with officials from all the High Courts, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs). Pending cases such as motor accidents claims, family law matters, land dispute matters, rent and tenancy matters among others which had the potential to be settled in the Lok Adalat format were identified. The DLSAs were tasked with reaching out to the parties, explaining to them the initiative and receiving consent for the settlement process. This resulted in many parties either signing pre-proceedings settlement deeds for withdrawal of their disputes or consenting to attend the Lok Adalat proceedings and attempt for settlement. The window for receipt of settlement deeds and consent forms was kept open as late as the time of hearing of the cases by the designated Bench. This required the task of classification, vetting and briefing of the deeds which was undertaken.



10 July 2024, Justice Surya Kant alongwith the Secretary General, Mr Atul M Kurhekar convene a meeting with Registry officials for the preparations of the Special Lok Adalat





15 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice P S Narasimha, and Justice K V Viswanathan interacts with the officials of the Supreme Court Registry, office bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCAORA) for the Special Lok Adalat



23 July 2024, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant convene a pre-conciliation meeting with Registry officials and the representatives of the insurance companies for the Special Lok Adalat



28 July 2024, Mr Amarendra Kumar, Research Consultant along with the Research Assistants and Law Clerks-cum-Research Associates from the Centre for Research and Planning prepare for the commencement of Special Lok Adalat





27 July 2024, Secretary General, Mr Atul M Kurhekar along with Registrars, Mr Pavanesh D, Mr Puneet Sehgal, Mr Hargurvarinder S Jaggi, Mr Mahesh Tanajirao Patankar and Additional Registrars, Mr Tauzeeh-ul-Islam Rajput and Dr Sukhda Pritam conducts a meeting with court masters to give them requisite instructions for Special Lok Adalat

Stage 2 - Commencement of the Special Lok Adalat drive

The Special Lok Adalat commenced on Monday, 29 July 2024 with seven benches. Each bench consisted of Supreme Court Judges, Senior Advocates of the Court, and members of the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association. The Benches sat among the advocates and litigants and conciliated the matters listed for the day resulting in 194 settlements on the very first day. In light of the caseload, the Benches were increased with sixteen courts functioning on the penultimate day of the drive. The whole drive had the involvement of 27 judges and 88 members of the Bar leading to settlement and disposal of approximately thousand cases. In its pursuit of bringing justice to the doorsteps of the people, the Supreme Court of India used technology to connect with citizens, advocates, SLSA, and DLSA across the country. This approach led to a total of 43 VC sessions, with 17,427 participants attending the Special Lok Adalat throughout the week.



29 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala, Justice Manoj Misra along with Senior Advocate Mr Kapil Sibal and Advocate Mr Vipin Nair hearing the matter in Courtroom No 1



29 July 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice K V Viswanathan along with Senior Advocate Ms Rachana Srivastava and Advocate Mr Amit Sharma hearing the matter in Courtroom No 2



30 July 2024, a bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice K V Viswanathan along with Senior Advocate Mr Gaurav Agarwal and Advocate Mr Aftab Ali Khan, settled a property dispute between 6 brothers in Courtroom No 2. The litigants are present in person to accept the final award



29 July 2024, Justice B R Gavai and Justice M M Sundresh along with Senior Advocate Mr Vikrant Yadav and Advocate Mr Nikhil Jain hearing the matter in Courtroom No 3



30 July 2024, Justice B R Gavai and Justice M M Sundresh along with Senior Advocate Ms Kiran Suri and Advocate Mr Adwaita Prasad Mohanty hearing the matter in Courtroom No 3



29 July 2024, Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan along with Senior Advocate Mr V Giri and Advocate Mr K Parameshwar hearing the matter in Courtroom No 4

1 August 2024, Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice P S Narasimha along with Senior Advocate Ms Arundhati Katju and Advocate Mr Praveen Swarup hearing the matter in Courtroom No 5





29 July 2024, Justice A S Oka and Justice Dipankar Datta along with Senior Advocate Mr Huzefa Ahmadi and Advocate Mr Gaichangpou Gangmei hearing the matter in Courtroom No 6



1 August 2024, Justice Vikram Nath and Justice P B Varale along with Senior Advocate Mr Piyush Kanti Roy and Advocate Ms Aparna Jha hearing the matter in Courtroom No 7



1 August 2024, Justice J K Maheshwari and Justice Rajesh Bindal along with Senior Advocate Ms Meenakshi Arora and Advocate Mr Snehashish Mukherjee hearing the matter in Courtroom No 8

1 August 2024, Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice N Kotiswar Singh along with Senior Advocate Ms Karuna Nundy and Advocate Ms Yugandhara Jha, hearing the matter in Courtroom No 11





1 August 2023, Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice S V Bhatti along with Senior Advocate Ms Shobha Gupta and Advocate Ms Meenakshi Kalra, hearing the matter in Courtroom No 13



2 August 2024, Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice Sandeep Mehta along with Senior Advocate Ms S Janani and Advocate Ms Astha Sharma hearing the matter in Courtroom No 14



1 August 2024, Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Sanjay Kumar along with Senior Advocate, Mr Arijit Prasad, Advocate Ms Pragya Parijat hearing the matter in Courtroom No 15



2 August 2024, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah along with Senior Advocate Mr Shailesh Madiyal and Advocate Mr Sachin Sharma hearing the matter in Courtroom No 16



1 August 2024, Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justice Augustine George Masih along with Senior Advocate Mr Anand Sanjay M Nuli and Advocate Mr Ishaan George hearing the matter in Courtroom No 17



Mr Hargurvarinder S Jaggi, Registrar (Technology) and the IT team of Supreme Court of India, behind the smooth and successful connectivity between different stakeholders during the Special Lok Adalat, using state-of-the-art technology

Special Lok Adalat Week

29 July to 3 August 2024



Stage 3 - Concluding Ceremony of the Special Lok Adalat Week

The weeklong Special Lok Adalat concluded on 3 August 2024 with a ceremony held in the Administrative Building Complex of the Supreme Court. This momentous occasion was graced by Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice C T Ravikumar, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice Augustine George Masih along with the Union Minister for Law and Justice (I/C), Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal.



3 August 2024,
Chief Justice of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud,
Justice P S Narasimha,
Justice K V Viswanathan, and
Justice Augustine George Masih along with the Union Minister for Law and Justice (I/C), Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal at the Concluding Ceremony of the Special Lok Adalat Week



Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud addresses the gathering during the Concluding ceremony of the Special Lok Adalat Week

The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud in his address during the concluding ceremony of the Special Lok Adalat shared the journey starting from the time when he first mooted the idea to conduct the Lok Adalat to sharing success stories from the weeklong event. He stressed on the importance of settlement of disputes for all the stakeholders involved, especially for litigants who suffer from the process of litigation spanning over years. The Chief Justice of India emphasised the role of the Supreme Court as an institution which allows the common public, access to justice as was the intention of stalwarts like Dr B R Ambedkar when they first set up the court. According to him, the medium of Lok Adalat not only helps the people settle their litigations in an expeditious and party-driven manner but also brings the Apex Court closer to the issues of common people. He therefore spelled out the intention to institutionalise the process and conduct Lok Adalats frequently in the Supreme Court premises.

Union Minister for Law and Justice (I/C), Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal addresses the gathering at the Concluding ceremony of the Special Lok Adalat Week



Success Stories from and beyond Special Lok Adalat

Changing lives at the grassroot level

The District Legal Services Authorities across India played a major role in making the Special Lok Adalat drive a success. Their constant and robust efforts helped the litigants who could not attend the hearings in person in the Supreme Court, to receive their awards in their respective districts itself.



DLSA, Bokaro, Jharkhand contributing at the ground level and presenting the litigants with the cheques of the settlement award



DLSA, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand contributing at the ground level and presenting the litigants with the cheques of the settlement award

Happy Litigants



2 August 2024, outside Courtroom No 14, a couple after the successful settlement of their dispute at Special Lok Adalat

2 August 2024, Courtroom No 14, Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice Sandeep Mehta along with Senior Advocate Ms S Janani and Advocate Ms Astha Sharma, heard transfer petition under Section 406 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. The bench disposed of the petition with the entire matrimonial dispute being settled wherein the parties unanimously agreed to live together and settle the dispute.

Compassionate Employments

The Special Lok Adalat week addressed both pending and pre-litigation matters. However, in this special drive, the Supreme Court of India also decided to focus on compassionate employment cases at the pre-litigation stage, in agreement with the Coal India Ltd (CIL). Through this process, 424 individuals, whose parents or relatives passed away while in service, were identified and were provided compassionate employment by CIL.



Team of the Coal India Limited (CIL) at the concluding ceremony of the Special Lok Adalat Week



3 August 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice C T Ravikumar, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice Augustine George Masih along with the Union Minister for Law and Justice, (I/C) Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal present 424 Compassionate Appointment Letters to Coal India Limited (CIL) appointees under its CSR initiatives

Scholarship Awards

The Apex Court of India under the aegis of the Chief Justice of India conceived an idea to involve all High Courts in identifying children who had lost both parents to Covid-19. This collective effort led to the identification of 1,645 children. Subsequently, in collaboration with Coal India Ltd, these children have been awarded a scholarship of Rs 45,000 per year for four years to support their studies, dreams and aspirations.



3 August 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice C T Ravikumar, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice Augustine George Masih along with the Union Minister for Law and Justice (I/C), Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal present scholarship cheques worth Rs 45,000 per year under CIL-ASHIS (Ayushman Shiksha Sahayata) Scheme to 1,645 children who have lost their parents to COVID-19



Shana Paul with her mother on her first day of Law School

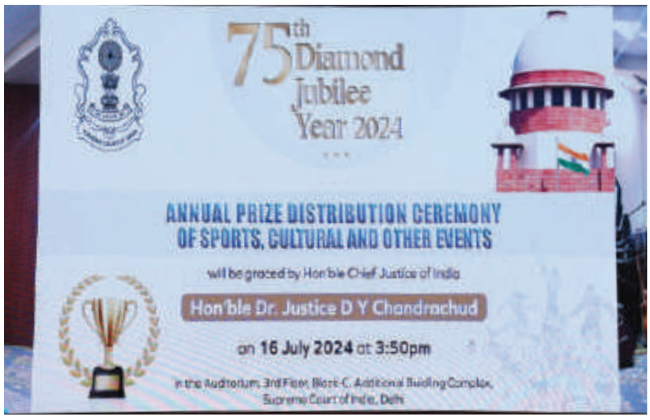
The Supreme Court of India goes beyond its judicial role and contributes to society through several unconventional initiatives which are not just limited to the Court or its staff but also for young aspiring students who, even though deserving, sometimes need a push to achieve their dreams. One such notable example is that of a young girl, who just turned 18, Shana Paul. Shana, who is all set to pursue her Bachelor of Arts in Law at Jindal Global Law School, spoke to the team of the Supreme Court Chronicle. She credits this achievement of joining such a renowned institution, coming from an economically weaker section of the society, to the Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Ms Kalpana Das who not only inspired Shana to dream big but also helped her with the admission. Her story is one among many such stories that will shape the future of our country, and to support such talents is one such unspoken contribution of the Supreme Court.

On being asked about what inspired her to choose law as a career, Shana was all praises about the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and Ms Kalpana Das. Shana shares that "Kalpana ma'am has been an incredible inspiration to me. She taught me that life is about falling and getting back up. She recommended that I watch 12th Fail to show that it doesn't matter where you come from; courage and passion to pursue a dream are the keys to success. Even when I struggled with Sciences in Class 11th, she and her sister, Bobby Ma'am, tutored me and helped me pass. Looking at the Chief Justice of India, it further brings me to believe in humanity. The way he respects all and treats everyone equally irrespective of age, social or financial background inspires me every day. He is not just a good human being but an equally good Judge of this time which probably is the main reason why I found an inclination to law. In fact, I would say that both Sir and Ma'am have played an instrumental role in my decision of choosing law as a career. I can never repay them for their unconditional support and I guess there is no proportional way to even pay."

Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony of Sports, Cultural, and Other Events - 2024



Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant with the Winning team of the Cricket Tournament (Female) at the Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony of Sports, Cultural and Other Events - 2024



The annual Sports and Cultural Events organised for the Supreme Court staff kicked off from April 2024 and culminated on 16 July 2024 with the felicitation ceremony for winners and participants of the various events. Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice P B Varale graced the occasion by distributing the awards and certificates. The interest and participation of the differently abled employees, women and men alike was lauded by the Chief Justice as promoting inclusivity. The meritorious children of Registry officials were also given awards of merit for their achievements in scholastics, arts, cultural events and sports. Additionally, the Chief Justice declared second and fourth Saturdays to be an off day for the employees of the Registry in an endeavour to promote employee welfare.



Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant with the Runner up of the Cricket Tournament (Male) at the Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony of Sports, Cultural and Other Events - 2024



Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice B R Gavai present trophies to the winning team of Volleyball (Smash) in the Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony of Sports, Cultural and Other Events - 2024



Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice B R Gavai presenting award to the meritorious children of the staff of the Supreme Court Registry



Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant presents trophy to Ms Suman Chaudhary for her participation in the differently abled category of the Annual Sports, Cultural and Other Events - 2024



Justice Surya Kant, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice P B Varale at the Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony of Sports, Cultural and Other Events - 2024

Supreme Court Events and Initiatives

Inauguration





8 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud with the companion Judges of the Supreme Court and the members of the Registry and Supreme Court the Bar Association inaugurate the new Registrar's Court at the Supreme Court of India





11 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud with companion Judges of the Supreme Court and Brazilian Judge Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin at the inauguration ceremony of the new Multi-Facilitation Centre in Supreme Court of India

Oath Ceremony



18 July 2024,
Justice N Kotiswar Singh
takes oath as
Supreme Court Judge

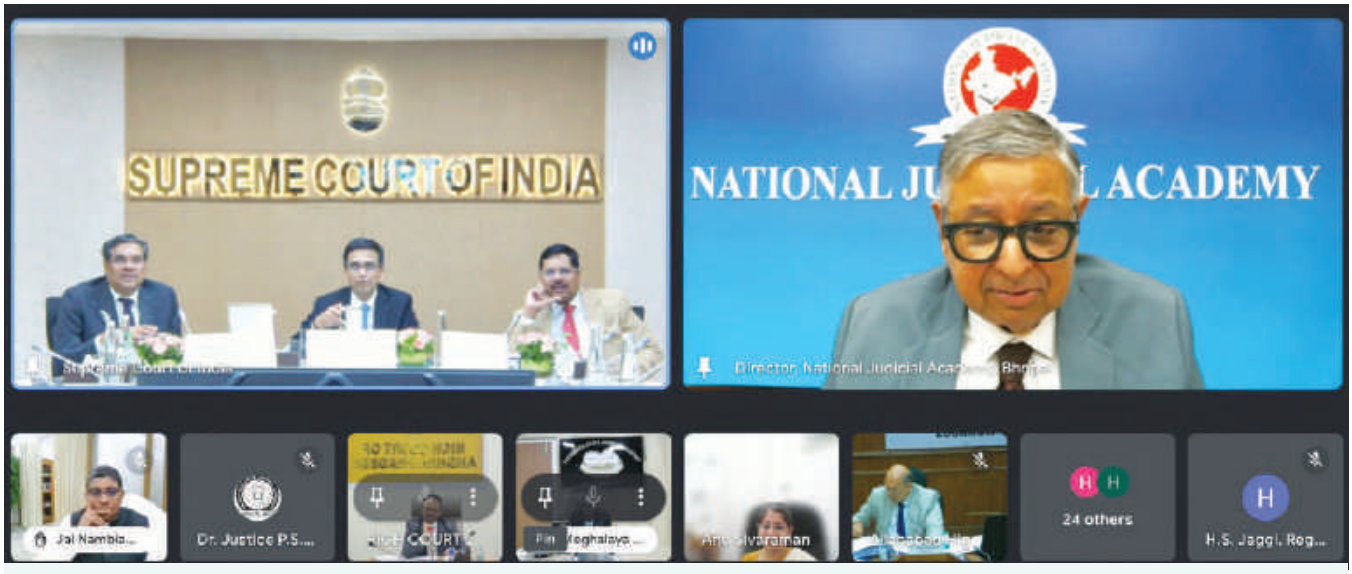
Justice N Kotiswar Singh hails from Imphal, Manipur and is the first judge of the Supreme Court from the state. An alumnus of Delhi University, he has a wealth of experience of legal practice before several forums. He has been a part of the Bench since 2011 and has served as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur, Gauhati High Court and the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on 18 July 2024.

18 July 2024,
Justice R Mahadevan
takes oath as
Supreme Court Judge



Justice R Mahadevan hails from Chennai, Tamil Nadu and is an alumnus of the Madras Law College. He has vast experience in civil, criminal and writ matters with specialisation in indirect taxes, customs and Central Excise matters. He has been a part of the Bench since 2013 and has served as the acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. He was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on 18 July 2024.

Supreme Court conducts meeting with National Judicial Academy



30 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai with Justice (Retd) Aniruddha Bose, Director of National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal, in the national meeting (virtual) of the NJA and the State Judicial Academies

Farewell programme





31 July 2024, Justice C T Ravikumar attends the farewell party organised for the officers and officials of the Supreme Court Registry retiring in the month of July 2024

Training Hub



1 to 6 July 2024, Secretary General, Mr Atul M Kurhekar along with Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, Additional Registrar (Training Cell), and resource persons Ms Himani Sarad, Additional Registrar, and Mr Ravi Shanti Bhushan, Assistant Registrar, conducts the induction training of Batch 3 of the newly recruited Junior Court Assistants



19 July 2024, Mr Anurag Bhaskar, Deputy Registrar, Centre for Research and Planning (CRP) and Mr Vasudev Devdasan, Research Consultant, CRP, conducts an "Orientation and Training" session for the newly appointed Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates

20 July 2024, Training Cell of the Supreme Court of India conducts a Compression Only Life Support (COLS) session for 8th batch of Registry officers and officials, in collaboration with G B Pant Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, New Delhi (GIPMER) led by Dr Rachna Wadhwa, Associate Professor of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, GIPMER





20 July 2024,
Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, Additional Registrar, Training Cell, and Ms Nalini Rangam, Deputy Registrar, in collaboration with STEP from The Hindu Group, virtually conduct the Orientation Session on the English Learning Course for 239 Registry officials

22 to 24 July 2024,
Training Cell of the Supreme Court of India conducts Master Trainer (ToT) Training Programme on e-Human Resource Management System 2.0 (e-HRMS 2.0) Portal for the Registry officials





27 July 2024,
Training Cell conducts a workshop on "Indian Constitutional History" for Law Clerk-cum-Research Associates posted at the Residential Offices of Judges and those working in the Registry

Bar News Bulletin

SCBA Scoop



8 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with the esteemed Judges of the Supreme Court, inaugurate the renovated Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Lunchroom at First Floor, East Wing, Main Campus of Supreme Court of India

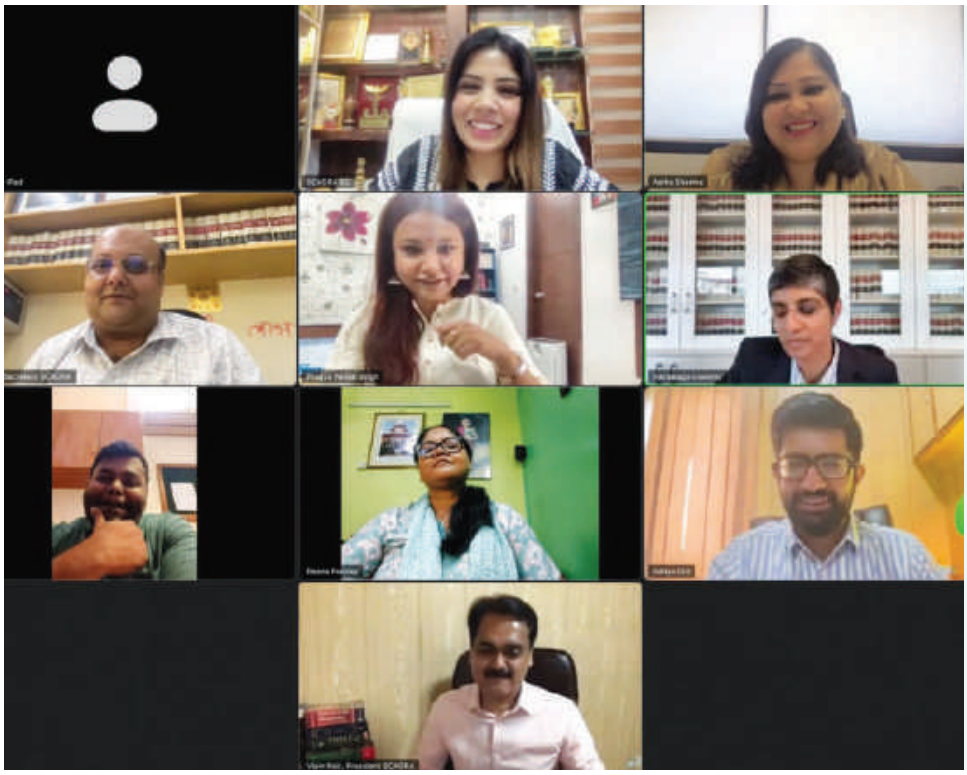




10 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with the esteemed Judges of the Supreme Court inaugurate new cubicles for SCBA advocates at Block D of the Administrative Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India



3 July 2024, Ms Amy Lorraine Richards, Lecturer in Law, Leeds Beckett University, United Kingdom and Mr Mansai Kaushik Pathak of Symbiosis International University (SIU), along with students of Symbiosis Law School, Noida, visit the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) office to interact with the executive members of SCAORA and understand the functioning of Supreme Court of India



13 July 2024, Dr Menaka Guruswamy, Senior Advocate, Guest Speaker, addresses the participants at an online lecture on 'New Criminal Laws' organised by the SCAORA

Beyond the Court



2 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for Construction of Court Buildings at Karkardooma, Shastri Park and Rohini (Sector-26), Delhi at Karkardooma Court Complex



2 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli alongwith acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Justice Manmohan at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for Construction of Court Buildings at Karkardooma Court Complex

2 July 2024, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, attends the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for Construction of Court Buildings at Karkardooma, Shastri Park, and Rohini (Sector-26) by the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud at Karkardooma Court Complex



Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judge, Supreme Court of India, visited Bhutan on 2nd July 2024. During the visit, Justice Bindal went to the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Pangbisa, Paro, Bhutan and interacted with the Dean, Mr Sangay Dorjee and other faculty members of the college. On the same day, Justice Bindal also visited the Supreme Court of Bhutan and had a cordial meeting and interaction with the Judges including Justice Norbu Tshering, Justice Sangay Khandu, and Justice Kinley Dorji.





2 July 2024, Justice Rajesh Bindal, interacts with Mr Sangay Dorjee, Dean, Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Pangbisa, Paro, Bhutan and Ms Mishra from the Indian Embassy at Bhutan



5 July 2024,
Chief Justice of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud inaugurates the office premises of the Securities Appellate Tribunal at Mittal Court, Mumbai

6 July 2024,
Justice M M Sundresh,
delivers a valedictory address
at the Conference organised by
the Revenue Bar Association,
Chennai





6 July 2024,
Justice Sanjay Kumar (virtually)
delivers an address on the first session, 'Contours of the Basic Structure of the Constitution' at the "4th Justice H R Khanna Memorial National Symposium" organised by the CAN Foundation (Confederation of Alumni For National Law Universities) in collaboration with The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) Hyderabad and Dharmashastra National Law University (DNLU), Jabalpur

6 July 2024,
Justice K V Viswanathan (virtually)
delivers an address on the second session, 'Perspectives of Legal Dimension of Climate Change in the 21st Century' at the "4th Justice H R Khanna Memorial National Symposium" organised by CAN Foundation in collaboration with the with NALSAR, Hyderabad and DNLU, Jabalpur





12 July 2024, Justice Surya Kant, Justice P S Narasimha, Justice Sanjay Karol, and Justice K V Viswanathan at the book release and discussion on 'Climate Change: The Policy, Law, and Practice' at theMultipurpose Hall, Kamaladevi Complex, IIC, New Delhi

13 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud attends the 3rd Convocation Ceremony of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow. The function was also attended by Justice Vikram Nath and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Mr Yogi Adityanath





16 July 2024, Justice Hima Kohli delivers a keynote address at the Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable Discussion organised by the Esya Centre on the topic 'Taking Stock: Evaluating the Progress of India's Draft Digital Competition Bill, 2024,' at Magnolia Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

On 20 July 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, esteemed judges of the Supreme Court including, Justice B R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice M M Sundresh, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice R Mahadevan attended the inauguration of the Vigentennial Celebrations and Unveiling (virtually) of Vigentennial Stupa at the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court. They also attended the inauguration of new name board "High Court of Madras Madurai Amarvu," inauguration of 100 e-Seva Kendras in the Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu and inauguration of 100 e-Seva Kendras in the Northern Districts of Tamil Nadu at Madurai Convention Centre, Tamukkam Grounds, Tamil Nadu.



20 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice B R Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice M M Sundresh, Justice K V Viswanathan, and Justice R Mahadevan at Madurai Convention Centre, Tamil Nadu



20 July 2024, Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice Sandeep Mehta attend the inaugural session of the "5th Two Days Legal Workshop on Overview of Arbitration & Mediation in India" Rajasthan High Court Platinum Jubilee Celebrations organised by the Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur & Indian Law Institute, Rajasthan Chapter at Ranakpur, Rajasthan



21 July 2024,
Justice P S Narasimha delivers an address on 'Arbitration & Mediation–From Present to Future' at the valedictory session of the "5th Two Days Legal Workshop on Overview of Arbitration & Mediation in India" – Rajasthan High Court Platinum Jubilee Celebrations organised by the Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur and Indian Law Institute. The event was also attended by Justice Sandeep Mehta





20 to 21 July 2024, Justice Hima Kohli, Judge, Supreme Court of India; Justice Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice, High Court for the State of Telangana; Justice R V Raveendran, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India; Justice Ashok Bhushan, Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal; Mr George Lim, Chairman, Singapore International Mediation Centre; Mr Sitesh Mukherjee, Senior Advocate, and Mr Tariq Khan, Registrar, International Arbitration and Mediation Centre, Hyderabad at the India Mediation Weekend, at Hyderabad



27 July 2024,
Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, delivers an inaugural address, launches the 'Yes to Access App' and unveils Citizen's Charter for Accessibility; and Justice B V Nagarathna delivers a special address at the inaugural function of India Accessibility Summit and State Disability Commissioners' Conclave, 2024, organised by the Government of Karnataka in association with Ramaiah College of Law, Bengaluru

27 July 2024, Justice Surya Kant and Justice Abhay S Oka along with the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and other dignitaries at the Deeksharambh-Student Induction Programme, Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad





27 July 2024, Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Sandeep Mehta attend the Platinum Jubilee of Rajasthan High Court function organised by High Court Bar Association, Jodhpur





28 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud addresses the "11th Annual Conference of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination" organised by National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru

Foreign Events and Conferences

11 July 2024, the Brazilian Judge, Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin joined the bench of Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra in Courtroom No 1, to observe the judicial proceedings. Chief Justice of India, extended a warm welcome to Justice Antonio and remarked, "Justice Benjamin is a great friend of India. He will assume the role of Chief Justice in Brazil on July 22 . We are delighted to have him with us."



11 July 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra with Brazilian Judge, Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin in Courtroom No 1



11 July 2024,
Chief Justice of India,
Dr D Y Chandrachud,
Justice Sanjiv Khanna,
Justice B R Gavai,
Justice Surya Kant and
Justice Hrishikesh Roy with Brazilian Judge, Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin

11 July 2024, Brazilian Judge, Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin with the Secretary General, Mr Atul M Kurhekar, Mr Hargurvarinder S Jaggi, Registrar (Technology), Mr Ashish J Shiradhonkar, OSD - Registrar (Technology, Innovation and Planning), Dr Sukhda Pritam, Director-cum-Additional Registrar (Centre for Research and Planning), and other officials from the Registry of the Supreme Court of India



Glimpses of the Commemoration of the Special Lok Adalat







































Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001

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