Supreme Court Chronicle

Issue VI | April 2024

Highlights

- All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat
- Delhi Arbitration Weekend (DAW), 2024
- Sports and Cultural Events, 2024
- Accessibility Help Desk

Empowerment through engagement

ALL INDIA DISTRICT COURT JUDGES' CONFERENCE

Organised by

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

(In commemoration of ongoing Diamond Jubilee Year of its establishment)

Hosted by

THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT

GUJARAT STATE JUDICIAL ACADEMY

at

Rann Utsav - The Tent City, Dhordo, District Kachchh, Gujarat.

on 2nd & 3rd March, 2024



Chief Justice's Corner



Dear Readers,

I am pleased to announce yet another publication of Supreme Court Chronicle—6th Edition. This month's edition is a tribute to the vibrant colours of Kachchh, packed with insights into the First All India District Judges' Conference.

As always, the newsletter is full of interesting information about the Court including the judicial engagements of Judges beyond the courtroom, a sampling of significant judgments, and a snapshot of the operations of the 'Translation Cell' which tirelessly works to bridge the linguistic gap in legal literacy.

This issue, among other highlights, also features the annual sports and cultural events, the inauguration of the Accessibility Help Desk, and a roundup of other events for the month of March 2024. I hope this edition streamlines the celebration of our different initiatives and inspires you to become more involved in the daily operations of the Court.

Happy Reading!

Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud
Chief Justice of India

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Fresh from the Bench

Sita Soren v. Union of India, 2024 INSC 161

Bribery is not protected by Parliamentary privileges

In its judgment dated 4 March 2024, a seven-judge, Constitution Bench comprising the 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** unanimously held that members of parliament and legislative assemblies are not protected by Articles 105(2) and 194(2) of the Indian Constitution for the act of bribery. The court emphasised that parliamentary privileges are meant to foster free debate and deliberation within the legislature, a purpose undermined by bribery. Bribery, being a criminal act, is not essential for the legislative function of voting or speaking. The court overturned the 1998 judgment of *P V Narasimha Rao v State (CBI/SPE), 1998 INSC 185* stating that it created a paradoxical situation where a lawmaker is granted immunity if they accept a bribe and vote in favour of the briber, but another lawmaker who agrees to take a bribe but ultimately votes independently will face legal action. The Court also established a dual criterion for determining when lawmakers could be granted immunity under Articles 105(2) and 194(2) of the Constitution: first, the immunity applied only when the activity pertained to a collective function of the legislature, and secondly, the action in question must be inherently linked to the fulfilment of the duty of a legislator.

Shazia Aman Khan v. State of Orissa, 2024 INSC 163

Welfare of child is the focal point while deciding custody

In its judgment dated 4 March 2024, a two-judge bench comprising Justice **C T Ravikumar** and **Justice Rajesh Bindal** granted custody of a minor child to her aunt noting that it is in the best interest of the child. The father of the child contended that as per Mohammedan law, custody of the child cannot be given to a stranger, who is beyond prohibitory degree for marriage. The Court held that the statutory provisions dealing with the custody of the child under any personal law cannot and must not supersede the paramount consideration as to what is conducive to the welfare of the minor. The Court found that the child has been living with her aunt ever since she was 3-4 months old and is now about 14 years of age and the child has expressed the wish to continue living with her aunt. The Court held that she cannot be treated as a chattel at the age of 14 years to hand over her custody to her biological father, with whom she has not lived since her birth. The Court noted that the stability of the child is of paramount consideration in such matters.

Devu G Nair v. State of Kerala, 2024 INSC 228

Guidelines for the courts in dealing with habeas corpus petitions or petitions for police protection

In its judgment dated 11 March 2024, a three-judge bench comprising the Chief Justice of India, **Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala** and **Justice Manoj Misra** laid down guidelines for the courts while hearing a habeas corpus petition or police protection plea. The guidelines give special emphasis on the need for queer-sensitive conduct of the court and the judge when the plea is raised by members belonging to the LGBTQ+ communities. The guidelines prioritise listing such petitions, avoiding intrusive questioning about relationships, ensuring a safe and uncoerced dialogue with the detained person, and providing privacy and safety during court proceedings. They emphasise respecting the detained person's wishes, avoiding biased views, and granting immediate release if the person expresses a desire not to return to their alleged detainer or family. Additionally, Courts should grant interim police protection for same-sex, transgender, inter-faith, or inter-caste couples and refrain from imposing counselling or parental care. The role of the Court is limited to ascertaining the will of the person. The Court must not attempt to change or influence the admission of the sexual orientation or gender identity of the appellant and avoid any derogatory remarks or behaviour. Sexual orientation and gender identity fall in the core zone of privacy of an individual. These identities are a matter of self-identification and no stigma or moral judgment must be imposed when dealing with cases involving parties from the LGBTQ+ community. Courts were directed to exercise caution in passing any direction or making any comment which may be perceived as pejorative.

Navas @ Mulanavas v State of Kerala, 2024 INSC 215

Factors to decide the term of sentence convicts must undergo before remission

In its judgment dated 18 March 2024, a three-judge bench led by **Justice B R Gavai, Justice K V Viswanathan** and **Justice Sandeep Mehta** held that the aggravating and mitigating circumstances considered while deciding to commute a death penalty to life imprisonment are also relevant in determining the period of compulsory imprisonment without remission. The Court noted that there can be no straitjacket formulae and every case has to be decided considering the facts and circumstances and the fundamental underpinning of the principle of proportionality. The Court laid down the following factors (a) the number of deceased victims and their age and gender; (b) the nature of injuries including sexual assault, if any; (c) the motive for which the offence was committed; (d) whether the offence was committed when the convict was on bail in another case; (e) the premeditated nature of the offence; (f) relationship between the offender and the victim; (g) the abuse of trust, if any; (h) the criminal antecedents of the convict; and whether the convict, if released, would be a menace to the society. The Court also noted some of the mitigating factors in favour of the accused:- (1) age of the convict; (2) the probability of reformation of the convict; (3) the convict not being a professional killer; (4) the socio-economic condition of the convict; (5) the composition of the family of the conduct and (6) conduct expressing remorse. The Court noted that the conduct of the convict in jail and the period already undergone are also relevant factors.

All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat

The "All India District Court Judges' Conference" organised by the Supreme Court of India, hosted by the High Court of Gujarat and Gujarat State Judicial Academy took place at Kachchh, Gujarat between 2-3 March 2024. The conference was presided over by Judges of the Supreme Court including the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice Surya Kant, and Justice Bela M Trivedi, along with the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat, Justice Sunita Agarwal, other Judges of High Court of Gujarat and the participating judicial officers. It brought together over 300 judicial officers from across India, with more than 2000 judicial officers participating virtually.

The Chief Justice of India highlighted the vital role of the district judiciary as the backbone and central nervous system of the Indian judicial system. He emphasised the importance of addressing challenges faced by the district judiciary and encouraged direct conversations with judicial officers for solutions. He addressed the various concerns such as the adjournment



Left to Right: Justice Bela M Trivedi, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Surya Kant and the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat, Justice Sunita Agarwal at the All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat on 2 March 2024



2 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, addresses judicial officers during the inaugural session of the All India District Judges' Conference at Kachchh, Gujarat

'Today is an extraordinary day for me personally, this is because I am present amongst the judicial officers of the district judiciary from across the country. The District Judiciary has always been said to form the backbone of our legal system. It is not just a backbone, the district judiciary, I believe, is the central nervous system of the Indian judiciary. The District judiciary represents the eyes, the ears, and the voice of the Indian Judicial system. Together, the Supreme Court, the High Courts and the District Judiciary represent the soul of the Indian Judiciary and our commitment to the rule of law.'

culture, the balance between personal liberty and judicial discretion, and improving service conditions for judges. Overall, the conference aimed to promote introspective discourse, constructive dialogue, and collaborative solutions to enhance the functioning of the Indian judicial system.

Three sessions were organised to tackle critical aspects of the judicial system: (1) the role of the district judiciary as first responder of the judicial domain, (2) infrastructure and resources, and (3) the use of technology in the judicial processes.



2 March 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, addresses judicial officers during the inaugural session of the All India District Court Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat

"A gathering as such gives an incredible opportunity as members of the judiciary to reflect on why you chose this path of service and what is your role in today's society. There is no doubt that our position is one of big influence and more importantly one which requires us to be highly receptive to the needs of the people who approach us."



2 March 2024, Justice Surya Kant, addresses judicial officers during the All India District Court Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat

"In our judiciary set-up, the district judiciary acts as a primary interface between litigants and justice delivery and it is here that the majority of the cases are reshaping and adjudicating.. Judges must constantly and compulsorily continue to improve their judicial and administrative skills to discharge functions efficiently."

Session-I:
Role of the District Judiciary as the First Responder of the Judicial Domain



2 March 2024, Justice Bela M Trivedi, delivers an address during Session-I on 'Role of the district judiciary as the first responder of the judicial domain' at the All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat

'We can perceive our commitments from the oath we take either during our appointments or elevations, that we will discharge our duties, dutifully and faithfully, without fear and favour, affection or ill will.'



2 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud alongside Supreme Court Judges and the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat, engages with the judicial officers during Session-I of the All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat

2 March 2024, Judicial officers interact with Supreme Court Judges at the All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat

Session-II:
Infrastructure and Resources – Improving the Work Culture



2 March 2024, a judicial officer presents her insights and suggestions in Session-II, focusing on 'Infrastructure and Resources - improving the work culture' at the All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat



2 March 2024, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, Atul M Kurhekar, briefs participants on initiatives by the Supreme Court concerning the district judiciary, during Session-II on ' Infrastructure and Resources - improving the work culture' at the All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat

Session-III:
Use of Technology in Judicial Processes
(Presentation by the Supreme Court Information Technology Team)



2 March 2024, Registrar (Technology), H S Jaggi and OSD (Registrar) (Technology, Innovation and Planning), Ashish J Shiradhonkar, deliver a presentation in the Session-III on 'Use of technology in the judicial process' during the All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat



Group photo featuring the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat, Registry officers, Supreme Court of India and others at the All India District Judges' Conference, Kachchh, Gujarat

Supreme Court Registry Team visits District Court Complex, Kachchh, Bhuj

On 2 March 2024, the Supreme Court Registry team visited the District and Sessions Court at Kachchh, Bhuj to observe the digitisation efforts made by the court.









Translation Cell – Bridging the Linguistic Gaps



Dr Uma Narayan (centre), Registrar (Translation), with her team at the Translation Cell

Located in Room No. 308 of 'B'-Block within the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court of India, the Translation Cell, established in December 2010, plays a crucial role in the judiciary's operations. At present, the Cell is headed by Dr. Uma Narayan, OSD/Registrar and functions with an Additional Registrar, a Branch Officer and a team of five senior and six junior translators.

The primary function of the Cell is to translate various Hindi documents and papers into English. These documents, ranging from trial court judgments, depositions, FIRs and post-mortem reports to original records, are required by the Supreme Court in various matters such as Jail Petitions, Special Leave Petitions (both Civil and Criminal), Civil Appeals, Criminal Appeals and Transfer Petitions. Ms. Soma Roy, Branch Officer, Translation Cell, highlights that the Cell works in a time-bound manner, more particularly, when the documents are urgently required in the Hon'ble Court.

The Translation Cell also engages Advocate-translators empanelled with the Registry for translating documents and papers in other Indian languages into English as required by the Hon'ble Courts.

Further, the Translation Cell was given the work of translation of Supreme Court judgments from English to Hindi in 2019. As the number of Supreme Court judgments were large, the Translation Cell took assistance from High Courts of Hindi speaking States and Advocates and AORs of Supreme Court for translating the judgements into Hindi. **Currently 36,250 Supreme Court judgments are available in Hindi on e-SCR portal which is managed under the e-Courts Project, Supreme Court of India.** The regular translation work of recent Supreme Court judgments from English to Hindi is being done by Translation Cell. The translated judgments are uploaded on regular basis on to the e-SCR portal.



Mr. Shashidhar Shetty, Registrar (P&S) and Secretary to AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, Supreme Court of India coordinates with all the High Courts for the translation of Supreme Court judgments in the regional languages. The translated judgments are sent to Translation Cell, Supreme Court for uploading the same on to the e-SCR portal.

The e-SCR portal has Supreme Court judgments in 16 languages which includes Assamese, Bengali, Garo, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Khasi, Konkani, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. In all 48,195 judgments are available in Indian languages.

To take ahead the vision of Hon'ble Chief Justice of India for making the Supreme Court's judgments available in regional languages to the common man by bridging linguistic divides in the legal domain, this is a small contribution of the Translation cell in coordination with the Secretary, AI Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee and e-Courts Project Committee, Supreme Court of India.

Delhi Arbitration Weekend (DAW), 2024

From 6 March 2024 to 10 March 2024, the Supreme Court of India with the High Court of Delhi hosted the second edition of the Delhi Arbitration Weekend.



5 March 2024, Justice Hima Kohli, delivers a keynote address in the Pre DAW Session - II on 'Sociological Dimension of International Arbitration: Impartiality and Diversity'

On 6 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud gave the plenary address in the inaugural session of the DAW conducted at the Auditorium Hall of the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court. During the inaugural ceremony, the Chief Justice also released the Delhi Arbitration Review, the official journal of the Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC).



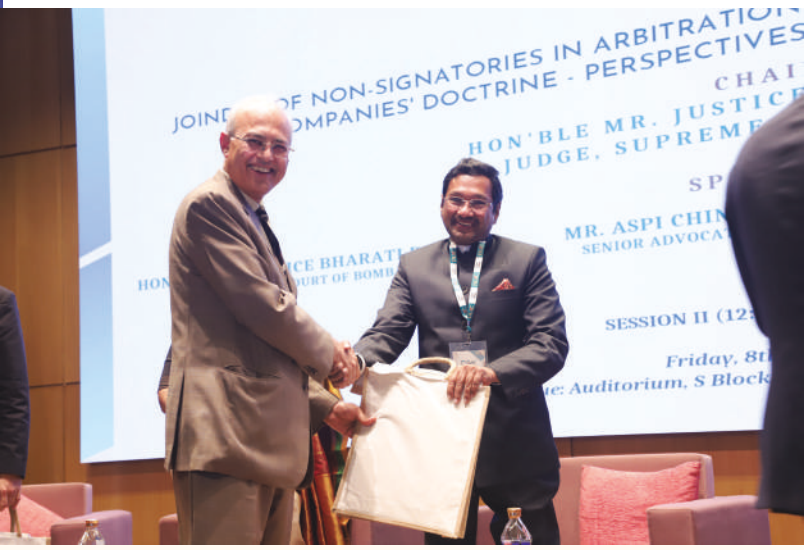
Left to right: Senior Judge, Supreme Court of Singapore, Justice Judith Prakash, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and the Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi (Acting), Justice Manmohan, inaugurate the second year of DAW at the Supreme Court Auditorium on 6 March 2024



Left to right: Justice Rajesh Bindal, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah proceeding to the Supreme Court Auditorium for the Inaugural Session of the DAW 2024, on 6 March 2024



8 March 2024, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, chairs Session-I on 'The State of Arbitration: Navigating an Arbitration Involving State-owned Entities' at DAW, 2024



8 March 2024, Justice M M Sundresh, chairs Session-II on 'Joinder of Non-signatories in Arbitration Proceedings: Analysing the 'Group of Companies' Doctrine – Perspectives from India, UK and Singapore' at DAW, 2024



8 March 2024, Justice J K Maheshwari, chairs Session-III on 'Back to the Basics: Global Perspectives on Challenges in Enforcing Arbitration Clauses' at DAW, 2024



8 March 2024, Justice Vikram Nath, chairs Session-IV on 'Where do we stand?: Revisiting the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms in light of today's economic challenges' at DAW, 2024



10 March 2024, Justice Aniruddha Bose, chairs Session-V on 'Keeping Up with the Tech – Exploring the Interplay of Technology and Arbitration' at DAW, 2024



10 March 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, addresses the audience on 'Building a Safe Arbitral Seat: Harmonising National Interest and International Expectations' at the closing session of DAW, 2024



10 March 2024, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah presides as Chief Guest during the inauguration of Indian Council of Arbitration's (ICA) session on 'Interim Relief through Emergency Arbitration' at DAW-2024, FICCI Federation House.

Sports and Cultural Events, 2024



10 March 2024, Justice Vikram Nath playing a friendly Badminton (Doubles) match during the Badminton (Singles and Doubles) competition held at Siri Fort Sports Complex



16 March 2024, an Essay Writing competition held at the Supreme Court Judges' Library for the children of Supreme Court employees



16 March 2024, Painting/Drawing Competition held at the Supreme Court Judges' Library for the children of Supreme Court employees



19 March 2024, Justice B R Gavai playing a friendly Table Tennis match during the Doubles Table Tennis (Male) competition, at the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court



20 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud alongside Judges of the Supreme Court engage in a friendly Carrom match during the Carrom (Male and Female) competition at the Additional Building Complex of the Supreme Court



23 March 2024, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, attends the Antakshari (Male and Female) competition at the Congregation Hall, Supreme Court



23 March 2024, Mr Mahesh Tanajirao Patankar, OSD-Registrar (Court & Building), displaying his cricket skills at the tournament held at Major Dhyanchand National Stadium

Supreme Court Events and Initiatives

Supreme Court Legal Services Committee



19 March 2024, Justice B R Gavai, chairs a workshop for Panel Lawyers of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) organised by SCLSC at the Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India

Justice B R Gavai, Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), chaired a training workshop held for the Advocates-on-Record (AOR) Panel of the SCLSC on 19 March 2024. The workshop aimed to enhance AORs' grasp of utilising digital tools in their practice, thereby improving the efficacy and accessibility of legal services. Justice Gavai emphasised the importance of establishing a video conferencing platform to facilitate communication between legal aid counsels and incarcerated individuals. Furthermore, the workshop addressed concerns regarding the quality of legal aid and outlined the strategies for promptly identifying and resolving legal aid challenges.

Accessibility Help Desk



21 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice J B Pardiwala, Justice Sanjay Kumar, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice Manoj Misra, and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma heading to inaugurate the Accessibility Help Desk, near e-Sewa Kendra, Supreme Court of India



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



21 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice Sanjay Kumar, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice Manoj Misra, Justice Aravind Kumar, and Justice K S Viswanathan, at the inauguration of the Accessibility Help Desk, near e-Sewa Kendra, Supreme Court of India

Media Enclosure



21 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice J B Pardiwala, Justice Sanjay Kumar, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice Manoj Misra, and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma heading to inaugurate the Accessibility Help Desk, near e-Sewa Kendra, Supreme Court of India

Event Roundup



4 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with other Supreme Court judges, and their families, visit the Amrit Udyan at the Rashtrapati Bhavan



Left to right: Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with their families, at the Amrit Udyan at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 4 March 2024



29 March, 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud greeted by the Supreme Court Registry as he enters his 25th year of judgeship

From Court corridors to Ivy League Dreams— A journey worth appreciation



Ms Pragya, Research Assistant at the Supreme Court was felicitated by the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and other Supreme Court judges in the judges' lounge

On 13 March 2024, Ms Pragya, a bright young lady currently working as a Research Assistant in the Centre for Research and Planning, Supreme Court of India was felicitated by the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud along with other Judges of the Supreme Court in the Judges' Lounge. Being the daughter of a Supreme Court employee, and coming from a humble, challenging background, Ms Pragya made her family proud by bagging several offer letters from prestigious universities including Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, New York University, University of Chicago, University of California at Berkeley and University of Michigan in the United States of America for pursuing her post-graduation in law. This remarkable achievement was recognised by the Supreme Court Judges, as Ms Pragya aspires to become a highly-qualified first-generation lawyer from her family.

Ms Pragya states, "My father, despite not completing high school, embarked on a courageous journey to Delhi, seeking a brighter future for our family. He eventually secured the post of a Junior Court Attendant at the Supreme Court of India. Right after matriculation, I was called upon by the Supreme Court Employees' Welfare Association, who wanted to reward me for my academic performance. That was the first time I entered the Supreme Court premises."

The memory of walking down the corridors of the Supreme Court, holding her father's hand firmly, had cast a vivid and lasting imprint in her mind, mentions Ms Pragya. Narrating her experience, Ms Pragya recalls, "As we approached to receive a letter of merit acknowledging my excellent performance in matriculation, the room erupted in applause, my father's beaming face reflected the pride that swelled within us. This incident at the Supreme Court, where the very essence of justice echoed through the halls, played a pivotal role in shaping my aspiration to become a lawyer. Further, witnessing my father's services fueled my aspiration to become the first in my family to pursue a degree at the University of Delhi and a first-generation female lawyer." Having completed her undergraduate studies in Commerce from Delhi University before switching her field to Law through a 3-year LLB from Amity Law School, Noida, Ms Pragya believes that the unique blend of commerce and legal courses she studied further developed her keen interest towards law.

Before joining the Centre for Research and Planning, Ms Pragya also worked as a Judicial Law Clerk with Justice S Abdul Nazeer, former Judge Supreme Court of India, for one-and-a-half years. Being exposed to the widest possible array of cases, Ms Pragya believes that she was able to closely observe the intricacies of judicial decision-making, giving her a ringside seat of the judicial process and an insight into how decisions are made and how both lawyers and judges operate. Talking about her role models, Ms Pragya considers herself to be the disciple of the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and former Justice R V Raveendran. She also lauds her Research Assistantship at the Center for Research and Planning which she emphasises has been a rewarding experience in many ways.

Speaking about her future aspirations, Ms Pragya wishes to establish her career as a lawyer advocating for civil rights in conjunction with her studies in Constitutional and Public Law. "I am driven to acquire academic training in an advanced jurisdiction like the United States of America, whose socio-legal roots are seated in common law, analogous to India," shares Ms Pragya. Having received offer letters from prestigious law schools, some offering scholarships as well, Ms Pragya firmly believes that a postgraduate degree in law offered by these prestigious universities involving Socratic dialogue, seminars and simulations, would enable her to learn the art of the law better.

When asked about her experience of receiving a unique felicitation ceremony by the Supreme Court Judges, Ms Pragya with a shining bright smile states that, "I will always cherish the beautiful memories of the felicitation ceremony held on March 13, thoughtfully and sweetly organised in my honour, at the judges' lounge, in the presence of the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and other Supreme Court judges, with the standing ovation. I consider the three books I was gifted to be invaluable, and I have no doubt that they will serve as a guiding light for me in my professional journey."

Legal Aid

The First National Lok Adalat of 2024, led by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and under the guidance of its Executive Chairman, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, was held nation-wide on 9 March 2024. Various cases were addressed, including compoundable offences, revenue and bank recovery cases, motor accident claims, matrimonial disputes (except divorces), cheque bounce cases, labour disputes, and other civil matters. Many recovery issues involving financial institutions, banks, government entities, and private companies were resolved before they reached litigation. In a significant achievement, a grand total of 3,11,98,807 cases were settled, comprising 38,67,082 pending cases and 2,73,31,725 pre-litigation cases, with the aggregate settlement amount reaching Rs. 17,482.47 crores.



23 March 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Executive Chairman, NALSA visits the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, Bengaluru. Justice Khanna also visits the barracks for the inmates, the prison hospital, the kitchen, the vocational training centre and the Legal Services Clinic etc. housing around 5000 inmates including convicts and undertrials

23 March 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna engages with the Chief, Deputy, and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels alongside other panel lawyers and paralegal volunteers during his visit to the City Civil Court in Bengaluru





25 March 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Executive Chairman, NALSA, inaugurates Legal Services Clinic at the Panchayat Bhawan in Jalige Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. Justice Khanna informs the villagers about the diverse legal services available through Legal Services Institution including the NALSA Helpline and the National Lok Adalats and exhorting them to resort to ADR mechanism to solve disputes

30 March 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna chairs the State-Level Conference of DLSAs of Rajasthan in Jaipur, Rajasthan





30 March 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, delivers a keynote address at the 'One Day Colloquium on Legal Aid and Social Justice: Challenges and Opportunities in Access to Justice,' organised by the Rajasthan High Court

Training Hub

4-12 March 2024, Atul M Kurhekar, Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India, addresses newly recruited junior court assistants during their induction training programme (Batch-II)





Group photo during the guided tour of the Supreme Court premises conducted for the participants during their training programme



9 March 2024, Dr Rachna Wadhwa conducts a Compression Only Life Support (COLS) for the third batch of Registry officers and officials at the G B Pant Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, New Delhi

SCBA Scoop



11 March 2024, Justice Sanjay Karol, Chief Guest, attends a lecture on 'The Mediation Act, 2023 and the Legal Profession,' organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at V K Krishna Menon Bhawan, Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi

11 March 2024, the Supreme Court Bar Association hosts a lecture on 'The Mediation Act, 2023 and the Legal Profession' at V K Krishna Menon Bhawan, Indian Society of International Law





20 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with the Supreme Court Bar Association inaugurates the Badminton Court for the lawyers, in D-Block, Additional Building Complex, Supreme Court of India



20-21 March 2024, the Supreme Court Bar Association organises a special camp drive for registration/ modification of Voter Identity Cards for its members with the assistance of the office of the Electoral Registration Officer, Assembly Constituency-40, Jam Nagar House, New Delhi

On 22 March, 2024 at 3:10 PM, the Supreme Court Bar Association hosted a vibrant Holi Milan Program in the lush environs of the Supreme Court Lawn. Among the esteemed guests were distinguished Judges of the Supreme Court of India including Justice B R Gavai, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice M M Sundresh, Justice Sanjay Karol, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, Justice K V Viswanathan, Justice Sandeep Mehta, and Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale.

22 March 2024, the Supreme Court Bar Association hosts a Holi Milan Program on the Supreme Court Lawn





22 March 2024, Judges of the Supreme Court at the Holi Milan program organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association

Beyond the Court



2 March 2024, Justice Aniruddha Bose chairs Session-I on 'Writ Jurisdiction- Nature, Scope and Limits' at the National Workshop For High Court Justices on Constitutional Remedies and Administrative Law, held at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal

2 March 2024, Justice Aniruddha Bose chairs Session-II on 'Confluence of Anti-Conversion Legislations and Matrimonial Laws' in the Conference on Matrimonial Laws, held at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal





7 March 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Chief Guest, inaugurates the Master Class on Intellectual Property Adjudication - Judicial Perspectives organised by the High Court of Delhi and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in New Delhi





7 March 2024, Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Rajesh Bindal, Guests of Honour, at the 'LexTalk World Global Hybrid Conference' organised by LexTalk World in association with the Indian Society of International Law at Le Meridien, New Delhi. The day culminated with a keynote speech by Justice Rajesh Bindal on 'Use of Technology in Courts'



10 March 2024, Justice C T Ravikumar, Chief Guest, delivers a valedictory address at the 14th GIL National Moot Court Competition, 2024 organised by the Geeta Institute of Law, Panipat

10 March 2024, Justice Rajesh Bindal presides over Session-II on the theme "Security Concerns: Institutional and Individual" as a resource person in the International Conference of the National Judicial Academy (NJA) on 'The implications and ramifications of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on Re-engineering Judicial Process through Information and Communication Technology (ICT)' organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), United Kingdom, at Bhopal





15 March 2024, Justice Hima Kohli, Chief Guest, attends the 20th K K Luthra Memorial Moot Court Competition, 2024 at Campus Law Centre, Delhi University



16 March 2024, Justice B R Gavai attends a One-Day Law Seminar on "Constitutional Governance in India – Dr B R Ambedkar Idea of Socio-Economic Justice and Social Engineering through Judicial Activism" at State Judicial Academy, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

16 March 2024, Justice Surya Kant, Chief Guest, delivers a valedictory address at the 7th Edition of Arguendo at the University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS), Panjab University (PU)





16 March 2024, Justice Hrishikesh Roy attends the 13th Convocation Ceremony of National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal, held at the Justice J S Verma Memorial Convention Centre



16 March 2024, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Hima Kohli, and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah attend the launch ceremony of the Fali Nariman Scholarship and Annual Lecture Series at the Ballroom, Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi



16 March 2024, Justice C T Ravikumar, Chief Guest, attends the inaugural ceremony of National Law Fest, Rayat College of Law, Ropar, Punjab

16 March 2024, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, at the International Judicial Conclave on Intellectual Property Rights, hosted by the High Court of Delhi



NJA North Zone-II Regional Conference on "Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology"

From 16 - 17 March 2024, the National Judicial Academy (NJA) in collaboration with the Allahabad High Court and Judicial Training and Research Institute, Lucknow, organised North Zone-II Regional Conference on 'Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology.' On 16 March 2024, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia presided over Session-II on 'Elements of Judicial Behaviour' and Justice Dipankar Datta was the resource person in Session-III on the theme 'Judgment Writing Tool.' On 17 March 2024, Justice Bindal presided over Session-IV on the theme 'Overview of E-courts Projects' as the resource person.



16 March 2024, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia presides over Session-II on 'Elements of Judicial Behaviour' at the North Zone-II Regional Conference on 'Contemporary Judicial Developments and Strengthening Justice through Law and Technology, NJA, Bhopal



Left to right: Justice Dipankar Datta, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, and Justice Rajesh Bindal at the NJA North Zone-II Regional Conference, Bhopal

International Judicial Conclave on Intellectual Property Rights

The Delhi High Court in collaboration with Delhi Judicial Academy and the United States Patents and Trademarks Office (USPTO) and the United States Department of Justice conducted an International Judicial Conclave on Intellectual Property Rights on 16 and 17 March 2024. Justice Hima Kohli, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Justice K V Viswanathan were the panellists at the Conclave.



16-17 March 2024, Justice Hima Kohli participates as a panellist in the session on 'Protecting and Enforcing IP in New Digital Ecosystems' at the International Judicial Conclave on Intellectual Property Rights hosted by the High Court of Delhi

16-17 March 2024, Justice K V Viswanathan participates as a panellist in the session on 'New Frontiers of Trademark Law' at the International Judicial Conclave on Intellectual Property Rights hosted by the High Court of Delhi



17 March 2024, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Chief Guest, attends the book launch of 'Treatise on PMLA – Law And Practice,' at Little Theatre, NCPA Marg, Mumbai





23 March 2024, Justice Surya Kant, Chief Guest, attends the 10th Annual Judicial Conclave on the occasion of Foundation Day of the High Court organised by the Tripura Judicial Academy under the aegis of High Court of Tripura

23 March 2024, Justice Abhay S Oka attends the valedictory ceremony of the 12th Justice P N Bhagwati International Moot Court Competition on Human Rights at the Bharati Vidyapeeth New Law College, Pune





23 March 2024, the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) hosts a conference on "Ease to Justice Through Arbitration and Mediation in Commercial Disputes," Goa. Justice Hima Kohli delivers a keynote address, emphasising the imperative of facilitating accessible justice in commercial disputes through arbitration and mediation

23 March 2024, Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Rajesh Bindal, Guests of Honour, at the valedictory ceremony of 4th Justice J S Verma Memorial National ADR and Client Counselling Competition, 2024 at NDMC Convention Centre, Connaught Place, New Delhi



23 March 2024, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Chief Guest, delivers an address at the National Tax Conference, organised by All India Federation of Tax Practitioners (AIFTP) in collaboration with the Telangana Tax Practitioners Association and FTCCI, Hyderabad



21st Biennial State Level Conference, 23-24 March, 2024, Bengaluru

Left to Right: Justice B V Nagarathna, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Siddaramaiah, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice A S Bopanna, and Justice Aravind Kumar, lighting the candle at the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial officers held at Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK, Yelahanka Road, Bengaluru on 23 March 2024



From 23 March to 24 March 2024, the High Court of Karnataka organised the 21st Biennial State Level Conference on the theme 'Equity and Excellence for Futuristic Judiciary,' at Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK, Yelahanka Road, Bengaluru. The Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice A S Bopanna, Justice B V Nagarathna, and Justice Aravind Kumar attended the Conference.

On 23 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India delivered an inaugural address and discussed the importance of managing stress and achieving work-life balance for judges. Justice Nagarathna, during the inaugural ceremony, addressed the judicial officers and further presided over Session-I, delivering a lecture on the theme 'Women and Judiciary.' Additionally, Justice Kumar emphasised the importance of knowledge exchange among judicial officers to enhance their efficiency.

On 24 March 2024, Justice Khanna delivered a valedictory address during the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers.

23 March 2023, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, delivers the inaugural address at the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial officers organised by Karnataka State Judicial Officers' Association held at Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK, Yelahanka Road, Bengaluru



23 March 2023, Justice A S Bopanna, delivers the inaugural address at the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial officers organised by Karnataka State Judicial Officers' Association held at Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK, Yelahanka Road, Bengaluru





23 March 2024, Justice B V Nagarathna, presides over Session - I on 'Women and Judiciary' at the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial officers organised by Karnataka State Judicial Officers' Association held at Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK, Yelahanka Road, Bengaluru



23 March 2023, Justice Aravind Kumar, delivers the inaugural address at the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial officers organised by Karnataka State Judicial Officers' Association held at Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK, Yelahanka Road, Bengaluru



24 March 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, delivers the valedictory address at the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of the Judicial Officers organised by Karnataka State Judicial Officers' Association held at Dr Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK, Yelahanka Road, Bengaluru



24 March 2024, Justice Surya Kant, Chief Guest, attends the Mega Legal Aid Camp organised by Arunachal Pradesh Legal Services Authority at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh



25 March 2024, Justice B V Nagarathna, delivers a virtual lecture address on the theme, 'The Indian Supreme Court and Social Justice: A 75-Year History' in the Symposium organised by Columbia Law School chapter of the American Constitution Society



26 March 2024, Justice B R Gavai, delivers a lecture on '75 Years of Transformative Constitutionalism,' at the Columbia Law School, New York



26 March 2024, Justice B R Gavai, visits the Dr Ambedkar statue at Columbia Law School, New York highlighting Dr Ambedkar's academic achievement at the institution where his sculpture now stands as a tribute





26 March 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud attended the decennial celebrations of the introduction of BA LLB course at Sri Venkateswara University's Department of Law, Tirupati. While addressing the students he reflected on his days at Delhi University and urged them to engage in discussions around global problems. He emphasised on the necessity of free and critical thinking in becoming efficient lawyers.



26 March 2024, Justice Sanjay Karol, Chief Guest, attends a Seminar and Capacity Building Program on Pro Bono Legal Services organised by the Pro Bono Club of Dr B R Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat

26 March 2024, Justice A G Masih releases "I Did it My Way," an autobiographical coffee table book by Senior Advocate Manmohan Lal Sarin, at Hotel Taj, Chandigarh





27 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Justice P S Narasimha, Justice Sanjay Kumar, and Justice S V N Bhatti, lays the foundation stone for the new Telangana High Court building at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad

28 March 2024, Justice B R Gavai, attends the program on 'Between Law, Politics and Policy: Examining the Judiciary's Delicate Balance in Democratic Policy Making' at Harvard Kennedy School, Boston



29 March 2024, Justice B R Gavai, attends the lunch conversation with Harvard Scholars and fellows on various constitutional issues at Harvard Kennedy School, Boston





29 March, 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, delivers a valedictory address during the Global Lawyer's Summit organised by the American Bar Association (ABA) between 28-29 March 2024 at the Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

29 March 2024, Justice Hima Kohli, Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Sanjay Karol, and Justice Rajesh Bindal, preside over a Session on 'Role of the Judicial and the Rule of Law in Advancing economic Development' during the Global Lawyer's Summit, organised by the American Bar Association (ABA) at the Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi. Justice Kohli in the session emphasised the pivotal role of the partnership between India and the USA, particularly in judicial collaboration and mutual respect for the rule of law



29 March 2024, Justice B V Nagarathna, delivers a lecture on Judicial Ethics at the Telangana State Judicial Academy in Hyderabad





29 March 2024, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Chief Guest, attends the inaugural ceremony of the second edition of the CCI-Department of Laws National Moot Court Competition at Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh

30 March 2024, Justice Surya Kant, Chief Guest, attends the inaugural ceremony of the Moot Court Hall at Dr B R Ambedkar National Law University, Sonepat





30 March 2024, Justice B V Nagarathna, delivers an inaugural address on 'Supreme Court in 2023' at the 'Courts and the Constitution-2023 in Review Conference' organised by the NALSAR University of Law, Bengaluru



30 March 2024, Justice Bindal, Chief Guest, delivers a Convocation Address at the 13th Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Rohtak

31 March 2024, Justice Rajesh Bindal, delivers a valedictory address and adjudicates the final round of the 2nd NFSU National Technological Moot Court Competition 2024, organised by the National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar



Foreign Delegation



7 March 2024, the delegates for Bilateral Judicial Dialogue - Indo-German Conference, share the dias with the Supreme Court Judges as observers, during the Court proceedings



15 March 2024, the delegates for 12th Indo-British Legal Forum Meet, share the dias with the Supreme Court Judges as observers, during the Court proceedings



8 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice P S Narasimha, and Justice K V Viswanathan, along with other dignitaries at the Bilateral Judicial Dialogue - Indo-German Conference held at the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi



16 March 2024, the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, and Justice B V Nagarathna along with other dignitaries at the 12th Indo-British Legal Forum Meet held at the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi

Glimpses
Kachchh, Gujarat







































Aerial View of Light show at Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat

Supreme Court of India
Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001

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