# Supreme Court Chronicle

Issue XIII | First Anniversary Issue | November 2024

## Highlights

- *A Conversation with Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud*
- *Release of Publications of Supreme Court of India by President of India*
- *Inauguration of the National Judicial Museum and Archive*
- *Groundbreaking Ceremony of Expansion Building*
- *Awareness Programme on HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccination*



# Chief Justice's Corner



Dear Readers,

I am happy to present the First Anniversary Edition of our monthly newsletter—*Supreme Court Chronicle*, which came into existence in November 2023. The newsletter has been engaging readers with insights into the workings of the Apex Court for over a year now and has become a valuable platform, serving as the repository of knowledge while showcasing the judicial endeavours of the institution.

Within the pages of this edition, you will find a snapshot of the workings of the office of the Secretary General, who heads the Administrative (Secretariat) part of the Supreme Court. The Secretariat plays a pivotal role in maintaining the overall administrative efficiency and efficacy of the Court. Among major highlights are the 'Groundbreaking Ceremony of Expansion Building' and the 'Awareness Programme on HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccination.'

The Supreme Court also released three publications at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President unveiled three publications namely 'Justice for the Nation: Reflections on 75 Years of the Supreme Court of India,' 'Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion' and 'Legal Aid through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India' prepared by the Centre for Research and Planning. Another significant event featured is the inauguration of the National Judicial Museum and Archive in the East Wing, Main Campus of the Supreme Court of India.

As always, the newsletter is full of interesting information about the Court— from new judgments, to judicial engagements beyond the courtroom, and a feature where I engage in a candid conversation with the team of *Supreme Court Chronicle*.

I hope you find this anniversary edition special for all its insightful and engaging content. The Chronicle has completed one whole year of bridging the gap between the judiciary and readers who are curious about the functioning of the Apex Court.

Happy Reading!

**Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud**
Chief Justice of India

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# Fresh from the Bench

### *Nipun Aneja v. State of Uttar Pradesh, 2024 INSC 767*

*In official work relationships, expectations and obligations are prescribed by law, rules, policies, and regulations, unlike sentimental relationships, to constitute an offence under Section 306, IPC*

In the order dated 3 October 2024, the Division Bench comprising **Justice J B Pardiwala** and **Justice Manoj Misra** observed the conditions under which the official superiors can be held liable for the abetment of suicide by a junior official. The Court distinguished between sentimental relationships and official relationships. The victim was an employee who had worked with Hindustan Levers Limited for 23 years. As per the complainant, the victim was forced to retire voluntarily. On the day of his death, the victim was sitting in a room with other employees who had, like the victim, not taken VRS and, hence, were directed to work in merchandising, which is considered a lower position. The Court noted that to establish an offence under Section 306, IPC, it is necessary to prove that some direct or indirect act of incitement was done towards the victim by the accused. Moreover, it was observed that in official relationships, expectations and obligations are prescribed by law, rules, policies, and regulations, unlike sentimental relationships. The Court stated that the ultimate test is whether the accused intended the consequence of their act and that mere harassment or humiliation in an official capacity, without the specific intention to drive someone to suicide, does not constitute abetment.

### *Omkar Ramchandra Gond v. Union of India and Ors, 2024 INSC 775*

*The mere existence of a benchmark disability is not a justified reason to bar a person from pursuing an MBBS course*

In the judgment dated 15 October 2024, the three-judge bench comprising **Justice B R Gavai**, **Justice Aravind Kumar**, and **Justice K V Viswanathan** held that the mere existence of a benchmark disability is not a justified reason to bar a person from pursuing an MBBS course unless there is a report by the Disability Assessment Board that that candidate is incapacitated from studying medicine. The appellant had a stellar academic record in his school and wanted to become a doctor, but he had speech and language disability. He was diagnosed with Hypernasality and misarticulation in his palate and was certified to have 45% permanent disability as per his Disability Certificate. He was thus deemed ineligible to take the NEET exam under the National Medical Commission (NMC) guidelines. The Court observed that the NMC's interpretation of disability percentages was overly broad and discriminatory, holding

that mere quantification of disability should not automatically bar a candidate from pursuing a career in medicine. Instead, the Disability Assessment Boards must evaluate whether a candidate's disability would affect their ability to pursue the course. Moreover, the Court emphasised the need for reasonable accommodation, stating that the principle captures the obligation of the State and private parties to provide additional support to persons with disabilities to facilitate their full and effective participation in society. The Court directed the appellant to be admitted to the MBBS course and asked the NMC to review its regulations and ensure that the assessment of candidates with disabilities is conducted in a manner that respects their rights and dignity. Further, the Court held that the decisions of Disability Assessment Boards can be challenged in judicial review proceedings.

## *In Re: Section 6A Citizenship Act 1955, 2024 INSC 789*

*Validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act upheld*

In the judgment dated 17 October 2024, the validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act 1955 was upheld in a 4:1 majority by the five-judge Constitution Bench comprising **Chief Justice of India**, **Dr D Y Chandrachud**, **Justice Surya Kant**, **Justice M M Sundresh**, **Justice J B Pardiwala** and **Justice Manoj Misra**, wherein Justice J B Pardiwala gave the dissenting opinion. Section 6A resulted from the Assam Accord, an agreement executed in 1985 between the Union government, the All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP). The said provision provided that the immigrants who had entered India from Bangladesh before 1 January 1966, and between 1 January 1966 and 25 March 1971 and had been living in Assam ever since would be allowed to register as citizens of India. The Court held that Section 6A does not violate Article 6, which addresses citizenship for people, on the date of commencement of the Constitution as it does not prohibit the grant of citizenship post the cut-off date of 19 July 1948. Moreover, Article 11 grants the Parliament the power to prescribe conditions for citizenship. The Court observed that the cut-off dates are not based on any "discriminatory and arbitrary considerations" hence, the Court's interference is not required. The Court identified the Assam Accord as a "political solution" and Section 6A as a "legislative solution". It held the cut-off date to be rational as it separated those immigrants who entered India as a result of the partition from those immigrants who entered as a result of Pakistan's "Operation Searchlight". The Court also rejected the petitioner's claim that the presence of different ethnic groups in Assam violated Article 29 (1) of the Constitution of India.

However, **Justice J B Pardiwala** dissented, citing that the cut-off date of 1 January 1966 was introduced to address concerns about the "wrongful inclusion of migrants in the electoral rolls," but the immigrants who entered Assam between 1966 and 1971 were not removed from the rolls. Hence, the objective behind creating the two distinct categories, that is, before 1 January 1966 and between 1966 and 1971, was defeated. Further, **Justice J B Pardiwala** noted that the burden of determining who is a foreigner among the persons who entered during the set time period was solely upon the state, which could have adverse effects. Further, there is no time limit to the provision. Consequently, he held Section 6A to be prospectively unconstitutional.

## *Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action & Anr v. Union Of India, 2024 INSC 790*

*Child Marriage deprives children of the right to self-determination, health, and childhood*

In the Judgment dated 18 October 2024, the three-judge bench comprising **Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud**, **Justice J B Pardiwala**, and **Justice Manoj Misra** issued several guidelines to prevent child marriages. The petition was filed in public interest by an NGO (Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action), which sought directions to address the failure of authorities to prevent child marriages despite the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA). The Petitioner sought stronger enforcement mechanisms, awareness programmes, the appointment of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers, and comprehensive support systems for child brides – including education, healthcare, and compensation, to ensure the protection and welfare of vulnerable minors. The Court observed that the PCMA did not stipulate on betrothals, which defeats the objective of the legislature as minors whose marriages are fixed during their minority also suffer from the violation of their right to free choice, autonomy, agency and childhood. It effectively defeats the child's right to choose their partner and life paths before they mature and form the ability to assert their agency. The Court noted that the Parliament may consider outlawing child betrothals, which may be used to evade penalties under the PCMA. The Court held that the effective implementation of the legislation includes better reporting mechanisms, expansion of public awareness campaigns, and investment in the training and capacity-building of law enforcement officers and related actors. Moreover, the Court highlighted the need to regularly monitor the implementation of the Act, conduct evaluations to identify gaps and establish feedback mechanisms to refine and improve responses to child marriage continually. Consequently, the Court directed the circulation of the directions given in the judgment to the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all the States and Union Territories, NALSA, and NCPCR for strict compliance.

## *Suhas Chakma v. Union Of India, 2024 INSC 813*

*The legal aid should not be merely nominal but must meet certain quality standards*

In the judgment dated 23 October 2024, the Division Bench comprising **Justice K V Viswanathan** and **Justice B R Gavai** decided on a Writ Petition by Suhas Chakma, highlighting the plight of prisoners in overcrowded prisons and the inadequate access to legal aid in India. The Court's intervention led to a comprehensive review of the existing legal aid mechanism and resulted in detailed directions for its improvement and effective implementation. The Court read Article 39-A of the Constitution, which mandates equal justice and free legal aid, along with the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which provides the statutory framework for implementing these constitutional objectives and emphasises the importance of this constitutional directive. The Court praised the effectiveness of the Prison Legal Aid Clinics (PLACs) in providing aid to the inmates but also identified the areas of improvement in the system. The Court designated NALSA's "Early Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage Framework" as an important preventive measure in ensuring access to justice before formal legal proceedings. Further, the Court analysed the role and effectiveness of the e-Prison Module, e-Kiosks, the function of Under-Trial Review Committees, and other legal aid awareness mechanisms. The Court noted that the legal aid should not be merely nominal but must meet certain quality standards. The Court gave specific directions to improve the access to legal aid for all inmates and called for the cooperation of the State Governments and the High Courts in the matter.

## *State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. v. M/S Lalta Prasad Vaish and Sons, 2024 INSC 812*

*Item 26 of the IRDA should be interpreted to exclude the industry of "intoxicating liquor" from the Union government's control*

In the judgment dated 23 October 2024, the nine-judge bench, with 8:1 majority, comprising **Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice J B Pardiwala, Justice Manoj Misra, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Abhay S Oka, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Justice Augustine George Masih, and Justice B V Nagarathna** overruled critical aspects of the 1990 seven-judge bench decision in *Synthetics and Chemicals Ltd. v. State of UP*, 1989 INSC 321, which limited the state's power to regulate 'industrial alcohol'. Further, it held that states have the legislative competence to regulate industrial alcohol as it falls under the definition of "intoxicating liquors" dealt within Entry 8 of List II of the Constitution. The dispute arose when the Uttar Pradesh government imposed a licence fee on industrial alcohol obtained from distilleries, driven by genuine concerns about public health and the need to prevent its misuse. The industrial manufacturers and traders opposed this by citing that the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (IDRA) gave exclusive control over the production and regulation of industrial alcohol to the Union Government. The Court referred to its previous judgment in the case of *Ch Tika Ramji & Others, Etc vs. The State Of Uttar Pradesh & Others*, AIR 1956 SC 676, wherein purposive interpretation was used, and held that while the state government had no power to regulate sugar, it did have the power to legislate policies and framework for sugarcane which is the raw material of sugar, under Entry 33 of the Concurrent List. This reasoning prevailed for 34 years until the decision in *Synthetics and Chemicals Ltd. v. State of UP*, 1989 INSC 321, which introduced the distinction between potable and non-potable alcohol, holding that the state government had the power only to regulate potable liquor and not non-potable liquor, which included industrial alcohol. The two opposing constitution bench decisions prompted the Court to delve into the interplay between Entry 8 of List II and Entry 52 of List I of the Constitution and the IDRA Act in the present judgment. The court reiterated that the Parliament has a dominant power only in irreconcilable conflict between the Union and the State List. Still, in the present case, no such conflict was in issue. The Court observed that Entry 8, being a specific entry, is not subject to Entry 52 and, hence, includes all forms of intoxicating liquor, from production to sale. The Court broadly interpreted the term 'intoxicating liquor' in Entry 8 and observed that Item 26 of the IRDA should be interpreted to exclude the industry of "intoxicating liquor" from the Union government's control.

**Justice B V Nagarathna** gave the sole dissenting opinion, holding that the Union government had greater power to control scheduled industries as per the constitutional and legislative framework. She observed that merely because it is possible to divert and misuse industrial alcohol for human consumption, the meaning of Entry 8, List 2 cannot be stretched. Industrial alcohol used for manufacturing purposes cannot be brought under the purview of "intoxicating liquor" under Entry 8 List II. She noted that an artificial interpretation cannot be adopted to give a different meaning to the term "intoxicating liquor" as this would be contrary to the intention of the framers of the Constitution.

Ultimately, the Court interpreted "intoxicating liquors" liberally to include denatured alcohol, which could potentially be misused to harm public health, but excluded final products like hand sanitiser to avoid overlapping with other entries.

# Justice Sanjiv Khanna: Chief Justice Designate

President of India, Ms Droupadi Murmu, in exercise of powers under Article 124(2) of the Constitution, appointed Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the 51st Chief Justice of India. He will take charge of the office with effect from 11 November 2024 after the retirement of the current Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud. Justice Khanna, the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, will serve a six-month term.

Born on 14 May 1960, Justice Khanna enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983 and began his legal practice in the district courts of Tis Hazari before moving to the Delhi High Court and various other tribunals. Renowned for his diligent work ethic and legal expertise, Justice Khanna was elevated to the position of additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and became a permanent judge in 2006. His judicial career reached a significant milestone in January 2019 when he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of India. Over the years, he has contributed to several important cases and verdicts, establishing himself as one of the most respected figures in the judiciary.



*Chief Justice of India, Dr DY Chandrachud, with the Chief Justice Designate, Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice B R Gavai*

Justice Khanna served as Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Service Committee from 17 June 2023 to 25 December 2023 and is currently the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority and a member of the Governing Council of the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal. Justice Khanna has primarily authored judgments in criminal matters, followed by civil, constitutional, and arbitration cases. Among his significant decisions, he upheld the integrity of electronic

voting machines (EVMs), asserting their security in preventing booth capturing and bogus voting, reinforcing public trust in the electoral process. He was also a part of the five-judge bench that upheld the Indian government's 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370, which had granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. This landmark ruling reshaped the political landscape of the region. Earlier this year, Justice Khanna was part of a five-judge bench that declared the Electoral Bond Scheme unconstitutional, ruling that the scheme which allowed for anonymous donations to political parties, violated the public's right to information, a crucial element of informed voting. This judgment stands to enhance accountability and transparency in political financing.

Furthermore, Justice Khanna authored the majority opinion in the 2019 RTI judgment, emphasising that judicial independence does not inherently oppose the right to information. He stated that whether the Chief Justice should fulfil RTI requests must be determined on a case-by-case basis, concluding that the Chief Public Information Officer should assess if disclosure serves the larger public interest against the right to privacy of judges. Justice Khanna also penned a unanimous judgment for a five-judge bench, asserting that the Supreme Court can, under its inherent power granted by Article 142 of the Constitution, dissolve a marriage that has irretrievably broken down. Additionally, he granted interim bail to former Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, allowing him to campaign during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. He emphasised the importance of democratic participation and the rights of candidates to engage with voters despite legal challenges.

Justice Khanna's appointment as the 51st Chief Justice of India marks a significant shift in the Indian legal system. His term is expected to focus on critical issues related to pendency and other significant judicial reforms.



*Left to right: Justice Surya Kant, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, and Justice B R Gavai*

# Groundbreaking Ceremony of Expansion Building

The ground-breaking ceremony of the Supreme Court's new Expansion Building, designed to enhance the court's infrastructure with advanced facilities and inclusive spaces, was held on 14 October 2024 by Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and the Judges of Supreme Court of India. The new building will be an expansion of the existing Supreme Court complex. While elucidating the vision behind the project, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, stated, "The expansion is not just about increasing physical space. It is about building the capacity for justice."

The Expansion Building is a significant milestone that aligns with the more extensive journey of the judiciary, not just in the physical expansion of the building but also in strengthening the judiciary's capacity to meet the dynamic demands raised by the increasing caseload and the complexity of cases.

The planned expansion, spanning over 86,500 square metres and constructed in two phases, is designed to meet the evolving needs of the judicial system. Phase One, covering 38,250 square metres, will feature two basements and a five-storey building. Its ground floor will provide space for lawyers, a library, a spacious canteen, and offices for both the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association, while the upper floors will house courtrooms, court offices, and chambers. Phase Two will add 48,250 square metres, including three and four-storey blocks, featuring 29 courtrooms, new judges' chambers, and dedicated spaces for lawyers and Registry staff. Notably, the fifth floor of the new structure will feature a Constitutional Court with seating for a 17-judge bench, reflecting a commitment to judicial adaptability and responsiveness.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Justice of India revealed that the new facility will have ramps, adjustable furniture, and seating areas for persons with disabilities and will stand as a testament to the judiciary's commitment to the ideals of justice, fairness, and progress. "With this expansion, we are not just adding rooms or court spaces. We are creating an environment that upholds dignity of people who visit the court and manifests the hallowed grounds that have upheld and advanced the intricately woven threads of justice in the tapestry of our constitutional spirit," Chief Justice of India said.

The expansion is carefully designed to be environmentally conscious, aiming for a Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) 5-star ratings, with sustainable materials, green landscaping, and efficient lighting, electricity, and transport. Embodying 'Justice for All' in the true sense, the building incorporates universal design principles to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities, with features like ramps, lifts, clear signage, and accessible restrooms. The new facilities will also employ state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure, allowing for seamless case management, efficient workflow, and enhanced collaboration.




*14 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud along with Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice B R Gavai, Judges, Supreme Court of India and Mr Manohar Lal Khattar, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, at the "Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Expansion Building", Supreme Court of India*




*14 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud with the Judges of the Supreme Court of India, at the"Groundbreaking Ceremony of Expansion Building"*




*14 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Ms Kalpana Das and spouses of other sitting judges, at the "Groundbreaking Ceremony of Expansion Building"*

# Awareness Programme on HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccination

An Awareness Programme on HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccination for prevention of cervical cancer was conducted for Registry officials and staff on 15 October 2024. The event highlighted the importance of HPV Vaccination in preventing cervical cancer. The programme included informative sessions led by medical experts who discussed the science behind HPV and its implications on women's health. Dr Sudha Murty, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee), who has been advocating for government-sponsored HPV vaccination programmes to combat cervical cancer, was the special guest of honour at the event.




*15 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Justice K V Viswanathan and Justice N Kotiswar Singh, along with Dr Sudha Murty, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee) attend the HPV Vaccination Awareness Programme at the Auditorium, Administrative Buildings Complex*

# A Conversation with Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud



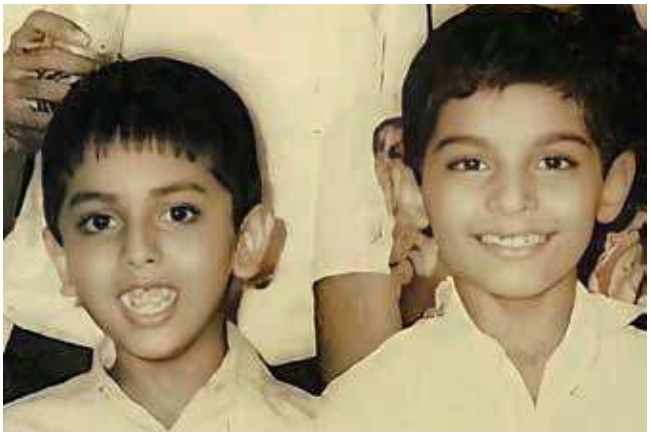
*Supreme Court Chronicle* is pleased to present a much-anticipated interview with Dr D Y Chandrachud, the 50th Chief Justice of India, who is set to retire on 10th November 2024. Known for his compassionate and insightful approach, he has guided the judiciary with his juristic intellect and empathy, steering it toward a brighter future. Throughout his tenure, the Chief Justice has established a reputation for his progressive legal views, commitment to judicial reforms, and significant contributions to landmark cases. With a prolific output of judgments, he has consistently demonstrated dedication to upholding the rule of law and protecting fundamental rights.

In this candid interview, the Chief Justice reflects on his journey, describing himself as "a person who refuses to be put into pigeonholes, embracing life on his own terms."

**Q:** ***Could you tell us about your childhood and the environment in which you grew up? What instilled the sense of compassion and sensitivity in you even though you were a son of a Judge?***

"My parents were simple, compassionate people. By the time I was born, my father was about to become a judge, but both my parents remained very rooted," begins Chief Justice of India Dr D Y Chandrachud. "They instilled in my sister and me a sense of humility and empathy, values central to my outlook on life and work."

He recalls a vivid memory from his early years: "There was a lady who worked for us for a long time. Though she hadn't received a formal education, she was perhaps the most progressive person I knew at the time. This was the mid-60s, and she spoke openly about workers' rights and welfare, advocating for secure working conditions and social benefits. She gave me real insights into Indian social life."





*Justice Y V Chandrachud, former Chief Justice of India and Ms Prabha Chandrachud*

"Although we attended a good English-medium school, our parents, who themselves hadn't had that privilege, encouraged us to have friends from diverse backgrounds," CJI Chandrachud shares. "Even though I attended Cathedral and John Connon School in Mumbai, many of my friends were not from my school but rather were children of the staff at my house. One of my best friends growing up was a boy who came with his grandmother to our place. One distinctive thing about him was that, he used to wear two shorts. Now you may ask why two shorts? Well, he used to wear one over the other which had holes in it. So, you know that image of him playing with me, wearing two shorts at one time, and I knew why he wore them, never left me."

"Our home was always a welcoming space, not just for family and friends but also for the children of the staff and workers from the nearby quarters. You know, this room where we're sitting—there used to be two rooms here, and we had a black-and-white TV. Every evening, the children from the staff quarters would come to watch TV with us."

He continues, "I remember once, an Ambassador from a foreign country was visiting. It was a Thursday, and that day, they would air a program featuring eight or nine Hindi Bollywood songs. This was the only entertainment the children had. My father's Principal Secretary suggested that the children be excused, but my father refused. He said these children had only this source of entertainment and he wouldn't disturb it. There were around 15-20 children in the room with us, watching TV and listening to music, while the Ambassador and my father, the then Chief Justice of India, were having a social conversation. My parents were different in that way—quite different from what society expected from the Chief Justice of India and a renowned singer."




"My father was a keen golfer, and society perhaps expected him to be somewhat elitist because of that," CJI Chandrachud reflects. "Yet he and my mother led a very different lifestyle. I have inherited that openness from them. So that's why people don't find me very consistent because they try to identify and put me in a box. Is he on this side? Is he on that side? I don't fit people's descriptions, which is also a product of how you're brought up. And I was brought up in a very, very diverse and open ended tradition at home."

**Q: *Sir, beyond the familial legacy, what truly inspired you to choose law as a career path?***

Growing up, law indeed had a prominent presence in my life, given my father's work, says CJI. "However, I was inspired to opt law because after my school once a week, I used to go to the High



Court. Therein, I would stand on the third floor and look at the court proceedings on the second floor. I was fascinated with what I witnessing and learning in the course of the proceedings. Every week I would spend half an hour watching the court." For CJI Chandrachud, it wasn't just the law itself but the dynamic interplay of ideas and the profound impact of justice that resonated with him the most.

"But I had developed a strong interest in economics," he shares. "Although I didn't have a strong mathematics background in school, I always tried to challenge myself. Eventually, I topped Delhi University in Economics (Hons). I had planned to pursue my post-graduate studies at the Delhi School of Economics. But fate had other plans. While waiting for my classes to begin, I had some free time. So, I decided to attend a few classes at the Campus Law Centre for a few weeks. That experience rekindled my interest in law, and here I am."

CJI Chandrachud attributes a significant part of his enduring passion for law to his teachers at Campus Law Centre. "I had some amazing teachers there. They taught us about the socially purposeful and transformative nature of law, which, I believe, has kept me grounded throughout my career as a lawyer and eventually as a judge."

CJI Chandrachud mentions that his law professors exposed him not only to legal principles but also to the deeper, transformative purpose of law. This view of law as a tool for social purpose and justice stayed with him throughout his journey, motivating him to make a difference as both a lawyer and a judge.

Reminiscing about his time as a lawyer in the Bombay High Court, he shares, "One memorable experience from my time as a lawyer was representing a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) oil company. Even though I was representing



the company, through negotiations, I helped secure regularisation for 250 contractual employees. Moments like these, where you act as a facilitator for justice, gave me limitless satisfaction."

**Q: *Reflecting on your earlier days, you were also a radio jockey, would like to share your experience?***

"Yes, I was a radio jockey (RJ) for around six years with All India Radio in Delhi during my college years," CJI Chandrachud recalls with a bright smile. "Being an RJ taught me a lot about voice modulation, the power of brevity, clear articulation, and, importantly, engaging an audience—all skills that would later benefit me as a lawyer and, eventually, as a judge. I played a variety of music and gained insights into catering to the tastes of everyone who tuned in. I played a lot of Western music and hosted morning shows at 8:30, and occasionally the evening shows around 9 pm."

CJI Chandrachud shares that those were the days when songs were often dedicated to listeners with personalised messages. "I had many requests from my college mates who wanted me to dedicate a song with a message to someone they liked," he reminisces. "When I returned to college after such dedications aired, there would be huge cheers. It was all exciting and fun," he recalls fondly.

**Q: *You mentioned about your academic background in economics. How do you think has this helped in your profession especially as a judge?***

"You know, I can answer that by saying that economics has helped me on different levels," CJI Chandrachud reflects. "First, economics is a discipline of rigorous analysis and critical thinking, which has taught me the science of detailed analysis. Economics provided me with a structured way of understanding complex systems—skills that are immensely useful in

dissecting legal issues. Second, the public policy perspective of economics has greatly influenced my own interpretation of the law. And third, as the world evolved, with events like the 1990 reforms, new areas such as competition law and cases involving technology have emerged, requiring a nuanced, multi-dimensional perspective, which the knowledge of economics often makes it easier."

CJI Chandrachud believes that, in many ways, economics has been a steady companion, helping him assess cases not only with legal insights but with a holistic understanding of their socio-economic implications.

**Q: *What has been the most challenging aspect of your journey from lawyer to Chief Justice?***

CJI Chandrachud shares that, starting as a young judge in the High Court, one of the most challenging shifts was moving from advocating for a particular side to objectively finding balance without partiality. "As a lawyer, it's simpler in a sense—you're paid to argue a particular perspective. But as a judge, especially when faced with extraordinarily good or persuasive arguments on both sides, you tend to wonder where the balance lies."

He continues, "A second significant challenge was shifting from a specialised legal practice as a lawyer to engaging with diverse areas of law as a Judge. Lawyers may skip some areas of law and specialise in others. For example, I was a public law specialist. But as a Judge, you don't have that choice. A Judge has to broaden their approach to consider a wider range of legal matters."

Speaking about a less-discussed challenge, CJI reflects, "As a Judge, you become a solitary/lonely soul. After the arguments end in court, you're frequently navigating complex issues alone, wrestling with your own conscience until the very last moment when you pronounce the judgment. Every decision invites introspection—could you have given different reasoning, approached the case another way? This ongoing dialogue with oneself, the constant self-questioning, is an inherent part of the responsibility. It's a profound, and sometimes isolating, aspect of judicial life."

"And then, when I assumed the role in the Supreme Court, it was a quantum leap. This role is distinct from others; it requires learning the rhythm of this unique institution, understanding its pace, and meeting its multifaceted demands. However, I have really enjoyed rising up to these challenges," remarks CJI.

**Q: *Reflecting on these years, how would you say the Indian judiciary has evolved? What changes stand out to you as the most significant shifts from then to now, and what upcoming challenges do you believe the judiciary needs to be prepared for?***

In terms of reform, a major change I see is the judiciary's increased focus on efficiency and accessibility. Today, in terms of processes we follow, the emphasis is often on the resolution of cases and addressing high case-load volumes with limited luxury of time at hand. The focus is, therefore, more on finding timely solutions and managing the court's work with that in mind. There's also been a democratic shift, with greater emphasis on inclusivity and public access. The legal profession has transformed from being a closely-knit circle to one that truly reflects the diversity of our society. Another notable evolution is in knowledge management, moving from a traditional paper-based system to a more

digital and transparent process. E-filing, video conferencing, and digital records have changed how we handle cases, making processes faster and less cumbersome.

But with technology, new challenges emerge. One critical question is how we integrate advanced tools, such as AI, responsibly into the judicial process. With the exponential rise in data, AI could help manage information at scales beyond human capability. However, it raises an important question. Are data-driven methods capable of delivering just solutions for individual cases? But with technology, new challenges emerge. One critical question is how we integrate advanced tools, such as AI, responsibly into the judicial process. But we must carefully consider whether these tools serve our core principles of justice. Yet, it's essential that these tools align with the principles of justice we hold dear. There's also the question of affordability—making sure that these technologies remain accessible to all, not just to a select few.

**Q: *What is the one hobby that has stayed with you throughout your life and what is the one hobby you would like to pursue post your retirement?***

"One hobby that has stayed with me? I think it is my love for music, and I love music across the spectrum," shares CJI Chandrachud. Music has always been close to his heart, influenced by his mother, Ms Prabha Chandrachud, a classical musician and singer for All India Radio (AIR). He explains, "I enjoy everything from Indian Classical to Western pop as well as old Hindi songs." When asked about his favourite songs, he smiles warmly, mentioning "You Fill Up My Senses" by John Denver. "In Indian classical music, I am especially drawn to Nirguni Bhajans. They resonate with my own ethos, creating a powerful connection to something universal. Among Indian classics, '*Ae Mere Vatan Ke Logon*' and the ghazal '*Aaj Jaane Ki Zid Na Karo*' are very close to my heart."

Recalling a cherished memory, CJI Chandrachud talks about an autograph book he kept in his youth, filled with signatures from notable figures. One from a famous cricketer read, "Play the game and see the world." Another, from a renowned Indian musician, said, "Music leads to silence." Reflecting on this, he notes, "The simple line, 'Music leads to silence,' didn't mean much to me at the time, but as I grew older, it made so much sense—it had such deep meaning. This resonated with me over time, reminding me to find inner calm amidst the often conflicting voices in court, to 'breathe, breathe,' and attain silence in mind and emotion."

Looking forward to retirement, he shares, "I am excited about diving deeper into music, perhaps learning the piano, and indulging in singing, though that's something I mostly do in private. Learning a new language, maybe Sanskrit, has been on my mind. I'm also eager to get through a collection of books I've been wanting to read, particularly classics and works on Indian history and philosophy."



When asked about his favourite books, CJI Chandrachud mentions *The Road Less Travelled* by M Scott Peck. He's also been reading *Accelerating India's Development: A State-Led Roadmap for Effective Governance* by Karthik Muralidharan, as well as *Nexus* by Yuval Noah Harari, which has captured his interest. Additionally, he expresses a fascination with William Dalrymple's historical works.

**Q: *Could you share one trait you've consciously worked on improving over the years? How do you cope with stress? And, what is the one thing that catches your attention in any person?***

CJI Chandrachud reflects that self-reflection has been invaluable to him throughout the years. One trait he has consciously worked on improving is being a good listener. "In the role of a Judge, it's not just about interpreting the law; it's equally about understanding the people, emotions, and circumstances behind each case, which requires patient listening," he says. "This capacity to listen—truly listen—is something I have consciously worked on, as it brings a fairer, more empathetic approach to justice," he emphasises.

When it comes to coping with stress, CJI shares that managing stress begins with controlling reactive impulses—a skill that deepens with experience. Known for starting his day early, he mentions, "My day begins at around 3:30 a.m., which gives me time for meditation. This helps me maintain clarity and stay focused throughout the day."

"As for what catches my attention in any person, it is undoubtedly the humane aspect of their character. I am less concerned with superficial aspects like appearance or status; instead, I notice how they connect with others, their humility, and the contributions they make to the community," CJI Chandrachud explains.

**Q: *What values or qualities do you consider essential for young lawyers or aspiring judges?***

"For anyone aspiring to join the legal profession or the judiciary, three qualities are crucial," mentions CJI Chandrachud. "First, **Perseverance**. Second, **Sincerity of Purpose**. And finally, **Faith in the System**. Because faith in institutions is important for a society to thrive. Of course, there is a need to improve our system, to strengthen our institutions, but unless you have faith, you don't necessarily make progress."

CJI Chandrachud emphasizes that, especially for young lawyers, sincerity of purpose is essential. "As young professionals, it's vital to believe in our legal and constitutional systems," he says. This belief has been fundamental to his own journey as well. "We need not cut corners; we must hold our values firm in the face of temptation."

*Dr D Y Chandrachud's journey in the law is not merely one of professional achievement, but a path deeply rooted in conscience, compassion, and an dedication to justice. His words serve as a guiding light for all those who enter the hallowed halls of justice, seeking to make a difference.*

# Farewell: Dr D Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India




*8 November 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and Justice Sanjiv Khanna, during the ceremonial bench in Courtroom no 1*

## Ceremonial Bench of CJI

On November 8, 2024, the Supreme Court of India witnessed a grand ceremonial bench at 2:00 PM in Court No 1 to honour the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, on his last day in office. The courtroom was packed with an extraordinary gathering of his family, friends, former judges, and members of the Bar. Recollecting the significant contributions of the Chief, senior members of the legal fraternity and prominent advocates paid tribute to a leader who not only influenced the judiciary but also contributed to the society with his wisdom, integrity, and dedication.

The ceremony commenced with the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President addressing Chief Justice Chandrachud as "the ever-smiling DYC, an extraordinary son of an extraordinary father." He praised Justice Chandrachud for his focus on the lives of ordinary and marginalised people. "None like you to adorn the chair," he stated, honouring the Chief Justice's dedication to ensuring justice for all. Reflecting on his exceptional patience, one senior advocate described the Chief Justice as a "statue of patience" and lauded his unprecedented contributions to integrating technology and modern infrastructure into the judiciary, setting new standards in efficiency. Other members acknowledged that "nobody has

ever left the court feeling unheard," attributing this sentiment to the Chief Justice's deeply inclusive approach.

Another member of the Bar praised Chief Justice Chandrachud's leadership qualities, asserting that "great leaders take people along." This approach, they said, embodied the spirit of social justice advocated by Dr B R Ambedkar, and positioned Chief Justice Chandrachud as a true champion of inclusive values. Recalling his consistent dedication, another senior member noted that only a few judges are "remembered by everyone," assuring that Chief Justice Chandrachud would be counted among them.

Additional Solicitor General of India shared her early memories of working with the Chief Justice, remarking on his calm and composed "yogic demeanour," which had always made those in his court feel heard and respected. In closing, members expressed their hopes for Chief Justice Chandrachud's future global recognition, encouraging him to "fly high in international circles and showcase to the world what the Chief Justice of India truly stands for."

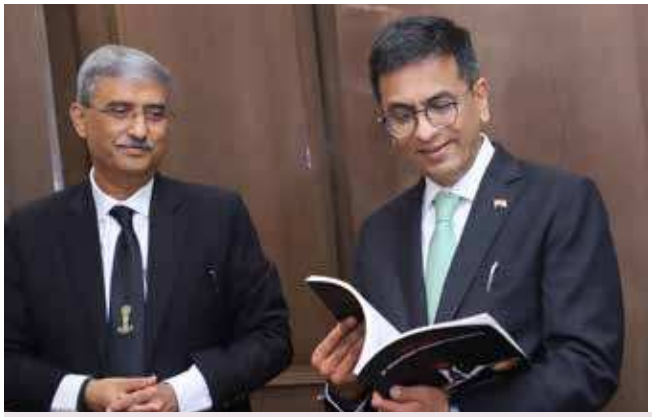
In his parting remarks, Chief Justice Chandrachud expressed his deep gratitude to all those present, stating, "It has been a great honour to sit in this Court." He reflected on his journey, acknowledging the iconic figures of the judiciary whose portraits line the Court walls, and spoke of the privilege he has felt each day in serving the public.

## Farewell to the Chief Justice of India



*8 November 2024,*
*Chief Justice of India,*
*Dr D Y Chandrachud, during the ceremonial Guards of Honour marking his retirement*

As Justice D Y Chandrachud concludes his term as Chief Justice of India (CJI), he leaves behind a legacy of transformative leadership within the judiciary. Appointed to the Supreme Court on 13 May 2016 and later elevated as the Chief Justice of India on 9 November 2022, CJI Chandrachud has championed judicial reform, inclusivity, and transparency. CJI Chandrachud has previously served as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court and as a judge of the Bombay High Court. An alumnus of Harvard Law School, CJI Chandrachud has persistently advocated for privacy rights, workers' rights, and minority rights, with his landmark judgments embodying a deep commitment to justice, equality, and human dignity.





*Mr Atul M Kurhekar, Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India, along with other official and officers of the Registry, present a special edition "50th Chief Justice of India, Dr Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud" to the Chief Justice celebrating his tenure and contributions to the Supreme Court of India*

In recognition of his exceptional contributions, Mr Atul M Kurhekar, Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India, presented a book on CJI Chandrachud's legacy, compiled by the Centre for Research and Planning, as a tribute to his monumental impact on the judiciary. The book was presented in the presence of all the registrars on his last day in office, symbolising the respect and admiration he has garnered throughout his career.

Chief Justice Chandrachud's leadership has not only shaped the institutional structure of the Supreme Court but also nurtured an environment of equity and opportunity for women in judicial administration. During CJI Chandrachud's transformative tenure, Supreme Court of India achieved a historic milestone with the highest number of women appointed as Registrars and Additional Registrars of the Supreme Court, from all parts of the country including Assam, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu exemplifying his commitment to gender inclusivity and balanced representation within the judiciary.



*Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud along with Dr Uma Narayan, Registrar, Library, Editorial & Research; Ms Aparna Ajitsaria, Registrar, Admn-I & III; Ms Sujata Singh, Registrar, Judicial; Dr Sukhda Pritam, Director-cum-Additional Registrar (Centre for Research and Planning); Ms R Arulmozhiselvi, Additional Registrar, Training Cell; and Ms Himani Sarad, Additional Registrar, Information and Statistics Secretariat*

# SC-JUDICARE: Streamlining Justice through Efficient Case Management

## Background

Ensuring timely and equitable access to justice is a foundational ideal enshrined in the Indian Constitution. However, the vast backlog of cases across Indian courts today obstructs this vision and gradually erodes public trust in the rule of law. The pendency issue, compounded by low disposal rates, creates obstacles to achieving a society where justice is not only promised, but also delivered within a reasonable time frame. Recognising this urgent need, the Supreme Court of India, under the visionary leadership of Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, introduced the Judicial Disposal through Case Management and Resource Efficiency initiative, known as the "JUDICARE project." This project represents a significant step toward addressing case backlog and enhancing judicial efficiency through systematic case management.

## The Need for JUDICARE

The genesis of the JUDICARE project lay in the Supreme Court Registry's recognition of the necessity for a robust system to classify and manage thousands of pending cases. The lack of proper classification often results in cases with similar issues being listed before different benches, hinders data collection essential for policy making, and disrupts the uniformity of court procedures. Under the guidance of the Chief Justice of India , the Centre for Research and Planning (CRP) was tasked with the ambitious project of examining all pending cases to develop an efficient classification and management framework aimed at expediting disposals.

## Project Implementation

Launched in June 2023, the JUDICARE project saw the formation of a specialised team of 15 law researchers, led by Dr Sukhda Pritam, Director of the CRP, and Mr Amarendra Kumar, Consultant (Research). With support from law clerks, research associates, and law researchers, the team worked tirelessly under the directions of the Chief Justice and other Judges to address various aspects of case management and resource allocation.



*Mr Amarendra Kumar, Legal Consultant, Centre for Research and Planning, Supreme Court of India heading the JUDICARE Project*

## Key Features of the Project

- **Case Management and Reduction of Pendency:** Through targeted case management techniques, the JUDICARE project effectively streamlined procedures to prevent delays, detect anomalies in the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), relate and expedite non-contentious cases, and categorise cases based on common issues. Cases with similar subject matter were grouped to ensure they were heard by the same bench, promoting jurisprudential consistency.
- **Prioritisation of Long-Pending Cases:** The project focused particularly on cases pending for extended periods. By grouping related cases, optimising listing processes, and prioritising resource allocation, JUDICARE accelerated the resolution of older cases, thus reducing long-term pendency.
- **Resource Efficiency through Technology:** Given the resource constraints within the Supreme Court, the project utilised technology to facilitate data collection and expedite case analysis. By optimising resource allocation, JUDICARE improved operational efficiency and enabled the Court to handle more cases effectively.

## Impact of the JUDICARE Project

Over the span of seventeen months, the dedicated team reviewed and categorised thousands of pending cases, providing comprehensive insights that assisted in prioritising and listing cases. Briefs were meticulously prepared, with each case assessed based on its nature, duration, issues involved, and other relevant factors. This meticulous categorisation and focus on systematic disposal led to the resolution of 3,139 cases, categorised as follows:

| Category of Cases | No. of Disposals |
|---|---|
| Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Cases | 97 |
| Criminal Cases | 656 |
| Land Acquisition Cases | 1,088 |
| Tax Cases | 916 |
| Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) Cases | 382 |
| **Total** | **3,139** |

## Special Lok Adalat and JUDICARE's Contribution

In addition to regular case disposals, the JUDICARE project played an instrumental role in organising a Special Lok Adalat week (29 July to 3 August 2024). The project's groundwork facilitated the identification of cases suitable for settlement, leading to the disposal of over 1,000 cases during this week. The dedicated team also provided critical support in managing settlement deeds and coordinating with benches throughout the event.



*Team of JUDICARE Project*

# Release of Publications of Supreme Court of India by President of India



*5 November 2024, President of India, Ms Droupadi Murmu along with Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai and Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Law and Justice, during the release of three publications of the Supreme Court of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi*

Three publications of the Supreme Court of India titled, 'Justice for Nation: Reflections on 75 years of the Supreme Court of India,' 'Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion,' and 'Legal Aid Through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India' were released by the President of India, Ms Droupadi Murmu on 5 November 2024. Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Chief Justice-designate Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavai, and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Law and Justice, Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal, were also present during the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the President of India, Ms Droupadi Murmu, said that the justice delivery system must strengthen the nation's march towards a just and fair society. President Murmu said that equality and equal justice should be the guiding principles of the judiciary. President Murmu expressed happiness that the Apex Court is organising purposeful activities for the 75th year of its founding.

Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, said the three books published by the Centre for Research and Planning were moments of self-reflection, both for the Supreme Court as well as the larger legal system. Of the three publications released, one is a collection of essays that analyse the jurisprudence of the Court since its foundation, while the remaining two are studies that assess the functioning of legal aid cells in universities and the state of the prisons in India.

# The Secretariat of Secretary General



*Mr Atul Madhukar Kurhekar, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India*

The Supreme Court of India stands as a symbol of justice and authority, and behind its dignified proceedings lies a steadfast administrative machinery led by the Secretary General that keeps the wheels turning smoothly. In this feature of *Supreme Court Chronicle*, this piece will focus on the workings of the Secretary General's Secretariat, exploring its contributions to the Court's operations, from maintaining judicial calendars to facilitate key meetings and much more.

Presently, the position of the Secretary General is held by Mr Atul M Kurhekar, who brings a wealth of legal and administrative experience to his role as the Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India. He holds a BSc degree from Nagpur and an LLB from Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar College of Law, Nagpur. Mr Kurhekar practised civil and criminal law at the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court and the District Court in Nagpur for eight years. Thereafter, he was appointed as Civil Judge, Junior Division, and Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) and advanced to Senior Civil Judge in January 2004. He held the position of Deputy Registrar at the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court and was later posted as Judge in the Court of Small Causes, Mumbai, in 2008. Subsequently, he served as Additional Director of the Maharashtra Judicial Academy until September 2013. He continued his judicial career as a District and Assistant Sessions Judge in Pune, then as an Additional Sessions Judge in Mumbai's Special Court for Anti-Corruption Cases starting in November 2014. Mr Kurhekar also served as Registrar (Legal and Research) at the Bombay High Court and contributed to the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India as Member (Processes). He has served in roles including OSD-Registrar, Registrar, OSD-Secretary General, and later Secretary General. Mr Kurhekar assumed the position of Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India on 1 May 2023.

Being the highest Administrative Officer of the Supreme Court, the role of the Secretary General entails overseeing the court's day-to-day functions and managing the operations of the administrative wing of the Supreme Court, the Registry. The office of the Secretary General, called the SG Secretariat, ensures the smooth passage of protocols and documents, timely notifications, and updates in the court's administration.

Within the SG Secretariat, a structured and diligent team helps carry out various tasks. In the shorthand cadre, key personnel such as Personal Secretaries (PS) to the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar are instrumental in handling communications and scheduling of meetings and liaisoning. In the non-shorthand cadre, two Senior Court Assistants along with three attendants and an office assistant engaged, form the backbone of the office's operations under the supervision of the Assistant Registrar. The SG Secretariat is tasked with managing the work of the Judges' Committees as well as the Registrars' Committees on a variety of subject matters. It handles receipts of queries and other related businesses addressed to them, as well as those for other departments. These receipts are then scrutinised, marked accordingly, and forwarded to the relevant departments and offices, for further necessary actions.

Another major aspect of the SG Secretariat's role is liaisoning. The SG Secretariat facilitates communications on behalf of the Supreme Court of India with different High Courts as well as Ministries and other organisations. The work also encapsulates coordination and management of the judges' engagements with external organisations like National Judicial Academy and National Law Universities. This includes processing files, facilitating meetings and overseeing the work that requires the attention of the Supreme Court's Judges, holding capacities like Chancellor/ Visitors. In addition to these roles, SG Secretariat liaises with the Ministry of Law and Justice, supervising the oath ceremonies for Supreme Court judges, manages full court reference minutes, processes files received from different sections of the Registry and coordinates with SCBA and SCAORA representatives.







*Officers and Staff at the Secretary General Secretariat*



*Secretary General, Mr Atul Madhukar Kurhekar, along with officials and staff of the SG Secretariat, Supreme Court of India*

Notably, the SG Secretariat plays a vital role in coordinating with different high Courts, State Legal Service Authorities and Chief Secretaries of States as well as holding virtual/physical meetings. The SG Secretariat also coordinated virtual meetings during the Special Lok Adalat. Organised as a part of the events commemorating 75th year of the establishment of the Supreme Court of India, the Special Lok Adalat was organised with the aim of facilitating amicable settlements of suitable pending cases.

Along with myriad other responsibilities, the SG Secretariat also tackles sensitive matters and deals with Annual Confidential Reports of higher rank officers of the Registry. These reports are not just routine documentation; they are crucial records that influence the career trajectory of officers within the judiciary.

Mr Pankaj Kumar, Assistant Registrar, while talking to the team of *Supreme Court Chronicle,* shared his experience of working with the Secretary General. He said, "despite the immense pressure that comes with the role, the Secretary General always maintains his composure, both in the face of tricky situations and people."

Mr. Harsh Maheshwari, Senior Court Assistant, shared his experience working at the Supreme Court since 2014, and described it as highly rewarding. Transferred to the Secretary General's Office two years ago, he expressed gratitude for the exposure to the Court's daily administration and diverse interactions. While acknowledging the demanding workload and late hours due to close coordination with the Chief Justice of India, he said, "a supportive environment among colleagues alleviates the pressure."

Despite its heavy responsibilities, the SG Secretariat operates with equanimity. The daily work involves strict schedules and a meticulous eye for detail, but the team's spirit remains high. Each member, from Junior Court Attendant to Assistant Registrar, understands their role in carrying it out with precision and dedication and ensures that the wheels of the machinery of justice keep turning within the Supreme Court's premises.

# HELLO! I AM VIDHIK



# WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

# Inauguration of the National Judicial Museum and Archive

The National Judicial Museum and Archive (NJMA) was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud on 7 November 2024. The setting up of the National Judicial Museum and Archive (NJMA) was envisioned by Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, as a testament to the rich legal history and the evolution of the judicial system in our country. This museum will serve not only as a repository of legal artefacts and historical records but also be an educational hub, providing insight into the development of jurisprudence and the role of the judiciary in shaping the nation.

The National Judicial Museum and Archive (NJMA) has been set up in the East Wing of the Main Campus of the Supreme Court. NJMA is located in the wing which was earlier the Judges' Library, which has now been shifted to the A block of the Administrative Buildings Complex. From an architectural angle, it is a semi-circular single pillared edifice, consisting of two floors with a mezzanine floor with approximate area of around 18,000 square feet built up area.






*7 November 2024, National Judicial Museum and Archive (NJMA), East Wing, Main Campus of Supreme Court of India*

# Supreme Court Events and Initiatives



*2 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, pays tribute at the Gandhi Statue on Gandhi Jayanti*





*2 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Surya Kant, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Justice P B Varale, pay floral tributes to the former Prime Minister of India, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, near the Mahatma Gandhi statue, Main Campus, Supreme Court of India*

## Three-day consultation on the paper on National Judicial Curriculum between the NJA and the CRP in Bhopal



*21- 23 October 2024, Three-day consultation on the paper on National Judicial Curriculum between the NJA and the CRP in Bhopal*

A three-day deliberation took place at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal between National Judicial Academy and the Centre for Research and Planning, from 21- 23 October 2024. The Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court of India, in collaboration with the National Judicial Academy (NJA), drafted a paper on judicial curriculum titled "Rethinking Judicial Education: A detailed study of curriculum and learning methodology." Drawing on the seven tenets of judicial learning presented by the Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, during the "National Conference of the District Judiciary," the paper advocates for a dynamic, evolving curriculum that integrates domestic and international best practices. The paper critically examines the methodologies adopted by the state judicial academies across India and incorporates feedback from district courts nationwide.





*21- 23 October 2024, Additional Registrar-cum-Director, Dr Sukhda Pritam presents 2 publications of the Centre for Research and Planning to Director, NJA, Justice Aniruddha Bose, former Supreme Court Judge, at Bhopal*





*24 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud and Judges of the Supreme Court of India inaugurate Advocates' Library and Advocates' Wellness Centre, at Eighth Floor, D-Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India*






*25 October 2024, Secretary General, Mr Atul M Kurhekar, along with P Y Ladekar, Registrar Admn. (II) (Human Resources), Recruitment Cell, Supreme Court of India at the recruitment process for the post of Junior Court Assistant (Cooking Knowing) at the Indian Navy Centre*



*19 October 2024, Dr Sukhda Pritam, Additional Registrar-cum-Director, Centre for Research and Planning and Ms Poonam Sharma, Deputy Registrar, Judges' Library with JAG officers during their visit to the Judges' Library, Supreme Court of India*

# Data Centre



*7 November 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with the Judges of the Supreme Court of India, inaugurate the newly constructed Data Centre, Supreme Court of India*

The Supreme Court has established Data Centre to strengthen its IT infrastructure by ensuring that all IT services, computer applications are accessible in high-availability mode. The data centre is housed at the Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) with their vast experience in establishment, management and operation of National Data Centres, has been the core-consultant for establishment of on-premises Data Centre, Supreme Court of India.

The data centre is equipped with integrated smart racks, uninterrupted power supply (UPS), compute – rack servers, storage infrastructure such as unified storage, object storage, network infrastructure – routers, spine switch, leaf switches, out-of-band switch, aggregation switch, fabric controller, etc., security devices – firewalls, internal IPS (virtual), NAC solution, back-up solution, configuration and integration of ICT infrastructure, such as switches and security solutions etc., with the current ICT environment of the Supreme Court of India.



*Newly inaugurated on-premises Data Centre, Supreme Court of India*

# Legal Aid



*6 October 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA, attends the "State Conference of District Legal Services Authorities of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh" at Dalhousie, organised under the aegis of NALSA*



*6 October 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna during the group photo taken at the "State Conference of District Legal Services Authorities of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh" at Dalhousie, organised under the aegis of NALSA*





*14 October 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice M M Sundresh at the inaugural address during the "Advanced Commercial Mediation Training" by International Academy of Mediators (IAM) and NALSA at Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, Administrative Buildings Complex*

# Training Hub



*1 October 2024, Colonel Anshuman Bhadauria, Principal of Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, conducts the orientation session (Hybrid mode) for the Team Building and Leadership Adventure Camp for 50 Supreme Court staff members, alongside R Arulmozhiselvi, Additional Registrar, Training Cell*

*6-12 October 2024, Medical inspection to assess individual health conditions and address any concerns before physical activities at the camp*





*6-12 October 2024, Physical training and warming up session to acclimatise the participants and prepare them for the forthcoming sessions, at the Team Building and Leadership Adventure Camp, Uttarkashi*







*6-12 October 2024, Team Building and Leadership Adventure Camp, Uttarkashi*



*1-23 October 2024, STEP from Hindu Group organises 'English Learning Course' for Registry officials to improve communication and writing skills, particularly in legal and administrative contexts*

*Training Cell, Supreme Court of India, presents a memento to Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud on behalf of Nehru Institute of Mountaineering*



## 1st SCAORA International Legal Conference




*19 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, at the inaugural session of the "1st Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) International Legal Conference," held at Goa*




*19 October 2024, Justice Sanjay Karol delivers an address on 'Realising the Constitutional Goal of Social & Economic Justice: The journey thus far and way forward' during the 1st Speaker Session on 'Constitution of India: A Living Document' at the "1st Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) International Legal Conference," Goa*




*19 October 2024, Justice Prashant Mishra delivers an address on 'The Role of Corporations in Promoting or Hindering Environmental Justice' during the 2nd Speaker Session on 'Environment Laws & Climate Justice' at the "1st Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) International Legal Conference," Goa*




*19 October 2024, Justice Rajesh Bindal delivers an address on 'Beneficial Role of Institutional Arbitration and Reducing Courts Intervention in Appointments' during the 3rd Speaker Session on 'International & Domestic Arbitration' at the "1st Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) International Legal Conference," Goa*



*Left to right: Justice P B Varale, Justice Prashant Mishra, Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Sanjay Karol, at the Inaugural Session of the "1st Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) International Legal Conference," held at Goa on 19 October 2024*




*19 October 2024, Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice N Kotiswar Singh at the Closing Ceremony of the "1st Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) International Legal Conference" held at Goa*




*19 October 2024, Panel Discussion on 'PMLA & Its Facets' at the "1st Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) International Legal Conference," held at Goa*

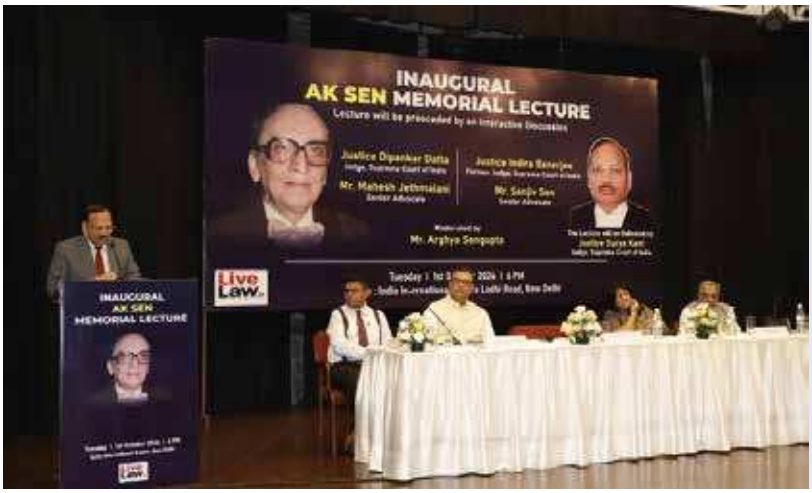


*19 October 2024, 1st SCAORA International Legal Conference held at Goa*



*7 November 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud during Farewell Function organised by SCAORA at the Congregation Hall, Second Floor, B-Block, Administrative Buildings Complex, Supreme Court of India. Justice Sanjiv Khanna was also present at the occasion*

# Beyond the Court




*1 October 2024, Justice Surya Kant delivers an address on 'Advancing Justice Through The Legal Services Act And The Constitution: Overcoming Barriers To The Legal Aid' at the,"Inaugural A K Sen Memorial Lecture"*

*5 October 2024, Justice Aravind Kumar, attends "12th UFYLC Ranka National Moot Court Competition at Humanities Hall, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur*






*5-6 October 2024, Justice Surya Kant speaks on 'Constitutional Remedies and Administrative Law' at the "National Conference for High Court Justices", NJA, Bhopal*






*5 October 2024, Justice M M Sundresh attends the inaugural function of the Shiv Nadar School of Law, Chennai*



*10 October 2024, Justice K V Viswanathan delivers a lecture on 'Speedy Justice as a Facet of Rule of Law' during the "Viswanath Pasayat Memorial Function" at Hotel Pramod, Cuttack, Orissa*




*13 October 2024, Justice Surya Kant inaugurates the Judicial Court Complex, in Amb (Distt.- Una), Himachal Pradesh*







*16 October 2024, Justice Surya Kant (virtually) and Justice K V Viswanathan attend the launch of the book "Specific Relief Act" by Sudipto Sarkar and Sidharth Sethi at The Oberoi, New Delhi*

*18 October 2024, Justice B R Gavai, honours Dr Vivek Kute, Organising Chairman of ISOT 2024, with the 'Dr Vidya Acharya Oration', in the presence of Mr Bhupendrabhai Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat and Chief Patron of ISOT 2024, Ahmedabad, Gujarat*





*19 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, along with Chief Minister of Goa, Dr Pramod P Sawant, Justice Abhay S Oka, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Justice P B Varale and Justice N Kotiswar Singh, inaugurates the premises of North Goa District and Sessions Court at Merces, Goa*








*19 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, inaugurates the Centre of Excellence for e-Courts (CoEE) at NIC, Pune. The CoEE will coordinate the development and implementation of Phase III of the e-Courts project under the guidance of the e-Committee, with a focus on defining architecture, identifying building blocks, establishing standards and protocols, and conducting proof-of-concept studies to design the digital infrastructure based on stakeholder consultations*




*19 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice P B Varale at the inauguration of New District and Sessions Court Complex, North Goa*

*19 October 2024, Justice B R Gavai addresses a gathering at the "Annual Conference for Judicial Officers" in Gujarat on the theme of 'Institutional Perspective – Self Evaluation and Self Evolution'*





*19 October 2024,*
*Justice P S Narasimha delivers the keynote address at the inauguration of the "Nani Palkhivala Arbitration Centre 15th Annual International Conference," New Delhi*



*19 October 2024, Justice P S Narasimha participates as a speaker in the American Arbitration Association-International Centre for Dispute Resolution (AAA-ICDR) India Conference 2024, New Delhi*





*19 October 2024, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia as the Chief Guest at the inauguration of the District Court Complex at Dehradun*



*19 October 2024, Justice K V Viswanathan, Chief Guest, addresses the audience at the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of Swarga Foundation, an organisation dedicated to the rights of persons with disabilities, and unveils the 10th Edition of the 'I'm Special Calendar 2025' at the Ballroom, the Residency Towers, Coimbatore*



*19 October 2024, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan at the "National Conference for High Court Justices" on 'Development Of Constitutional Law by the Supreme Court and High Courts'*






*20 October 2024, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah presides as Chief Guest for the Induction Day 2024, the Release of the Calendar of Events 2024, and the Release of the 8th Edition of Al-Ameen Chronicle Newsletter at Al-Ameen College of Law, Bangalore, Karnataka*

*25 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud attends a felicitation event organised by the Bombay Bar Association, the Advocates Association of Western India, and the Bombay Incorporated Law Society in the Central Court Room No 46 of the Bombay High Court*








*25 October 2024, Justice M M Sundresh at the Inaugural Ceremony of the "8th K K Luthra Invitational Inter-Bar Lawyers Cricket Tournament 2024" organised by Lawyers' Association for Cricket and Sports & Nirmal Luthra Foundation at Hotel Lalit, New Delhi*





*26 October 2024, Justice B V Nagarathna delivers the "4th G L Sanghi Memorial Lecture" on 'Environmental Justice and Climate Change' at Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur*



*26 October 2024, Justice B V Nagarathna, during her visit to MNLU Nagpur, and the Nagpur Bench of the High Court of Bombay*





*26 October 2024, Justice C T Ravikumar and Justice M M Sundresh attend the "South Zone-I Regional Conference" on 'Court Dockets: Explosion and Exclusion,' organised by the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, in association with the Madras High Court and the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy, at the TNSJA Regional Centre, Coimbatore*



*28 October 2024, Justice Rajesh Bindal, as Chief Guest at the " Sardar Ajit Singh Sarhadi Memorial Lecture" on 'Constitution – A Living Document with Special Reference to Article 21' organised by the Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh*



*29 October 2024, Justice Surya Kant, Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of the Computer Laboratory of Brahman Sanskrit Mahavidyala Sabha, Ramrai, Jind, as Chief Guest*




*4 November 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud, in conversation with The Indian Express' National Opinion Editor, Ms Vandita Mishra, and National Legal Editor, Ms Apurva Vishwanath, at the Indian Express Adda in New Delhi*

# Foreign Events and Conferences




*6-9 October 2024, Justice Surya Kant, delivers keynote address in the "Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) International Conference 2024" on 'Law and Technology, Opportunities and Challenges for the Maritime and Shipping Sector in the EU and the Commonwealth.' Justice Surya Kant also participated in a session on 'Rule of Law and Technology'*



*6-9 October 2024, Justice Surya Kant, Mr R Venkataramani, Attorney General of India and Mr Manish, High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cyprus, meet with Ms Katerina Stamatiou, President of the Supreme Court of Cyprus and Ms Rea Limnatitou, former President of the Court of Appeal Director Cyprus Judicial Training School at the Supreme Court Complex in Nicosia*



*6-9 October 2024, Justice Surya Kant, along with Mr R Venkataramani, Attorney General of India and Mr Manish, High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cyprus, visits the "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center (HFC), an International Humanitarian and Independent Institution based in Nicosia, Cyprus*



*7-10 October 2024, Chief Justice of India, Dr D Y Chandrachud meets with the Chief Justice of Bhutan, Lyonpo Chogyal Dago Rigdzin, during his official visit to Bhutan, to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral judicial cooperation*

*11-14 October 2024, Justice K V Viswanathan participates in the 19th Conference of the Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific, coinciding with the 37th LAWASIA Conference, held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*









*14-16 October 2024, Justice P S Narasimha, attends the Annual General Meeting of the Asian Mediation Association (AMA) at the Secretariat of AMA in Manila, Philippines, and the 6th Asian Mediation Association Conference as a Speaker in the session 'Access to Justice and Dispute Resolution Across Cultures' held at Manila, Philippines*






*27-30 October 2024, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah during his visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. On 29 October Justice Amanullah spoke as a panelist at a symposium on "Capacity Building in Judicial Dispute Resolution" at the Asian International Arbitration Centre. Justice Amanullah also attended the "Third Meeting of the International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network" (JDRN). The visit concluded with a tour of the Palace of Justice at Kuala Lumpur on 30 October 2024*

# Glimpses of the Groundbreaking Ceremony of Expansion Building





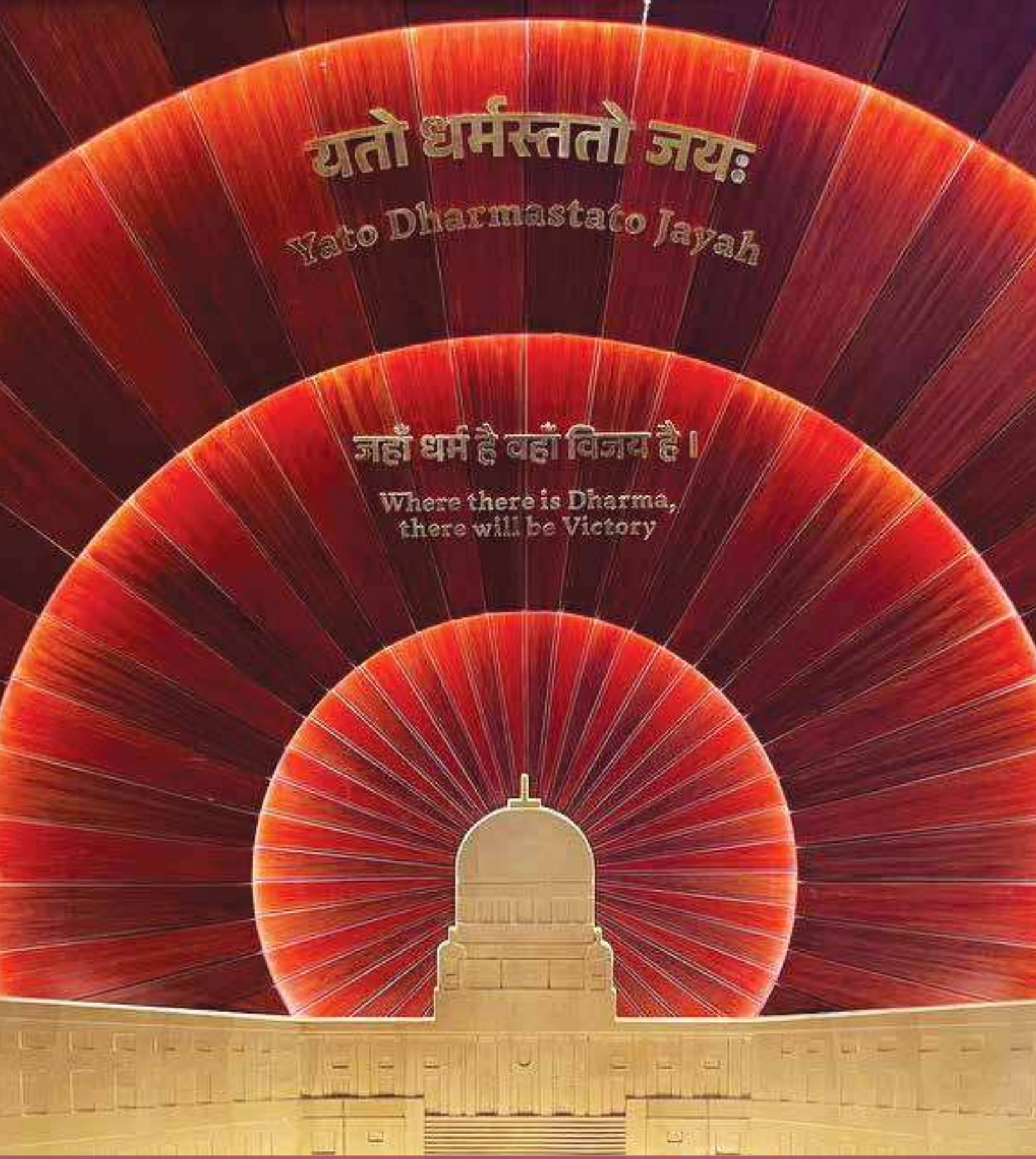













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