



DR JUSTICE DHANANJAYA Y CHANDRACHUD
Chief Guest at Jamnalal Bajaj Awards 2023 Ceremony

Born: November 11, 1959

Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud is the Chief Justice of India.

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

Justice Chandrachud joined the Bombay Bar after obtaining LLM and SJD degrees from the Harvard Law School. He was designated as a Senior Advocate in June 1998 and served as the Additional Solicitor General of India.

As an advocate he championed several causes, such as the right to privacy, the rights of HIV+ workers and religious and linguistic minority rights. During his years as a lawyer, he was a Visiting Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Bombay.

As a judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Chandrachud has delivered seminal judgements, including on the decriminalization of homosexuality, decriminalization of adultery, declaration of privacy as a fundamental right, disability rights, caste and gender discrimination, and environmental law. His judgment mandated the grant of permanent commissions to women in the armed forces. He has delivered notable dissents which seek to uphold the values of liberty and freedom.

As Chairperson of the e-committee of the Supreme Court of India, he is leading a digital transformation of the judicial system in India, comprising over 18,000 courts. The aim is to ensure access, transparency, and accountability. The e-committee has set up virtual courts and enabled videoconferencing of court hearings. It has facilitated digitization of court records and e-filing of cases. The National Judicial Data Grid is a repository of all decided and pending cases and judgments and will pave the path to using Artificial Intelligence in case management and deployment of resources.

Since he took charge as the Chief Justice of India, Justice Chandrachud has spearheaded numerous reforms on the administrative and judicial side. He launched the e-SCR project to provide free access to the judgments of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has introduced neutral citations for all its judgments to ensure a uniform pattern of citation. The Supreme Court has also commenced live streaming of proceedings of the Constitution Bench matters to make them more accessible to people.

Justice Chandrachud has steered initiatives to reduce the structural barriers that preclude members of the marginalized communities from accessing justice. The Supreme Court released a Sensitization Module for the Judiciary to sensitize the members of the judiciary on the concepts of gender and sexual identity. The Supreme Court has also taken steps to make its infrastructure inclusive and accessible.

Justice Chandrachud has been a guest speaker at Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, Australian National University and University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. He has addressed several international conferences including the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, United Nations Environmental Program, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts.

