

Press Release

Visit of Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud to Bhutan (07-10 October 2024)

1. Hon'ble Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud paid an official visit to Bhutan from 07-10 October 2024.
2. □ During his visit, Hon'ble CJI graced the Third Convocation Ceremony of the Jigme Singye Wangchuck (JSW) School of Law on 08 October, and delivered an inspiring commencement address. The ceremony was presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, Founding President of the JSW School of Law, Bhutan National Legal Institute and Bar Council of Bhutan. Hon'ble CJI was the Keynote Speaker at the Distinguished Speakers' Forum 2024 hosted by the JSW Law Research Centre and conducted at the Royal University of Bhutan Convention Hall on 09 October. Hon'ble CJI addressed the gathering on the topic- "Enhancing Judicial Accountability and Public Trust: Leveraging Transparency and Technology".
3. □ On 09 October, Hon'ble CJI met the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bhutan, Lyonpo Chogyal Dago Rigdzin, and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral judicial cooperation. At the premises of the Supreme Court of Bhutan, the two Chief Justices presided over the signing of four Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), aimed at enhancing judicial and legal cooperation between India and Bhutan. These included the signing of an MoU between the two Supreme Courts on enhancing judicial cooperation; renewal of MoU between the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and Bhutan National Legal Institute on collaboration in legal education and capacity building between the two institutions; renewal of MoU between the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru and the JSW School of Law on legal education and research; and signing of an MoU between the Indian Council of Arbitration and the Bhutan Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre on collaboration to strengthen and promote arbitration and mediation.
4. □ During his visit, Hon'ble CJI had an audience with His Majesty The King of Bhutan. He held discussions with Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, taking forward the collaborative initiatives discussed during her visit to India in August 2023. On 09 October, Hon'ble CJI called on Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay to discuss the unique and special ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Bhutan.

5. □Hon'ble CJI's visit is in keeping with the longstanding tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries. Bilateral cooperation in the judicial and legal sectors was given fresh impetus pursuant to the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck to India in August 2023, when she held discussions with Hon'ble CJI, graced the 31st Annual Convocation Ceremony of the NLSIU, Bengaluru as Chief Guest, and interacted with leading Indian law and technology firms. Hon'ble CJI's visit to Bhutan has enabled both sides to lay out a robust framework for enhanced cooperation in the judicial and legal sectors. The visit reaffirmed the exemplary bilateral partnership characterized by trust, goodwill and mutual understanding at all levels.

Thimphu, 10 October 2024