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Nationality/ Date of Birth	Indian/ 09 th November, 1957

Educational/Professional Memberships

- Born on 9th November, 1957.
- Completed Law Degree from Government Law College, Mumbai.
- Enrolled as an Advocate in June, 1983.
- Practised in the High Court of Bombay till December, 1985.
- Shifted practice to Delhi in January, 1986.
- Designated as Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court of India in April, 2004.
- Appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 13th August, 2014.
- Worked in the capacity of Executive Chairperson of National Legal Services Authority from May, 2021 to 27th August, 2022 and thereafter Patron-in-Chief till 8th November, 2022.
- Served as Member of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee for two terms.
- Appointed Chief Justice of India on 27th August, 2022.
- Retired on 8th November, 2022.

Current Position

Former Chief Justice of India

Professional Experience

- Worked in the Chambers of the former Attorney General for India – Mr. Soli Sorabjee from 1986 to 1992.
- As a Lawyer, appeared in number of matters and for several high-profile personalities including for former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, who was charged with contempt of Court for failing to prevent the Babri Masjid demolition; for actor - Salman Khan in blackbucks poaching case; for Mr. Amrinder Singh, Former Punjab Chief Minister in a corruption case; Navjot Singh Sidhu, a cricketer-turned politician in a road rage case.
- Appeared as *Amicus Curiae* in a catena of matters before the Supreme Court of India concerning forests, vehicular pollution, pollution of Yamuna River etc.

- Appeared as Counsel for the Committee which went into allegations seeking impeachment of Justice P.D. Dinakaran, Former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.
- Appointed as Special Public Prosecutor by the Supreme Court of India for Central Bureau of Investigation to conduct trial in all 2G Spectrum Network matters.
- During the tenure as Judge, Supreme Court of India, authored/ was part of Bench in several landmark judgments. Few notable decisions amongst others, are:
- Triple Talaq Case: Was on the Constitution Bench holding the practice of divorce through 'triple talaq' among the Muslims to be illegal and unconstitutional.
- Travancore Royal Family's right to administer Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple: Headed the Bench which held that the royal family of Travancore had always been having the management right over Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple. The judgment of the Kerala High Court directing for creation of a trust to take control of the Temple was reversed holding that the rule of heritability must get attached to a right of Shebait (servitor) of the Temple.
- Skin to Skin contact ruling: Headed three-Judge Bench which reversed the decision of the Bombay High Court holding that skin-to-skin contact between the child and the accused was a required ingredient to constitute a case under the POCSO Act.
- Headed a bench passing landmark judgment with regards to death penalty convicts. It was held that the psychological evaluation of the prisoner on death row was mandatory and that there was need for a report on the inmate's conduct while examining whether the capital punishment remains the only resort.
- Headed a Bench that convicted fugitive businessman Vijay Mallaya.
- Pradyuman Bisht vs. Union of India: Was part of Bench which directed that at least in two districts in every State/Union Territory, CCTV Cameras (without audio recording) may be installed inside the Courts and at such important locations of the Court as considered appropriate.
- Amardeep Singh vs. Harveen Kaur: Was part of the Bench that held that the prescribed six-month waiting period under Section 13B(2) of the Hindu Marriage Act for divorce by mutual consent was not mandatory.
- Authored the judgment in Justice (Retd.) Markandey Katju vs. Union of India which held that the Parliament and its members are guaranteed absolute freedom of speech and expression during Parliamentary proceedings and cannot be held liable in Court for anything they say or any votes that they cast. They also possess the freedom to speak about any subject that is of 'general public interest'.
- Was part of the Constitution Bench which held that re-promulgating Ordinances without placing them before the Legislature was unconstitutional. The Governor only has temporary legislative powers to pass ordinances until they must be placed before the Legislature within six weeks.
- Was part of the Bench which granted relief to Journalist Vinod Dua and activist Dr. P. Varavara Rao.
- Nominated by Hon'ble the President of India in July, 2018 to inquire into the

charges of alleged misconduct/misbehaviour against Shri R.K. Mittal, Judicial Member, Railway Claims Tribunal (Ernakulam Bench). After full-fledged trial, the Inquiry Report was submitted in June, 2019.

- Since appointment as Executive Chairperson, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), made significant contributions to the cause of legal-aid.
- Launched various projects to further the objects of NALSA including LADCS (Legal Aid Defense Counsel System) relating to full time engagement of Lawyers for legal services; Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign with an aim to reach every person in the society with no exceptions; NALSA Centre for Citizen Services etc.
- Lok Adalats saw unprecedented rate of disposal of cases during my tenure. To illustrate, the third Lok Adalat conducted on 13th August, 2022 in all the States/UTs except Delhi, more than 1 crore eligible cases were disposed of.
- Took oath as Chief Justice of India (CJI) on 27th August, 2022. Was the second direct appointee from the Bar to be appointed as the CJI.
- Despite a short tenure of 74 days, brought several major administrative changes and reforms to the Listing and Mentioning of matters. Cases of personal liberty such as bail and anticipatory bail matters were given urgent hearing when mentioned. A change was introduced in the order in which cases were heard by the Supreme Court on daily basis. Regular and long-pending cases were heard in the morning, while the fresh matters were taken up for hearing post-lunch. The result was that several cases which were in cold-storage for long time got regular hearing.
- In total six Constitution Benches were constituted during the tenure to hear cases involving crucial constitutional and legal issues including reservations for economically weaker sections, dispute between the Union of India and the Delhi Government over administrative powers in the national capital, challenge to demonetization etc.
- Significant decision of live streaming of the Constitution Bench hearings was taken and implemented.
- On judicial side, was part of dissenting opinion in a 3:2 split, whereby amendment and reservations for economically weaker sections (EWS) were upheld. It was opined that the EWS reservations were discriminatory for excluding SCs, STs and OBCs and said it was 'delusional' to believe that those getting caste-based reservations were more fortunate than the forward caste poor. On the basis of data submitted by the Union of India, they found that a majority of people who would qualify for EWS reservations without this exclusion are members of these 'backward' classes.
- Employee Provident Funds Organisation v. Sunil Kumar B.: Headed the Bench which upheld the legality of certain amendments and modifications to the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 (1995 Scheme) but read down certain provisions of the Scheme.
- By the end of tenure as CJI, the Supreme Court disposed of around 10,000 cases while 8,700 were freshly filed, depicting decrease in the pendency of cases despite formation of number of Constitution Benches.

Arbitration Experience

- Authored number of judgments in the field of Arbitration including Aravali Power Company Pvt. Ltd. v. M/s. Era Infra Engineering Ltd. (Civil Appeal Nos.12627-12628 of 2017) and Perkins Eastman Architects DPC v. HSCC (India) Limited (Arbitration Application No.32 of 2019).
- Successfully held Arbitration in the matter of Bridge and Roof Co. India Limited and Bharat Aluminium Company Limited.
- Currently holding Arbitrations in the following matters:
 - Presiding Arbitrator in the matter of Modern Prefab Systems Private Limited, Claimant and Steel Authority of India (SAIL, Bhilai) Limited, Respondent.
 - Presiding Arbitrator in the matter of Green Infra Wind Energy Ltd. (GIWEL) and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Power Private Limited (SGRPPL).
 - Co-Arbitrator in the matter of National Highways Authority of India and M/s. IL & LFS Engineering & Construction Company Limited.
 - Arbitrator in the matter of Madurai Tuticorin Expressway Ltd. v. National Highways Authority of India Limited.

Languages

Hindi, English and Marathi