

DHANANJAYA CHANDRACHUD & JUSTICE YV CHANDRACHUD

'He taught me that law needs to have a human face'



Hon'ble
Justice **Dr Y V Chandrachud**
Judge 2016 -
Supreme High Court



Hon'ble
Justice **Yashwant Chandrachud**

His father was appointed a judge at Bombay High Court at the age of 40 years and eight months in 1961. Almost four decades later, in March 2000, Dhananjaya Chandrachud beat his father by four months to be sworn in as the youngest High Court judge. On Friday, when he took oath as a judge of the Supreme Court, he was once again retracing the footsteps of his father Justice Y V Chandrachud .

Justice Chandrachud is expected to land an even greater distinction before his term ends in 2024 -he is slated to don the robes of the CJI, just as his father did three decades earlier. He mulled over the parallels on his last day at the Allahabad high court, on Thursday (12.05.2016) .

"I have wonderful memories of my father. Sometimes I would show him a judgment I had written and he would scan it for its crafting. As a lawyer I would discuss law and issues with him, but once I became a judge, we would not talk about any case. He knew where to draw the line, but he would discuss Judgecraft at length. He'd tell me to take it easy when he saw me work hard," Justice Chandrachud recalls .

When his father retired, he was 25 and hard at work getting a doctorate in judicial sciences at Harvard. He says he picked up one abiding lesson from his father: "**Law should have a human face.** The duty of a judge is not to merely see that law is followed but to *ensure a just and compassionate outcome.*" The late CJI, who passed away in 2008, had passed several landmark judgments, including a divorced Muslim woman's right to maintenance in the Shah Bano case. But at home, he was his humble self. "Even when he was the CJI, he would often make tea for the whole family," recalls his son, who as CJ Allahabad has pushed for reform and transparency in administrative appointments and also gender equality .

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