

JUSTICE S.A BOBDE

Sharad Arvind Bobde is an Indian judge and advocate who is well known for deciding the very famous 'Babri Masjid case or Ayodhya verdict'. He entered to the Indian judiciary as a Judge of Bombay High Court in the 2000 and later on got promoted as a Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court in the year 2012. Post that, he became the Judge of Supreme Court of India in 2013 and finally on 18th Nov 2019 he was appointed as the 47th Chief Justice of India, where he continued his service till his retirement on 23rd April 2021.

EARLY AND PERSONAL LIFE

S.A Bobde was born in a Nagpur based family in 1956 as the grandson of a lawyer Shrinivas Ramchandra Bobde and son of Advocate General of Maharashtra Arvind Shrinivas Bobde and brother of the Constitutional Expert and Senior Supreme Court Lawyer Late Vinod Arvind Bobde.

He got married to Kamini Bobde and the couple has 3 childrens.

EARLY EDUCATION AND CAREER

Bobde did his schooling at St. Francis De'Sales High School, Nagpur. He completed his graduation from St. Francis De Sales College, Nagpur and studied law at Dr. Ambedkar Law College, Nagpur University.

Justice Bobde began his career as an Advocate at the Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court in 1978. Later he become the Senior Advocate in 1998. He was appointed as the Additional Judge of Bombay High Court on 29th March, 2000. And after 11 yrs, he was promoted to Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court on 16th October, 2012. After that he became the Judge of Supreme Court of India on 13th April, 2013. Finally on 18th November, 2019 he was appointed as the Chief Justice of India, succeeding Justice Ranjan Gogoi. He became the 47th Chief Justice of India and continued till his retirement on 23rd April, 2021.

Justice Bobde has the expertise in Criminal Law. In his career as a Judge of the Supreme Court, he wrote about 68 judgments. He has written 8 judgments per year. During his tenure he sat on the Bench for 547 cases and mainly he has penned down the judgments in the

Supreme Court on the subject of Criminal Law which are 29 in number.

Justice Bobde was earlier conferred with Doctor of law (LLD HONORIS CAUSA) by the Tamil Nadu Dr.B.R Ambedkar Law University on 13th July,2019.

LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

Ram Janmabhoomi – Babri Masjid case:

CJI Bobde was on the five-judge constitutional Bench that gave a verdict on 9 November, 2019, thus bringing the curtains down on the prolonged, politically sensitive and divisive legal battle. The subject of numerous bitter debates and supposition, this case is India's most controversial land dispute case. The ex-CJI Gogoi-led Bench marked the previous decision leave and ruled that the land belonged to the government. It ordered for the land to be handed over to a trust to build a Hindu temple and the Sunni Waqf Board to be assign an alternate five-acre tract of land to build a mosque.

Sale of firecrackers (2016):

A three-judges bench of the Supreme Court consisting of Sharad Arvind Bobde, TS Thakur and Arjun Kumar Sikri gave a judgment and restricted the sale of firecrackers in the National Capital Region due to the extreme air pollution.

Right To Privacy Verdict-

In the infamous case of Justice Puttaswamy (Retd.) and Anr. v Union of India and Ors.case, CJI Bobde was a member of the nine-judges bench of the apex court headed by the then-CJI J. S. Khehar which ruled unanimously in August 2017 that the Right to Privacy was a constitutionally protected fundamental right in India under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India. The verdict ruled that "Right to Privacy is an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 and entire Part III of the Constitution." The judgment is popularly known as the Aadhar Card judgment.

CONTROVERSY

Justice Bobde was credited for several Landmark verdicts. These included making Adhaar non compulsory, banning fire cracker sales in Delhi, upholding privacy as a Fundamental Right. But some of his judgments were also criticized. In 2017, he banned a book named Mystic Mate Mahadevi for hurting people's religious feelings and the bench did not offer any reason. The same year, he rejected a woman's petition to abort a foetus expected to have Down's Syndrome at birth. He also grabbed media headlines by claiming in a lecture that rule of law is originated from the Hindu concept of Dharma. He was a part of the panel that gave a clean chit to former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi in a sexual harassment case.

FAMOUS

QUOTES

'Justice must never ever take the form of revenge. It will lose its character as Justice if it becomes revenge'.

INTERESTING

FACTS:

- Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde was conferred with the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at the 108th convocation of the Rashtra Sant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU).
- He had also played an important role in settling down the differences between CJI Dipak Misra and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court at that time (January 2018) – Justices Gogoi, Chelameswar, Lokur and Joseph.
- Justice Bobde is also part of the three-judge Bench along with CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Rohinton Fali Nariman in the hearing of the National Registry of Citizenship case.
- Justice Bobde was very sporty in extra-curricular activities during his school and college days. He actively participated in elocution, dramatics and sports and used to play tennis in the University College of Law team which also won the inter-collegiate championship.

- During his career as Supreme Court Judge from 12.04.2013 to 17.11.2019, Justice Bobde had never been a part of any minority opinions.
- Justice S.A Bobde is a passionate lover of motorcycles, especially Bullet by Royal Enfield and Harley Davidson.

SYNOPSIS

1. Justice Bobde was the 47th Chief Justice of India.
2. He was conferred with Doctor of law (LLD HONORIS CAUSA) by the Tamil Nadu Dr.B.R Ambedkar Law University on 13th July,2019.
3. Justice S.A Bobde is a passionate lover of motorcycles, especially Bullet by Royal Enfield and Harley Davidson
4. He is credited for many historical judgments that includes making Aadhaar non-compulsory, banning fire cracker sales in Delhi, upholding privacy as a Fundamental Right.
5. He was a part of the panel that gave a clean chit to former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi in a sexual harassment case.
6. He was criticised for banning a book named Mystic Mate Mahadevi without citing any reasons and also for having rejected a woman's petition to abort a foetus expected to have Down's Syndrome at birth.
7. He retired on 23rd April 2022.