

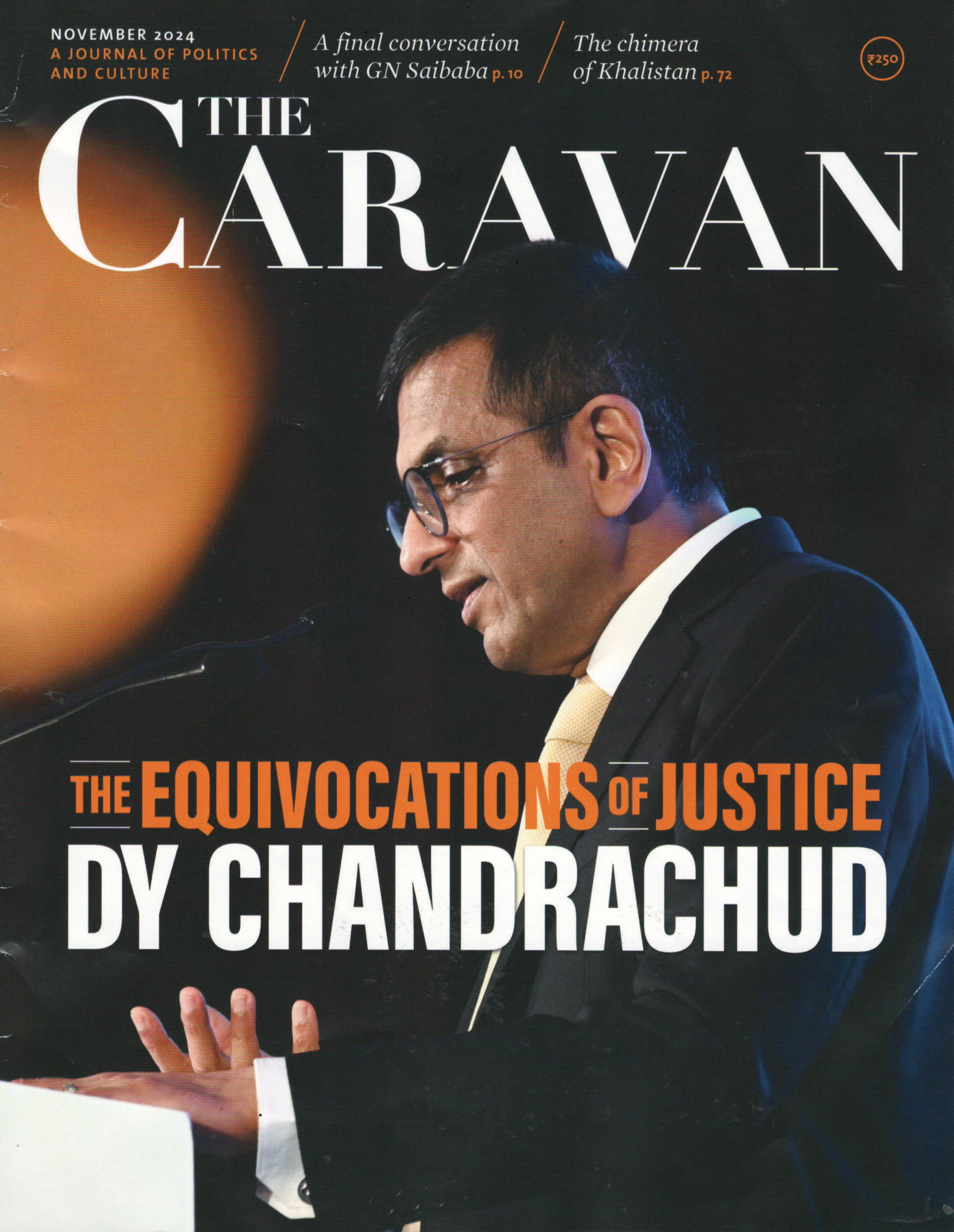
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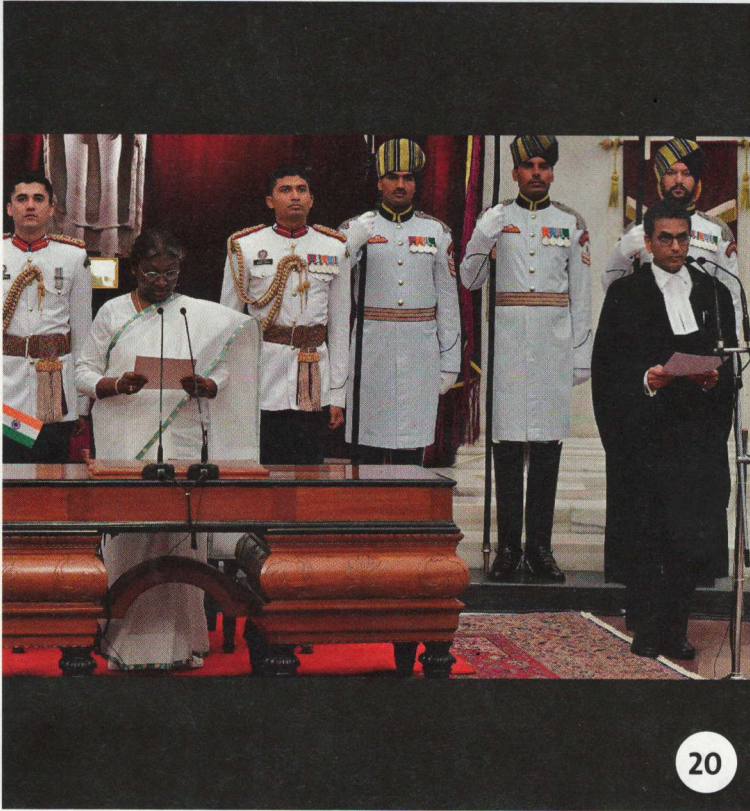
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# THE CARAVAN



**THE EQUIVOCATIONS OF JUSTICE**  
**BY CHANDRACHUD**



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## Performative Justice

The equivocations of DY Chandrachud

SAURAV DAS

*DY Chandrachud was sworn in as the fiftieth chief justice of India to great fanfare, in the hope that he would do better than his predecessors in upholding the judiciary's independence. Chandrachud was seen as a culturally liberal jurist who was unafraid to tackle complex and critical issues. However, in many instances, he hedged his judicial stance in ways that avoided outright confrontations with political power—a quality that seemed like pragmatism but, in reality, was an unwillingness to challenge the status quo. Whether it was cases being assigned to benches that consistently favoured the government or the weakening of the collegium's resistance to political influence or judgments that subtly opened doors for the executive, a look at Chandrachud's tenure reveals a judiciary retreating from its role as a check on power, while the CJI publicly maintained a progressive image. Chandrachud's legacy will likely be remembered less for his lofty ideals and more for the troubling precedents he set in Narendra Modi's India.*



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