

2024 IN REVIEW KEY JUDGMENTS RESHAPING EDUCATION



This year, the Supreme Court has been notably proactive in addressing significant issues in the education sector, ranging from the NEET-UG scandal to upholding the constitutional validity of Aligarh Muslim University. The education landscape has witnessed transformative changes, underscoring the pivotal role of education in shaping both individual destinies and the nation's future. Recognizing its importance, the Constitution of India introduced Article 21-A, establishing free and compulsory education for children aged six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right. In its commitment to safeguarding the integrity of the education system, the judiciary has delivered landmark judgments that have further enriched and redefined the sector.



List of key cases pronounced by the Supreme Court in the education sector in 2024:

Case Name	Citation
Atul Kumar vs. The Chairman (Joint Seat Allocation Respondents Authority) and Ors.	MANU/SC/1077/2024; 2024 INSC 749
Khalsa University and Ors. vs. The State of Punjab and Ors.	MANU/SC/1081/2024; 2024 INSC 751
Om Rathod vs. The Director General of Health Services and Ors.	MANU/SC/1172/2024; 2024 INSC 836
Ramkrishna Medical College Hospital & Research Centre Vs. State of Madhya Pradesh and Ors.	MANU/SC/1193/2024; 2024 INSC 845
Omkar Ramchandra Gond vs. The Union of India and Ors.	MANU/SC/1110/2024; 2024 INSC 775
Sahil Bhargava and Ors. vs. State of Uttarakhand and Ors.	MANU/SC/1030/2024; 2024 INSC 699
Vansh vs. The Ministry of Education and The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ors.	MANU/SC/0231/2024; 2024 INSC 235



Let's recap few significant cases pronounced by the Supreme Court in 2024 that shaped the education sector:

Aligarh Muslim University Minority Status

Aligarh Muslim University vs. Naresh Agarwal and Ors.
(MANU/SC/1191/2024; 2024 INSC 856, 2024 INSC 856)

The Supreme Court in this case, examined the issue whether Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) qualifies as a minority educational institution under Article 30(1) of the Constitution or not. The Court by 4: 3 ratios laid down parameters that need to be considered whether an educational institution is a 'minority institution' for constitutional purposes. The majority bench overruled the case of S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India (MANU/SC/0039/1967) wherein it was held that an educational institution is not established by a minority if it derives its legal character through a statute. To determine whether AMU is a minority educational institution or not the bench referred the matter before the regular bench.



NEET UG Scam

Vanshika Yadav vs. Union of India (UOI) and Ors.
(MANU/SC/0821/2024; 2024 INSC 568)

The Supreme Court in this case examined the validity of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for undergraduate students amid allegations of question paper leaks and malpractice. The Court held that a re-exam cannot be ordered as sufficient material was not presented that indicated a systemic leak or systemic malpractice of other forms. The Court took into consideration that the Union Government constituted a seven-member committee to thoroughly investigate and address the structural issues. The Court directed the Ministry of Education to act upon the recommendations made by the committee within a period of one month from receiving the report.



Upholds constitutional validity of Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004

Anjum Kadari and Ors. vs. Union of India (UOI) and Ors.
(MANU/SC/1168/2024; 2024 INSC 831, 2024 INSC 831)

The Supreme Court of India addressed the constitutionality of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004, which was struck down by the Allahabad High Court for allegedly violating secularism and Articles 14 and 21-A of the Constitution. The Supreme Court observed that the High Court erred in holding that a statute is bound to be struck down if it is violative of the basic structure. It held that “the Madarsa Act regulates the standard of education in Madarsas recognized by the Board for imparting Madarsa education”.

