

**SALARY AND PENSION ARE RIGHTFUL
ENTILEMENTS OF EMPLOYEES AND PENSIONERS;
SUPREME COURT**

Yet another landmark judgement from the Apex Court delivered on 8-2-2021.

Andhra State Government deferred salary and pension for March and April 2020, in the name of Covid19. One retired District and Sessions Judge, Smt. Dinavahi Lakshmi Kameshwari, challenged the AP Govt order as a public interest Litigation. On 11th August 2020, the Andhra High Court ordered that deferment is illegal and directed the Government to pay the deferred salary and pension with 12% interest.

AP Govt approached Supreme Court with a Civil Appeal. The CA was limited to interest portion of High Court order. Disposing the CA 399 of 2021, Hon'ble Supreme Court Bench consisting of Justice Dr D V Chandrachud and Justice M R Shah reduced the rate of interest from 12% to 6%. At the same time the Supreme Court upheld the observation of High Court that "Salaries and pension are rightful entitlement of employees and retirees for the service rendered to the government and it cannot be deferred..."

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If an unskilled worker does the work in your house or shop or field you have to pay his salary on the same day. It cannot be deferred. That being the case, the Government, at the Centre or in States, deny the rightful salary or pension.... The Supreme Court decision should be an 'eye opener' for those in power.