

List of Chief Justice of India 2026

Chief Justice of India: The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the head of the Indian judiciary and the Supreme Court. Justice Surya Kant is now the 53rd Chief Justice of India. He officially took an oath on November 24, 2025, a day after the retirement of CJI B. R. Gavai. Born on February 10, 1962, Justice Surya Kant will serve as CJI until February 9, 2027. Before his elevation to the Supreme Court, he worked as a Senior Advocate and later served as the Advocate General of Haryana. He also holds the position of ex officio Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority. His tenure is expected to span over 16 months and will guide key constitutional and judicial developments during this period.

Justice Surya Kant takes oath as 53rd Chief Justice of India

Justice Surya Kant has become the 53rd Chief Justice of India. He took charge on 24 November 2025 after the retirement of Justice B. R. Gavai on 23 November. His oath ceremony was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath in the presence of senior leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Vice-President. Justice Surya Kant will serve as CJI till 9 February 2027. His appointment comes after a long and respected judicial career, where he played a key role in several important constitutional decisions.

53rd Chief Justice of India

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice Surya Kant as India's 53rd Chief Justice (CJI) on October 30, 2025. The Union Law Ministry's Department of Justice announced Justice Surya Kant's appointment. He will take over as Chief Justice of India on November 24 and will serve for approximately 16 months, till February 9, 2027. He will serve as India's first Chief Justice from Haryana. He is a first-generation lawyer renowned for his honest views, fair decisions, and focus on constitutional morality. It is expected that during his term, judicial accessibility, administrative reforms, and uniform constitutional interpretation would be the main priorities.

What is the Chief Justice of India?

The **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** is the head of the judiciary system of the country and the highest-ranking judge of the **Supreme Court of India**. Appointed under **Article 124** of the Indian Constitution, the CJI is considered the "first among equals" in the collegium of Supreme Court judges. The Chief Justice of India oversees the court's proceedings, manages the roster of cases, and guides the Supreme Court's judicial policies.



The appointment is made by the President of India, traditionally based on seniority among Supreme Court judges. The CJI plays a key role in maintaining the

independence and integrity of the judiciary while ensuring that the Constitution is upheld in letter and spirit.

Roles and Responsibilities of CJI

The Chief Justice of India is entrusted with a wide range of constitutional, administrative, and judicial responsibilities that are vital for the functioning of the Indian judiciary. Here are the primary roles and duties:

1. **Judicial Leadership** – Presides over the Constitution Benches and allocates cases in the Supreme Court.
2. **Administrative Head** – Manages court functioning, schedules, and judicial assignments.
3. **Collegium Head** – Leads the appointment and transfer of judges through the collegium system.
4. **Advisor to the President** – Advises the President on judicial appointments and constitutional matters.
5. **Custodian of the Constitution** – Ensures protection of the Constitution and citizens' fundamental rights.
6. **Judicial Representative** – Represents the Indian judiciary in national and international legal forums.
7. **Crisis Manager** – Acts as the judiciary's spokesperson during times of institutional or national crises.

Chief Justice of India List 1950–2026

India's Supreme Court has been led by some of the most brilliant legal minds. The current Chief Justice of India 2026 is Surya Kant. For reference, here is the full Chief Justice of India List:

Chief Justice of India List 2026			
No.	Name	Date of Appointment	Held Office Till
1	Hon'ble Justice Harilal Jekisundas Kania	26/01/1950	06/11/1951
2	Hon'ble Justice M. Patanjali Sastri	07/11/1951	03/01/1954
3	Hon'ble Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan	04/01/1954	22/12/1954
4	Hon'ble Justice Bijan Kumar Mukherjea	23/12/1954	31/01/1956
5	Hon'ble Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das	01/02/1956	30/09/1959

6	Hon'ble Justice Bhuvneshwar Prasad Sinha	01/10/1959	31/01/1964
7	Hon'ble Justice P.B. Gajendragadkar	01/02/1964	15/03/1966
8	Hon'ble Justice A.K. Sarkar	16/03/1966	29/06/1966
9	Hon'ble Justice K. Subba Rao	30/06/1966	11/04/1967
10	Hon'ble Justice K.N. Wanchoo	12/04/1967	24/02/1968
11	Hon'ble Justice M. Hidayatullah	25/02/1968	16/12/1970
12	Hon'ble Justice J.C. Shah	17/12/1970	21/01/1971
13	Hon'ble Justice S.M. Sikri	22/01/1971	25/04/1973
14	Hon'ble Justice A.N. Ray	26/04/1973	28/01/1977
15	Hon'ble Justice M. Hameedullah Beg	29/01/1977	21/02/1978
16	Hon'ble Justice Y.V. Chandrachud	22/02/1978	11/07/1985
17	Hon'ble Justice P.N. Bhagwati	12/07/1985	20/12/1986
18	Hon'ble Justice R.S. Pathak	21/12/1986	18/06/1989
19	Hon'ble Justice E.S. Venkataramiah	19/06/1989	17/12/1989
20	Hon'ble Justice Sabyasachi Mukherjee	18/12/1989	25/09/1990
21	Hon'ble Justice Ranganath Misra	25/09/1990	24/11/1991
22	Hon'ble Justice K.N. Singh	25/11/1991	12/12/1991
23	Hon'ble Justice M.H. Kania	13/12/1991	17/11/1992
24	Hon'ble Justice L.M. Sharma	18/11/1992	11/02/1993
25	Hon'ble Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah	12/02/1993	24/10/1994
26	Hon'ble Justice A.M. Ahmadi	25/10/1994	24/03/1997
27	Hon'ble Justice J.S. Verma	25/03/1997	17/01/1998
28	Hon'ble Justice M.M. Punchhi	18/01/1998	09/10/1998
29	Hon'ble Dr. Justice A.S. Anand	10/10/1998	31/10/2001
30	Hon'ble Justice S.P. Bharucha	01/11/2001	05/05/2002
31	Hon'ble Justice B.N. Kirpal	06/05/2002	07/11/2002
32	Hon'ble Justice G.B. Pattanaik	08/11/2002	18/12/2002
33	Hon'ble Justice V.N. Khare	19/12/2002	01/05/2004
34	Hon'ble Justice S. Rajendra Babu	02/05/2004	31/05/2004

35	Hon'ble Justice R.C. Lahoti	01/06/2004	31/10/2005
36	Hon'ble Justice Y.K. Sabharwal	01/11/2005	13/01/2007
37	Hon'ble Justice K.G. Balakrishnan	14/01/2007	12/05/2010
38	Hon'ble Justice S.H. Kapadia	12/05/2010	28/09/2012
39	Hon'ble Justice Altamas Kabir	29/09/2012	18/07/2013
40	Hon'ble Justice P. Sathasivam	19/07/2013	26/04/2014
41	Hon'ble Justice R. M. Lodha	27/04/2014	27/09/2014
42	Hon'ble Justice H.L. Dattu	28/09/2014	02/12/2015
43	Hon'ble Justice T. S. Thakur	03/12/2015	03/01/2017
44	Hon'ble Jagdish Singh Khehar	04/01/2017	27/08/2017
45	Hon'ble Justice Dipak Misra	28/08/2017	02/10/2018
46	Hon'ble Ranjan Gogoi	03/10/2018	17/11/2019
47	Hon'ble Sharad Arvind Bobde	18/11/2019	23/04/2021
48	Hon'ble Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana	24/04/2021	26/08/2022
49	Hon'ble UU Lalit	27/08/2022	08/11/2022
50	Hon'ble DY Chandrachud	09/11/2022	10/11/2024
51	Hon'ble Justice Sanjiv Khanna	11/11/24	13/05/25
52	Hon'ble Justice B R Gavai	14/05/25	23/11/2025
53	Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant	24/11/2025	09/02/2027

Current Chief Justice of India 2026

Surya Kant (born 10 February 1962) is an Indian Supreme Court judge, the second-most senior Supreme Court judge behind the incumbent CJI B. R. Gavai, and is set to become India's 53rd Chief Justice on November 24, 2025, following CJI B. R. Gavai's retirement on November 23, 2025.

Notable Judgments of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant

Here are some notable judgments given by the Chief Judge of India, Justice Surya Kant.

- Article 370: A member of the five-judge bench that maintained Article 370's revocation.
- Minority Tag to AMU: A member of the bench that rendered the decision on the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University.

- Election Commission Oversight: Currently in charge of a bench supervising Bihar's Special Intensive Revision process.

Career of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant

Surya Kant was nominated to serve on the National Legal Services Authority for two consecutive terms on February 23, 2007. Surya Kant attended and organized a number of prestigious conferences. He was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on October 5, 2018. Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi's Supreme Court collegium recommended his promotion to the Supreme Court of India on May 9, 2019. Surya Kant took the oath of office as a Supreme Court justice on May 24, 2019.

