

## SC may see a new CJI on an average every eight months



The office of the Chief Justice of India will see as many as five new Justices in the next 40 months.

While Justice U U Lalit would take over as CJI in August 2022 after Justice Ramana demits office on reaching the age of superannuation, Justice D Y Chandrachud would be CJI from November 2022 when Justice Lalit retires.

Justice Chandrachud's tenure will see several judges present at the apex court bow out from the office and he will be followed by Justice Sanjeev Khanna, who superannuates in May 2025.

After this, Justice BR Gavai will take over from Justice Khanna and serve till November 2025 and then Justice Surya Kant will succeed Justice Gavai as the CJI in November 2025. He will retire in February 2027.



## Justice N V Ramana

Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, Judge in Supreme Court of India, enrolled as an Advocate on February 10, 1983, practiced in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Central and Andhra Pradesh Administrative Tribunals besides the Supreme Court of India. Previously, he has been the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court and the acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court. Having specialized in Constitutional, Criminal, Service and Inter-State River laws, he is credited for authoring path-breaking judgments in tax, constitution, arbitration, and criminal law. With a tenure of eight years in the Apex Court, he is in line to be CJI w.e.f. April 24, 2021 after superannuation of Justice Bobde.

### Father-son duo to head Supreme Court, script history

When Justice DY Chandrachud becomes CJI on November 9, 2022, he and his father Y V Chandrachud – who has been the longest-serving Chief Justice of India - will have scripted history as the only father-son duo to head the Supreme Court. Justice DY Chandrachud will retire on November 11, 2024.



## Justice U U Lalit

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, prior to his elevation as a Judge, practised as a senior counsel at the Supreme Court. Sixth senior advocate ever to be directly elevated to the Supreme Court, Justice Lalit joined the bar in June 1983 and started practising in the Apex Court in 1986. From 1986 to 1992, Lalit worked with former Attorney General for India, Soli Sorabjee and was designated as a senior advocate of the Supreme Court on April 29, 2004. Appointed special public prosecutor for the CBI in the 2G spectrum cases, in 2011 by a Supreme Court bench, he is in line to be CJI in August 2022 after superannuation of Justice Ramana.

### Time of appointment to Apex Court more crucial to be CJI

For becoming CJI, the date and time when the Judge was appointed to the Apex Court plays a crucial role rather than his age. In case two Judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same date, the one who takes oath first will be given priority even over the one who has put in more years of High Court service.



## Justice D Y Chandrachud

Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, is a former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court who obtained LL.B. degree from Delhi University in 1982, followed by an LL.M. degree from Harvard University in 1983. At Harvard, he studied on the prestigious Inlaks Scholarship, and received the Joseph H Beale prize. He went on to receive his Doctorate of Juridical Sciences (S.J.D.), from Harvard University in 1986. Known for having delivered a large number of landmark judgements, he has also been the voice of a strong dissent in notable cases including the Aadhaar case, he is in line to be CJI from November 2022 when Justice Lalit retires.



## Justice Sanjeev Khanna

Justice Sanjeev Khanna, Judge of the Supreme Court of India had earlier served as a Judge of the Delhi High Court from June 2005 to January 2019. During his tenure at the Delhi High Court, Justice Khanna authored or co-authored over 3,100 verdicts. Though known for his acumen in taxation law, he passed several public interest decisions. Enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983, his practice of law included taxation, arbitration, commercial, environment & pollution and writ jurisdiction matters in the Delhi High Court besides matters of medical negligence under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. He is in line to be CJI from November 11, 2024 when Justice Chandrachud retires.

### Justice BR Gavai will be second CJI from the SC community

After Justice Sanjeev Khanna demits the office of Chief Justice of India in May 2025 on his retirement, newly- appointed Justice B R Gavai will become the CJI for over six months. He will be the second Chief Justice of India from the Scheduled Caste community – the first being Justice (Retd) K G Balakrishnan.



## Justice BR Gavai

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Judge of Supreme Court of India, who has also been a Judge of Bombay High Court, joined Bar in March 1985, worked till 1987 with late Raja S Bhonsale - former Advocate General and Judge of High Court. He practiced independently at Bombay High Court from 1987 to 1990 after which he practiced mainly before Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court in Constitutional Law and Administrative Law. He was Assistant Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor in the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Nagpur Bench, from August 1992 to July 1993. Elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court in November 2003, he would be in line to be CJI May 2025 after the retirement of Justice Sanjeev Khanna.

**Short tenure of the judges in the top court that is fighting with the huge pendency of cases can hamper the chances of clearing the backlog. It can also reduce the chances for a CJI to implement new changes and bring in a policy that will help in improving the present system.**



## Justice Surya Kant

All set to become the 52nd Chief Justice of India, if the convention of seniority is followed, Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme Court of India is the former Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. besides also a former Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court. As an advocate, he represented multiple Universities, Boards, Corporations, Banks and various other Government bodies in Punjab and Haryana High Court. Appointed as the youngest Advocate General of Haryana in July 2000, he was designated as Senior Advocate in March 2001. He held the office of Advocate General till his elevation as a permanent Judge to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in January 2004.