

# IN A FIRST, NINE SC JUDGES TAKE OATH IN ONE STROKE

Relevant for: Polity | Topic: Judiciary in India: its Structure, Organization & Functioning, Judges of SC & High Courts, Judgments and related Issues

One for the books: CJI N.V. Ramana administering the oath to Justice Hima Kohli in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI-

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Tuesday read out the oath of allegiance to the Constitution to nine new judges of the Supreme Court, reducing the vacancies in the court to just one.

The occasion was historic on several fronts. It was the first time as many as nine judges were sworn in to the Supreme Court in a single stroke. Three of them are women judges. One of them, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, is slated to be CJI in 2027. With the new appointments, the number of women judges in the Supreme Court has gone up to four from the existing one, Justice Indira Banerjee. This is the highest number of women judges ever in the Supreme Court.

It was also the first time the court allowed a live telecast of the ceremony.

Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka took oath as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court on May 10, 2019. As Chief Justice, he led the Bench that passed a slew of directions to monitor COVID-19 management in the State.

Justice Vikram Nath took oath as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on September 10, 2019. He has championed personal liberty in preventive detention cases. He has highlighted need for transparency in COVID-19 data. He is in line to be CJI.

Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari was the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court and the Sikkim High Court before his appointment to the Supreme Court.

Justice Hima Kohli was the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court. She played a vital role in ensuring that people were not denied medical treatment during the pandemic.

Justice Nagarathna was a judge at the Karnataka High Court before her appointment as a Supreme Court judge. She is a vocal champion of women's rights.

Justice C.T. Ravikumar was a judge in the Kerala High Court before his elevation as Supreme Court judge. He famously said "law is long but life is short" in the context of the need for speedy justice while splitting the trial in the SNC Lavalin case.

Justice M.M. Sundresh was a judge of the Madras High Court before his elevation to the Supreme Court.

Justice Bela M. Trivedi is the first woman judge from the Gujarat High Court to be elevated to the Supreme Court.

Justice P.S. Narasimha was a senior advocate before his appointment as judge of the Supreme Court. He is the ninth lawyer to be directly appointed from the Supreme Court Bar. He was the Additional Solicitor-General.

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