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## Justice Surya Kant Appointed as 53rd CJI | National Current Affairs | 31 Oct 2025

### Why in News?

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed **Justice Surya Kant** as the 53<sup>rd</sup> [Chief Justice of India \(CJI\)](#).



### Key Points

- **About:**
  - He will assume office as the Chief Justice of India on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025, **succeeding CJI B. R. Gavai**, and will serve a **15-month tenure** until 10th February 2027.
  - He will be the first Chief Justice of India from Haryana.
  - He is a **first-generation lawyer** known for his **forthright observations, balanced judgments**, and emphasis on **constitutional morality**.
  - His tenure is expected to focus on **judicial accessibility, administrative reforms, and consistency in constitutional interpretation**.
- **Notable Judgments:**
  - **Article 370:** Part of the five-judge bench that upheld the **abrogation of Article 370**.
  - **Minority Tag to AMU:** Member of the bench that delivered the verdict on **Aligarh**

**Muslim University's minority status.**

- **Election Commission Oversight:** Currently heading a bench supervising the **Special Intensive Revision exercise in Bihar**.

▪ **About Chief Justice of India:**

- A **Supreme Court** judge, including the CJI, is appointed by the **President** under **Article 124 (2)**.
- The senior-most judge is designated as CJI based on length of service ( it is customary practice, not a legal requirement ).
- To qualify as CJI, one must be a citizen of India, have served as a **High Court judge for 5 years** or as an **advocate for 10 years**, or be a distinguished jurist in the President's opinion.
- The CJI can only be removed by the **President** after an address by **Parliament**, supported by a special majority in both Houses.



# Chief Justice of India

(Head of the Supreme Court)

## Qualification



A citizen of India

He should have been:

A judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years or

An advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years or

A distinguished jurist in the opinion of the President

The Constitution has **not prescribed a minimum age** for appointment as a judge of the SC

SC judges **retire on attaining the age of 65**



## Appointment

CJI is **appointed by the President under Article 124 (2) of the Constitution**

As per the protocol, the senior-most judge of the SC is designated as the CJI.

The recommendation of the senior-most judge of the SC is officially communicated by the incumbent CJI to the Ministry of Law and Justice, which, then, relays the communication to the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister advises the President on the recommendation and the President subsequently makes the appointment

## Role



Swearing in of the President and Governors.

**"Master of the Roster"**, CJI has the power to constitute benches to hear cases in the SC. CJI decides which judge will hear which case and when

CJI (**along with collegium of four senior most judges of SC**) is consulted by the President for the appointment of judges in the SC and the HC

CJI appoints **ad-hoc SC judges** under Article 127 of the Constitution

With the approval of the President, the CJI can **change the seat of the SC** from Delhi to any other place

CJI can **appoint an arbitrator to resolve a financial dispute** between the Centre and the states



## Removal

By **an order of the President**

Only after an address by Parliament has been presented to President

Supported by a **special majority of each House of Parliament** (i.e. by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting)

Grounds of Removal - Proved misbehaviour or Incapacity (Article 124(4))

The SC, in 2019, ruled that the office of CJI comes under the purview of the RTI Act, 2005

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## National Unity Day | National Current Affairs | 31 Oct 2025

### Why in News?

**Rashtriya Ekta Diwas(National Unity Day)**, observed annually on **31<sup>st</sup> October** to honour [Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's](#) role in unifying India, holds special significance in 2025 as it marks his **150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary**.

### Key Points

- **National Unity Day:**
  - It embodies the **values of unity, integrity**, and inclusiveness championed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
  - It was **first celebrated in 2014**, following the Government's decision to honour Patel's monumental role in nation-building.
  - During the **2015** observance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative** to strengthen connections and cultural exchange among people of different regions.
- **Events:**
  - The **Sardar@150 Unity March (Yatra)**, organised by the **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** through the [My Bharat platform](#), aims to promote **unity, patriotism, and civic responsibility** among youth in line with the vision of **'Ek Bharat, Aatmanirbhar Bharat'**.
  - The **"Run for Unity,"** a nationwide marathon symbolising national cohesion, was held on **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025** across major cities, with a **flag-off event in New Delhi**.
- **Statue of Unity:**
  - On **31<sup>st</sup> October 2018**, the [Statue of Unity](#), the world's tallest statue at 182 meters (600 feet), was inaugurated at **Kevadia, Gujarat**, honouring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
  - Overlooking the [Narmada River](#) and the **Sardar Sarovar Dam** (the second largest gravity dam worldwide by concrete volume), the statue is situated on **Sadhu Bet hillock**.
  - In 2020 India's Statue of Unity was included in the **list of eight wonders of the [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#)**.



# SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

IRON Man of India: 31 October 1875 - 15 December 1950

## About

- ↔ First Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India
- ↔ Bestowed the title of 'Sardar' by women of Bardoli
- ↔ Remembered as the 'Patron Saint of India's Civil Servants'



## Committees Headed

- ↔ Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights
- ↔ Committee on Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas
- ↔ Provincial Constitution Committee

## Vision

- ↔ Envisaged - Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
  - ⇒ National Unity Day celebrated on his birth anniversary
  - ⇒ Statue of Unity (Gujarat) - inaugurated in 2018
- ↔ Referred to the Civil Servants as the 'steel frame of India'

## Major Contributions

- ↔ Integrated Kheda (1918) and Bardoli (1928) Movements with the national freedom movement
- ↔ Presided over the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the INC (1931) called upon to ratify the Gandhi-Irwin Pact
- ↔ Integrated about 565 Princely States in the Union of India
- ↔ Established the modern all-India services system
  - ⇒ Civil Services Day - 21 April; commemorates Sardar Patel's first address to the probationers of Administrative Services Officers



PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/01-11-2025/jharkhand/print>

