




## N.V. Ramana: 48th Chief Justice of India

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### Why in News

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**N.V. Ramana**, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, has been recommended as the next top judge by the present Chief Justice of India (S A Bobde).

Justice Ramana will take over as the **48<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India (CJI)** from **24<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. He would be the CJI till **26<sup>th</sup> August, 2022**.

### Key Points

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- **Appointment of the CJI:**

- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the **Supreme Court (SC)** are appointed by the President under **clause (2) of Article 124** of the Constitution.
- As far as the CJI is concerned, the **outgoing CJI recommends his successor**.  
The Union Law Minister forwards the recommendation to the Prime Minister who, in turn, advises the President.
- SC in the **Second Judges Case (1993)**, ruled that the senior most judge of the Supreme Court should alone be appointed to the office of the CJI.
- The **Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India** and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.  
The collegium system is the **system of appointment and transfer of judges** that has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court (Judges Cases), and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.

- **Administrative Powers of CJI (Master of Roster):**

- It is common to refer to the office as primus inter pares – **first amongst equals.**
- Besides his **adjudicatory role**, the CJI also plays the role of the **administrative head of the Court.**
- In his administrative capacity, the Chief Justice **exercises the prerogative of allocating cases to particular benches.**
- The Chief Justice **also decides the number of judges that will hear a case.**  
Thus, he can influence the result by simply choosing judges that he thinks may favour a particular outcome.
- Such administrative powers **can be exercised without collegial consensus,** and without any stated reasons.

- **Recent Development:**

In 2019, the SC ruled that the **office of Chief Justice of India (CJI) comes under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.**

**Source: TH**