



52nd Chief Justice of India

Why in News?

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai succeeds Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the **52nd Chief Justice of India**.

Key Points

- **Retirement:**
 - CJI Sanjiv Khanna **retired on 13 May 2025**, concluding his tenure as the 51st Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
 - He assumed office on November 10, 2024, and **served in the top post for six months**.
- **Key Judgments by Justice B.R. Gavai:** Upheld 2016 [demonetisation](#) and he is a part of the Bench that **upheld abrogation of [Article 370](#)**.
 - He was part of the Constitution Bench that struck down the [Electoral Bonds Scheme](#) (*Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India*).
 - In the [State of Punjab v Davinder Singh \(2024\)](#), he advocated applying the **creamy layer principle to SCs/STs** to ensure "real equality" in affirmative action.
- **Key Provisions Related to CJI:**
 - **Appointment:** A Supreme Court judge is appointed by the [President](#) under **Article 124 (2)** of the Constitution. As per the convention, the **senior-most judge** of the Supreme Court is designated as the CJI.
 - The seniority is measured by the **length of service** on the Supreme Court.
 - **Qualification:** A person to be appointed as a Supreme Court judge, should have the following qualifications:
 - He should be a **citizen of India**.
 - He should have been a judge of a [High Court](#) (or high courts in succession) for **five years**; or
 - He should have been an **advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years**; or
 - He should be a **distinguished jurist** in the opinion of the president.
 - **Role of CJI:** As the "**Master of the Roster**," the CJI holds the authority to assign specific cases to particular benches and determine the schedule for their hearings in the Supreme Court.
 - **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 High Court**.
 - 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**.
 - **Removal:** The CJI can **be removed by the President only after Parliament presents an address, supported by a special majority in both Houses** (a majority of total members and **at least two-thirds of those present and voting**).

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