



Vipul Pancholi Appointed Chief Justice of Patna HC

Why in News?

Justice Vipul M. Pancholi was sworn in as the **45th Chief Justice of the Patna High Court (HC)** at the Raj Bhavan in Patna, with Bihar [Governor](#) Arif Mohammed Khan administering the oath of office.

- He **succeeded Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran**, who was elevated to the [Supreme Court of India](#).
- Earlier, Justice Vipul served as an advocate in the Gujarat High Court and as a judge of both the Gujarat High Court and the Patna High Court.

Key Facts About Patna High Court (HC)

- **Creation:** The Patna High Court was established following a proclamation by the Governor-General of India in 1912, which **promoted Bihar and Orissa** to the status of a separate province.
- **Foundation:** The **foundation stone of the Patna High Court** building was laid on 1st December 1913, **by Lord Hardinge**, the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.
 - The **first Chief Justice of the Patna High Court was Sir Edward Maynard Des Champs Chamier** (March 1916- October 1917).
- **Post-Independence:** After India became a republic in 1950, the Patna High Court's jurisdiction was extended, allowing it to issue writs under Article 226 of the Indian Constitution.
 - The **first Chief Justice of the Patna High Court in independent India was Sir Clifford Monmohan Agarwala** (January 1948- January 1950).

Composition & Appointment of High Court Judges

- **Composition:** Each High Court consists of a **Chief Justice and other judges as determined by the President**.
 - The President decides the strength of a High Court based on its workload.
- **Appointment of High Court Judges:** A [High Court \(HC\)](#) judge is appointed by the President under **Article 217 of the Constitution**.
 - The **Chief Justice is appointed by the President** after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the [Governor](#) of the state concerned.
 - For the appointment of other judges, the chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted.
 - In **case of a common high court for two or more states**, the governors of all the states concerned are consulted by the President.
 - The **oath to a High Court judge is administered by the governor of that state**.
- **Qualifications of Judges:** A person to be appointed as a judge of a High Court should have the following qualifications:
 - **He should be a citizen of India.**
 - He should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten years, or

- He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years.
- **Minimum Age:** The Constitution does not prescribe a minimum age for appointment as a judge of a High Court.
- **Tenure of Judges:** A judge of a High Court can hold office until he attains the age of **62 years**.

High Courts in India

- **Position:** The High Court **operates below the Supreme Court** and above subordinate courts in India's judicial system.
 - The High Court is the highest judicial body in the state (**total 25 High Courts in India**).
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **High Court for each State:** The Constitution of India provides for a **High Court for each state (Article 214)**.
 - **Article 231** provides that the Parliament may by law establish a **common High Court for two or more States** or for two or more States and a Union Territory.
 - **Jurisdiction:** Territorial jurisdiction is **co-terminus with the state's territory** (or a common High Court's jurisdiction is co-terminus with the territories of the concerned states and Union Territories).
 - **Articles 214 to 231:** These deal with **the organization, independence, jurisdiction, powers, and procedures of High Courts**.

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