Three High Court Chief Justices appointed Supreme Court judges

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News

On **5 October 2026** the Centre notified the appointment by **President Droupadi Murmu** of three High Court Chief Justices as **Supreme Court judges**, on the **collegium's** recommendation of **28 September 2026** led by **CJI Surya Kant**. The Court's working strength rises to **37** against a sanctioned strength of **38**.

Key facts

Justice Sunita Agarwal	**Gujarat HC** (now the 3rd sitting woman judge of the Supreme Court)
Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya	**Delhi HC** (earlier Bombay HC CJ)
Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh	**Telangana HC** (earlier Tripura HC CJ)

Background

- **Article 124(1):** a Supreme Court with a CJI and judges in a number fixed by **Parliament by law**. The **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2026** raised the strength from **34 to 38** (CJI + 37).
- **Article 124(2):** judges are appointed by the **President**; they retire at **65**.

- **Article 124(3):** qualifications – 5 years as an HC judge, or 10 years as an HC advocate, or a distinguished jurist.
- **Collegium** (CJI + 4 senior-most judges) came from the **Three Judges Cases (1981, 1993, 1998)**; the **NJAC (99th Amendment, 2014)** was struck down in **2015**.
- Strength over time: **8 (1950)**, 11 (1956), 14 (1960), 18 (1978), 26 (1986), 31 (2009), 34 (2019), **38 (2026)**.

Tamil Nadu link: The **Madras High Court** (1862) is one of the **three chartered High Courts** under the **Indian High Courts Act, 1861** (with Calcutta and Bombay) and covers Tamil Nadu and **Puducherry**; its **Madurai Bench** opened in **2004**. None of the three new judges comes from the Madras HC.

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