Dr Sudha Yadav sworn in as Governor of Karnataka – the State's second woman Governor

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News

Dr Sudha Yadav was sworn in as Governor of Karnataka on Friday, 16 Oct 2026, at Lok Bhavan (formerly Raj Bhavan), Bengaluru. Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru administered the oaths of office and secrecy. Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh read out the warrant of appointment. CM D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy CM G. Parameshwara and outgoing Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot attended. President Droupadi Murmu appointed her on 12 Oct. She is Karnataka's second woman Governor after V.S. Ramadevi.

Key facts

Sworn in	16 Oct 2026 – Lok Bhavan, Bengaluru
Oath by	Karnataka HC Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru
Predecessor	Thaawarchand Gehlot (since 11 July 2021)
Background	BJP, Haryana; Mahendragarh MP 1999–2004; PhD Chemistry (Roorkee)
Party roles	BJP OBC Morcha in-charge; Parliamentary Board member (Aug 2022)
Personal	Husband, BSF Deputy Commandant Sukhbir Singh Yadav, killed in 1999 Kargil war

Background

- Constitution: Art. 153 – a Governor for each State; 155 – appointed by the President by warrant under hand and seal; 156 – term 5 years (during the pleasure of the President); 157 – citizen of India, 35 years of age.
- Art. 158 – conditions of office (cannot be an MP/MLA); 159 – oath administered by the High Court Chief Justice (or senior-most judge in absence); 161 – pardoning power.
- Karnataka: formed as 'Mysore State' on 1 Nov 1956, renamed 'Karnataka' on 1 Nov 1973; capital Bengaluru. Raj Bhavans are now called 'Lok Bhavan'.
- In the 1999 Lok Sabha election she defeated Congress's Rao Inderjit Singh in Mahendragarh (Haryana). She was also a member of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) – given constitutional status under Art. 338B by the 102nd Amendment (2018).

Tamil Nadu link: in the same reshuffle on 12 Oct 2026, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar (Kerala Governor, holding additional charge of TN since March 2026) was appointed Governor of Tamil Nadu. The previous Governor, R.N. Ravi, had been moved to West Bengal. India's first woman Supreme Court judge, M. Fathima Beevi, served as Governor of Tamil Nadu.

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