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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: 7th March ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 7/4/21

Justice Ramana will be the next CJI

He will take charge on April 24

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday appointed Justice N.V. Ramana as the 48th Chief Justice of India with effect from April 24.

Born into a family of agriculturists in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, Chief Justice of India-designate Justice Ramana has adorned many hats – from student leader working for farmers and industrial workers to journalist for a leading Telugu newspaper to a first-generation lawyer. He was Additional Advocate General for Andhra Pradesh before being called to the State High Court Bench in 2001.

Tenure of 16 months

Justice Ramana was the Delhi High Court Chief Justice prior to his elevation to the top court. As CJI, Justice Ramana will have a tenure of 16 months.

The incumbent CJI Sharad A. Bobde had recommended Justice Ramana, the seniormost judge of the top court, for appointment as the 48th Chief Justice of India in a letter addressed to the Ministry of Law and Justice, dated March 24.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to appoint Sri.



Justice N.V. Ramana

Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from April 24, 2021," the Ministry of Law and Justice said in a notification.

With this, both the Supreme Court and the government have followed the seniority norm in the appointment of CJs.

As Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority, Justice Ramana was responsible for making India's legal aid programme the largest in the world with aid provided on the basis of a 'means test' rather than on basis of fixed categories.

Justice Ramana has said one of his primary objectives, besides providing easy access to justice, would be to improve the judicial infrastructure through a special purpose vehicle called the 'National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation' to act as a nodal agency.