

# Collegium recommends eight judges for Supreme Court

Karnataka HC judge B.V. Nagarathna has a chance to become first woman CJI

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The Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana, has recommended to the government nine names for appointment as judges in the court, and in the process, scripted history by naming Karnataka High Court judge B.V. Nagarathna, who may become India's first woman CJI a few years from now.

The Collegium, including Justices U.U. Lalit, A.M. Khanwilkar, D.Y. Chandrachud and L. Nageswara Rao, met until the late hours of August 17 to zero in on the names. It, however, formalised and published its resolution on Wednesday.

### 3 women judges

Eight judges and one lawyer from the Supreme Court Bar have been recommended. They are Karnataka High Court Chief Justice A.S. Oka, who is the most senior Chief



B.V. Nagarathna, left, and Hima Kohli, right, are among the three women recommended by the Collegium. ■ FILE PHOTO

Justice; Gujarat Chief Justice Vikram Nath; Sikkim Chief Justice J.K. Maheshwari; Telangana Chief Justice Hima Kohli, who is also the only serving woman Chief Justice; Justice Nagarathna; Kerala High Court judge C.T. Ravikumar; Madras High Court judge M.M. Sundresh; Gujarat High Court judge Bela M. Trivedi; and senior advocate P.S. Narasimha, in that order.

**The Collegium has for the first time, in one single reso-**



**lution, recommended three women judges. It has thus sent a strong signal in favour of the representation of women in the highest judiciary.**

**It has also continued the recent trend of recommending direct appointments from the Supreme Court Bar to the Bench of the court.**

The top court currently has 10 vacancies. Judicial appointments to it have remained frozen since September 2019.

The last batch of appoint-

ments in September 2019 were of Justices Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat, V. Ramasubramanian and Hrishikesh Roy. The oldest vacancy is that of Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who retired in November 2019.

The tenure of Chief Justice S.A. Bobde did not see a single judicial appointment to the court though frequent discussions were held by the Collegium. Justice Bobde's tenure as CJI had to weather the breakout of COVID-19.

The Supreme Court Collegium has also recommended six judicial officers and a judicial member of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal for appointment as judges of the Telangana High Court.

The judicial officers recommended are P. Sree Sudha, C. Sumalatha, G. Radha Rani, M. Laxman, N. Tukaramji and A. Venkateshwara Reddy.

The ITAT judicial member is P. Madhavi Devi.