

Justice P. S. Narasimha Joins Supreme Court Collegium as New Member

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A significant change has taken place in the **Supreme Court Collegium**, the body responsible for recommending the appointment and transfer of judges in India's higher judiciary. Following the retirement of **Justice J.K. Maheshwari**, **Justice P. S. Narasimha** has become the newest and fifth member of the Collegium.

As the **fifth senior-most judge of the Supreme Court**, Justice P. S. Narasimha will remain a member of the Collegium until his retirement, playing a key role in decisions related to judicial appointments and transfers.

Why Has the Supreme Court Collegium Changed?

The change in the Collegium became effective after **Justice J.K. Maheshwari** retired from the Supreme Court upon completing nearly **five years of service**.

According to the seniority convention followed in the Supreme Court, the **fifth senior-most judge** becomes a member of the Collegium whenever a vacancy arises. As a result, **Justice P. S. Narasimha** has now joined the Collegium.

Who Is Justice P. S. Narasimha?

Justice P. S. Narasimha is a senior judge of the **Supreme Court of India** and a distinguished jurist who has served as both a renowned Senior Advocate and a judge, contributing significantly to the country's legal and constitutional system.

- **New Role:** Member of the **Supreme Court Collegium**.
- **Joined the Supreme Court:** Appointed as a Supreme Court judge in **2021**.
- **Former Role:** Served as the **Additional Solicitor General of India** before his elevation to the Supreme Court.
- **Legal Career:** Practised as a **Senior Advocate** and argued several important constitutional and commercial cases.
- **Expertise:** Known for his expertise in **constitutional law, administrative law, and commercial litigation**.
- **Collegium Membership:** Became the **fifth member** of the Supreme Court Collegium after the retirement of **Justice J.K. Maheshwari**.
- **Key Responsibility:** Participates in recommending the **appointment, elevation, and transfer of judges** in the higher judiciary.
- **Significance:** Plays an important role in strengthening the **independence and effectiveness of India's judicial system**.

Current Members of the Supreme Court Collegium

Following the latest change, the **Supreme Court Collegium** now consists of the following five members:

- **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** (Chairperson)
- **Justice Vikram Nath**
- **Justice B. V. Nagarathna**
- **Justice M. M. Sundresh**
- **Justice P. S. Narasimha**

Together, these judges are responsible for making recommendations on appointments and transfers in the higher judiciary.

Role of the Supreme Court Collegium

The **Supreme Court Collegium** plays a vital role in maintaining the independence and efficiency of India's judiciary by recommending appointments, transfers, and elevations of judges in the higher courts.

- **Recommends the appointment** of judges to the Supreme Court.
- **Recommends the appointment** of judges to the **High Courts**.
- **Suggests the transfer** of High Court judges from one High Court to another.
- **Recommends the appointment of Chief Justices** of High Courts.
- **Evaluates the merit, seniority, and suitability** of judges before making recommendations.
- **Ensures judicial independence** by keeping the appointment process free from external influence.

- **Maintains transparency and consistency** in the selection of judges through established conventions.
 - **Advises the Central Government** on judicial appointments, which are formally made by the President of India.
 - **Helps fill judicial vacancies** to ensure the smooth functioning of courts.
 - **Strengthens the higher judiciary** by recommending qualified and experienced judges.
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