

First female Chief Justice High Court of Jammu and Kashmir **Gita Mittal** Retires



The Hon'ble
Chief Justice Gita Mittal
High Court of Jammu and Kashmir 2018 - 2020

Chief Justice High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, **Justice Gita Mittal** demitted office on Tuesday 10.12.2020 .

Gita became the *first female Chief Justice* of the High Court in August 2018. In a full court reference held in her honour on Tuesday, Gita said she broke a glass ceiling and made history when she was appointed the Chief Justice. *“I believe glass ceilings are broken when you make an impact, when **you help people and drive change,**”* she said. With her retirement, there is currently no female judge heading any of the 25 High Courts in the country.

It was during her tenure that Parliament passed laws to bifurcate the state of J&K and scrapped the special status accorded under **Article 370** of the Constitution. The communications blockade that followed the August 2019 laws virtually halted the Court's functioning. Hearings in several cases were postponed *“in the interest of justice”*.

Two months later, swamped with writ petitions, Justice Mittal wrote to the Supreme Court Collegium, requesting for appointment of more judges. three permanent judges (were) appointed, After the dilution of Article 370, Gita administered oath to new judges **swearing on the Constitution of India** – a ***first*** as until then Judges of the J&K High Court took oath according to the State's Constitution.

The Indian Express 09.12.2020

***Gita** was a crusading High Court Judge across sixteen distinguished years and was greatly respected for her judicial pronouncements , administering Social Justice in many fields of local and national import .*

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