

# Fathima Beevi, India's 1<sup>st</sup> Female SC Judge Passes Away

## Why In News

- The first woman judge of the Supreme Court Justice Fathima Beevi, died at a private hospital here on Thursday, official sources said. Justice M. Fathima Beevi, the first female Judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court of India, passed away today at the age of 96.



## Justice Fathima Beevi

- Justice Beevi was the first woman to be a judge of the Supreme Court of India. She was also the first Muslim woman to be appointed to the higher judiciary in the country.



Justice M. Fathima Beevi Receiving D Litt Degree

- She was **born in Kerala in 1927** and her father encouraged her to study law. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws degree from **Government Law College in Thiruvananthapuram**.
- She topped the Bar Council exam, becoming the **first woman to receive a Bar Council gold medal**.
- She started her career as an **advocate in Kerala** and worked her way up to become a **district and sessions judge in 1974**.



- In **1980**, she joined the **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal** and was appointed as a **High Court judge in 1983**.
- She made history in **1989** by becoming the **first woman appointed to the Supreme Court**.
- As a Supreme Court judge, she became the first Muslim woman in the higher judiciary and the first woman to become a Supreme Court Justice in an Asian country.
- After **retiring in 1993**, she served as a member of the National Human Rights Commission and then as Governor of Tamil Nadu.



- However, her term as the **Tamil Nadu Governor** ended in controversy. she took over the governorship on **January 25, 1997**.
- **In May 2001**, she became the centre of controversy when AIADMK leader **Jayalalitha** who won a majority in the elections, was invited to become the chief minister.



- There was a debate all over the country about whether it was right to make Jayalalithaa, who was disqualified from contesting the elections,
- She resigned from the post of Governor of Tamil Nadu after rejecting the mercy petitions filed by four condemned prisoners in the **Rajiv Gandhi assassination** case.
- She was awarded the **Bharat Jyoti Award** and the **US-India Business Council (USIBC) Lifetime Achievement Award**.

