



**R. Banumathi** (born 20 July 1955) is a judge of the [Supreme Court of India](#).<sup>[1]</sup> She is from [Tamil Nadu](#) and the sixth woman to be a Judge of the [Indian Supreme Court](#).<sup>[2]</sup> Earlier, she had served as the Chief Justice of [Jharkhand High Court](#)<sup>[3]</sup> and judge at [Madras High Court](#).<sup>[4][5][6][7]</sup> She is also serving as the Chancellor of [Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad](#).<sup>[8]</sup>

## Career<sup>[edit]</sup>

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Banumathi joined Tamil Nadu Higher Judicial Service in 1988 as a direct recruit district judge. As a sessions judge, she headed one-person commission on police excess by Special Task Force in Chinnampathy, [Coimbatore district](#) in 1995-96.

In April 2003, she was then elevated as judge of the [Madras High Court](#). She dealt with the case on banning *Jallikattu* or bull hugging sport. In November 2013, she was transferred to the [Jharkhand High Court](#) and was appointed Chief Justice of that court at the same time. In August 2014, she was elevated to the [Supreme Court of India](#) after her name had been recommended for the post by the collegium headed by then [Chief Justice of India, R M Lodha](#). She is only the second woman sessions judge to rise to the country's highest court.<sup>[7][9]</sup>