

Sudhir Bhargava takes oath as chief information commissioner of CIC

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Sudhir Bhargava took oath as the chief information commissioner of the Central Information Commission (CIC) Tuesday.

Four information commissioners also took the oath of office, a statement issued by the President's office said.

Bhargava was administered the oath of office by President Ram Nath Kovind at a

ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan, a statement issued by the President's office said.

Bhargava was working as the Information Commissioner in the CIC.

Four posts of information commissioners are still vacant in the transparency watchdog against its sanctioned strength of 11 -- one chief information commissioner and 10 information commissioners. Former chairperson of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and

Customs (CBIC) Vanaja N Sarna, former IFS officer Yashwardhan Kumar Sinha, the then disinvestment secretary Neeraj Kumar Gupta and former law secretary Suresh Chandra were administered the oath of office by Bhargava at the CIC office, officials said.

Sarna is the only woman in the CIC. She is a 1980-batch retired Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) officer.

Sinha is a 1981-batch Indian Foreign Service (retired) officer who was the Indian high commissioner in the United Kingdom.

An alumnus of St Michael's High School in Patna and St Stephen's College in Delhi, Sinha had served a number of important postings in the Ministry of External Affairs, including the crucial Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division, which he headed for four years.