

Lok Sabha Passes Bill to Increase Supreme Court Judge Strength

The Lok Sabha passed a Bill to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 34 to 38.

A parliamentary legislation amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act to increase the judge capacity of India's apex court.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Lok Sabha** passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill to raise the sanctioned judge strength from **34 to 38**.
- The legislation was passed **without discussion** amid continuous Opposition protests in the House.
- **Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** piloted the proceedings related to judicial legislation in the Lok Sabha.
- Additional legislations including the **Bankers' Books Evidence Bill** and **Indian Statistical Institute Bill** were introduced in the session.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Under **Article 124(1)** of the Constitution, **Parliament** has the exclusive power to determine the number of Supreme Court judges by law.

The **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act** was originally enacted in **1956** to prescribe judge strength.

Originally in **1950**, the Constitution provided for 1 Chief Justice and 7 other judges, making a total strength of **8**.

Supreme Court judge strength was previously increased from **31 to 34** through an amendment in **2019**.

Under **Article 124(2)**, every Supreme Court judge is appointed by the President and holds office until the age of **65 years**.

Article 127 permits the Chief Justice of India to appoint qualified High Court judges as **ad-hoc** Supreme Court judges.

First Chief Justice of India after independence was **Sir H.J. Kania**, serving from **1950 to 1951**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Parliament derives power from Article 124(1) to increase the strength of Supreme Court judges.

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for Group 1, Group 2, and Group 4 questions on Article 124, Parliament's powers, and judicial administration.

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