

Parliament passes Bill to increase Supreme Court judges to 37

Rajya Sabha returned the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, raising the judge strength from 34 to 37.

A statutory amendment passed by Parliament to increase the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court to reduce case pendency.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Rajya Sabha** passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, which was passed by **Lok Sabha** on **August 5, 2026**.
- The legislation increases the maximum strength of Supreme Court judges from **34 to 37**, including the **Chief Justice of India**.
- The Bill was piloted in Parliament by Minister of State for Law and Justice **Arjun Ram Meghwal**.
- The legislation was introduced and considered as a **Money Bill** in Parliament.
- The primary objective of the increase is to address the growing **pendency of cases** in the apex court.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 124(1) of the Constitution empowers **Parliament** to alter the strength of Supreme Court judges by law.

Under the original Constitution of **1950**, the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was fixed at **8 judges** (1 CJI + 7 judges).

Parliament previously increased the judge strength to 11 in **1956**, 14 in 1960, 18 in 1977, and 26 in **1986**.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, **2009** increased the judge strength from 26 to **31**.

In **2019**, the sanctioned strength was enhanced from 31 to **34** judges including the Chief Justice of India.

Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the **President of India** under **Article 124(2)** of the Constitution.

Supreme Court judges hold office until attaining the retirement age of **65 years**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 124(1) empowers Parliament to fix Supreme Court judge strength, now increased from 34 to 37.

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for TNPSC Group 1, 2, 2A, 4 (Unit 5: Supreme Court, Article 124, Parliamentary Bills).

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