Lok Sabha Considers Bill to Raise Supreme Court Judges Strength to 38

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 was introduced in Lok Sabha to increase the apex court judge strength from 34 to 38.

It is a legislative amendment to the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 to expand the maximum sanctioned judge strength of the Supreme Court.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Law Minister **Arjun Ram Meghwal** introduced the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026** in Lok Sabha.
- The bill seeks to increase the maximum sanctioned strength of **Supreme Court** judges from **34 to 38**, including the CJI.
- Under the existing provisions of the **1956 Act**, the maximum strength was **33 judges** excluding the Chief Justice of India.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved the proposal to increase the judge strength in **May 2026**.
- Lok Sabha also passed the **Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026** to curb exam paper leaks.
- The Parliament session also listed the **MSME Development (Amendment) Bill 2026** for consideration in Rajya Sabha.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Article 124(1) of the Indian Constitution empowers **Parliament** to prescribe the number of judges in the Supreme Court by law.

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

Parliament enacted the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act in **1956**, initially fixing the strength at **10 judges** excluding CJI.

The sanctioned judge strength was subsequently increased to 13 in **1960**, 17 in 1977, 25 in 1986, and 30 in **2008** (excluding CJI).

The previous amendment in **2019** raised the total sanctioned judge strength from **31 to 34** including the CJI.

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

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

REVISION FLASHCARD

Article 124(1) empowers Parliament to fix SC judge strength, proposed to increase from 34 to 38 in 2026.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Group 1/2/4 exams under Constitutional Articles (Art 124) and Judicial Structure.

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