



Attorney General of India

Why in News

The central government has **extended the term of K.K. Venugopal as Attorney General (AG) for one more year.**

- This is the **second time the Centre has extended his tenure.** Venugopal received his first extension of term in 2020.
- Venugopal was appointed the **15th AG of India in 2017.** He succeeded Mukul Rohatgi who was AG from 2014-2017.
- He would be in command of the **government's legal defence in several sensitive cases** pending in the [Supreme Court](#), which includes the challenge to the [abrogation of Article 370](#) of the Constitution and the [Citizenship Amendment Act](#).

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The Attorney General (AG) of India is **a part of the Union Executive.** AG is the **highest law officer in the country.**
 - **Article 76 of the Constitution** provides for the office of AG of India.
- **Appointment and Eligibility:**
 - AG is **appointed by the President** on the advice of the government.
 - S/he must be a person who is **qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court**, i.e. s/he must be a citizen of India and must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President.
- **Term of the Office:** Not fixed by the Constitution.
- **Removal:** Procedures and grounds for the removal of AG are not stated in the Constitution. S/he holds office during the pleasure of the President (may be removed by the President at any time).
- **Duties and Functions:**
 - To **give advice to the Government of India (GoI)** upon such legal matters, which are referred to her/him by the President.
 - To perform such other duties of a legal character that are assigned to her/him by the President.
 - To **appear on behalf of the GoI in all cases in the Supreme Court** or in any case in any High Court in which the GoI is concerned.
 - To **represent the GoI in any reference made** by the President to the Supreme Court **under Article 143** (Power of the President to consult the Supreme Court) of the Constitution.
 - To discharge the functions conferred on her/him by the Constitution or any other law.
- **Rights and Limitations:**
 - S/he has the **right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses**

of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which s/he may be named a member, but **without a right to vote.**

- S/he **enjoys all the privileges and immunities** that are available to a member of Parliament.
- S/he does **not fall in the category of government servants.** S/he is not **debarred from private legal practice.**
- However, s/he **should not advise or hold a brief against the GoI.**
- **Solicitor General of India and Additional Solicitor General of India assist the AG** in fulfillment of the official responsibilities.
- **Corresponding Office in the States:** Advocate General (Article 165).

[Source: TH](#)

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