



# Supreme Court of India Foundation Day

[Source: SCI](#)

The [Supreme Court \(SC\) of India](#), established on **26<sup>th</sup> January 1950** under [Article 124](#), was inaugurated on **28th January 1950** and began operations from the **old Parliament House**. It moved to its current building in **1958**, inaugurated by [President Dr. Rajendra Prasad](#).

- SC initially envisioned with a [Chief Justice of India \(CJI\)](#) and 7 puisne judges, its strength has since expanded to a **CJI and 33 judges** as of 2024, appointed by the [President](#) and **retiring at 65**.
  - Eligibility includes being an Indian citizen with 5 years as a High Court judge, 10 years as an advocate, or is in the opinion of the President a distinguished jurist.
- In 2024, a [new "Lady Justice" statue](#) was unveiled at the SC, replacing the original. Dressed in a **saree and without a blindfold, it holds scales and the Indian Constitution**.
  - Unlike the original, based on *Justitia* (Roman goddess) with a **blindfold, scales, and a sword**, the new statue's **open eyes signify that the law is not blind and sees everyone equally**.
  - The Indian Constitution replaces the sword, emphasizing its **supremacy in justice**.
- In 2024, the new flag and insignia of the SC are unveiled to mark its 75th year. The flag features the [Ashok Chakra](#), the **SC building**, and the **Book of Constitution**, with the insignia inscribed with "**Yato Dharmastato Jayah**," meaning "**Where there is Dharma, there is victory**."

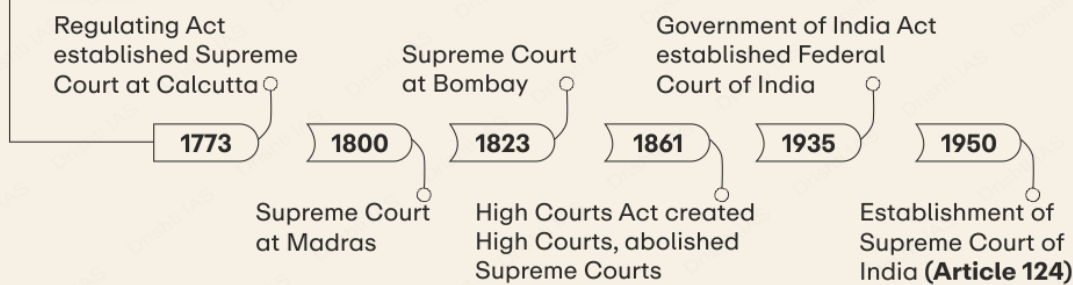
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# SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

*The Supreme Court of India is the apex judicial body under the Constitution of India.*

## HISTORY



## COMPOSITION

- ④ **Strength:** 34 judges including CJI, appointed by the President
- ④ **Eligibility:** Indian Citizen; High Court judge for 5 years/Advocate for 10 years/Distinguished jurist
- ④ **Tenure:** Until age 65 (unless resigns/impeached by President)
- ④ **Salaries:** Determined by Parliament
- ④ **Impeachment:** By President on Parliament's approval with a special majority

## JURISDICTION

*Original, Writ, Appellate and Advisory Jurisdictions:*

- ④ **Original:** Disputes between Government and States (Article 131); Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)
- ④ **Writ:** Powers to issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights (Article 139)
- ④ **Appeals From HCs:**
  - ④ Constitutional Matters (Article 132)
  - ④ Civil Matters (Article 133)
  - ④ Criminal Matters (Article 134)
  - ④ Special Leave (Article 136; Discretionary Power)
- ④ **Advisory:** Presidential referrals (Article 143)

## OTHER POWERS

*Court of Record, Judicial Review, Constitutional Interpretation etc.*

- ④ **Articles 129:** Powers to punish for contempt
- ④ **Article 137:** Supreme Court review of its judgments
- ④ **Article 141:** Supreme Court's decisions are binding on all courts
- ④ **Article 142:** Orders and decrees of the Supreme Court are enforceable
- ④ **Article 147:** SC is the **ultimate interpreter of the Constitution**

## Acting Chief Justice, Ad Hoc Judge, & Retired Judge of SC

- **Acting Chief Justice:** Appointed by the President as needed
- **Ad Hoc Judge:** Appointed temporarily by the CJI for quorum issues
- **Retired Judge:** Chief Justice can reappoint retired judges temporarily



**Drishti IAS**

Read more: [75 Years of Supreme Court](#)

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