



# Attorney General of India

## Why in News

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

- Venugopal was appointed the 15th AG of India in 2017. He succeeded Mukul Rohatgi who was AG from 2014-2017.

## Key Points

- 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**).

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