



Chief Justice of India

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Chief Justice of India

(Head of the Supreme Court)



Justice Uday Umesh Lalit

49th Chief Justice of India

Qualification



A citizen of India

He should have been:

A judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years or

An advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years or

A distinguished jurist in the opinion of the President

The Constitution has **not prescribed a minimum age** for appointment as a judge of the SC

SC judges **retire on attaining the age of 65**



Appointment

CJI is **appointed by the President under Article 124 (2) of the Constitution**

As per the protocol, the senior-most judge of the SC is designated as the CJI.

The recommendation of the senior-most judge of the SC is officially communicated by the incumbent CJI to the Ministry of Law and Justice, which, then, relays the communication to the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister advises the President on the recommendation and the President subsequently makes the appointment

Role



Swearing in of the President and Governors.

"Master of the Roster", CJI has the power to constitute benches to hear cases in the

SC. CJI decides which judge will hear which case and when

CJI (**along with collegium of four senior most judges of SC**) is consulted by the President for the appointment of judges in the SC and the HC

CJI appoints **ad-hoc SC judges** under Article 127 of the Constitution

With the approval of the President, the CJI can **change the seat of the SC** from Delhi to any other place

CJI can **appoint an arbitrator to resolve a financial dispute** between the Centre and the states



Removal

By **an order of the President**

Only after an address by Parliament has been presented to President

Supported by a **special majority of each House of Parliament** (i.e. by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting)

Grounds of Removal - Proved misbehaviour or Incapacity (Article 124(4))

The SC, in 2019, ruled that the office of CJI comes under the purview of the RTI Act, 2005



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