



# 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."**

# SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

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

## HISTORY

Regulating Act established Supreme Court at Calcutta

1773

Supreme Court at Bombay

1800

1823

Supreme Court at Madras

High Courts Act created High Courts, abolished Supreme Courts

1861

Government of India Act established Federal Court of India

1935

1950

Establishment of Supreme Court of India (Article 124)

## 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](#)