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# Union Cabinet Approves Expansion of Supreme Court Judge Strength

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The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to increase the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court of India by four. The decision will raise the number of judges from 33 to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India (CJI).?

## **Proposed Amendment to Supreme Court Law:**

### **Amendment Bill to be Introduced:**

The government will introduce the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 in Parliament to amend the existing Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

Current and Proposed Strength

Category: Existing Strength: Proposed Strength

Judges excluding CJI: 33: 37

Total strength including CJI: 34: 38

## **Reasons Behind the Decision:**

### **Addressing Pendency of Cases:**

### **The increase in the number of judges aims to:**

Reduce pendency of cases

**Kamaraj IAS Academy**

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

Improve efficiency of the Supreme Court

Ensure faster delivery of justice

Strengthen judicial administration

### **Growing Workload of the Judiciary:**

The Supreme Court has witnessed a continuous rise in litigation and constitutional matters, requiring greater judicial capacity to handle the caseload effectively.

Evolution of Supreme Court Judge Strength

### **Historical Expansion**

**The strength of the Supreme Court has been revised multiple times since 1950:**

Year Strength of Judges (excluding CJI)

1950 7

1960 13

1977 17

1986 25

2009 30

2019 33

Proposed 2026 37

### **Constitutional and Legal Provisions:**

#### **Article 124 of the Constitution:**

Establishes the Supreme Court of India

Parliament has the power to regulate the number of judges through legislation

#### **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956:**

This Act determines the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court and has been amended several times to increase judicial capacity.