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INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JUDGES IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA TO 37

— A STRONGER BENCH. A STRONGER NATION. —

EXAM-ORIENTED HANDOUT

UPSC | STATE PCS | SSC

Constitutional Law & Judiciary Reforms

- CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS — Articles 124
- JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE — Strengthening the Core
- PENDING CASES & ACCESS TO JUSTICE — Towards Timely Justice
- WAY FORWARD — Reforms for an Effective Judiciary

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INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JUDGES IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA TO 37

EXAM-ORIENTED HANDOUT

UPSC | STATE PCS | SSC

Constitutional Law & Judiciary Reforms

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief Background of the Supreme Court of India

- The Supreme Court of India is the apex judicial body and guardian of the Constitution.
- Established on January 26, 1950, under the Indian Constitution.
- Headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI); exercises both original and appellate jurisdiction.
- Located in New Delhi; has the power to interpret the Constitution and protect fundamental rights.

1.2 Constitutional Provisions (Article 124)

Article 124 of the Constitution deals with the establishment and composition of the Supreme Court:

- Article 124(1): There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice and such number of other Judges as Parliament may from time to time determine.
- Article 124(2): The CJI is appointed by the President.
- Article 124(3): Other Judges are appointed by the President on the advice of the CJI and other senior Judges (Collegium System).
- Article 124(4): Key appointment criterion: A person must be a citizen of India and have been an advocate or district judge for at least 5 years.

1.3 Historical Evolution of Judge Strength

Year	Number of Judges	Notable Event
1950	8 (1 CJI + 7)	Establishment of Supreme Court
1956	10	First increase
1977	17	Expansion
2006	31	Significant increase
2024	38 (1 CJI + 37)	Latest amendment

2. CURRENT UPDATE

2.1 Latest Amendment (2024)

- The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2024 increased sanctioned strength from 34 to 37 excluding 1 CJI.
- Parliament passed the bill in 2024; the President gave assent.
- Effective from: 2024
- This is the third amendment in the 21st century to increase judge strength.

2.2 Reasons Behind the Increase

- Case Backlog: Over 70,000+ pending cases in the Supreme Court
- Pendency Period: Average case disposal takes 4-6 years
- Judicial Efficiency: More judges can conduct more benches and hear more cases
- Access to Justice: A fundamental right under Article 21; delayed justice is denied justice
- Constitution Bench Workload: More judges needed for larger benches to hear constitutional matters

3. NEED FOR INCREASING JUDGES

3.1 Pendency Crisis: The Numbers

Parameter	Data
Total Pending Cases (2024)	70,000+ (Supreme Court only)
Lower Courts	50+ million cases pending
Average Case Duration	4-6 years (Supreme Court)
Oldest Pending Case	40+ years in some instances
New Cases Filed (Annual)	50,000+ new cases per year
Disposal Rate	Significantly lower than filing rate

3.2 Access to Justice

- Article 21 Violation: Long delays effectively deny justice to citizens
- Vulnerable Groups: Poorest citizens suffer most; cannot afford prolonged litigation
- Public Confidence: Delayed justice erodes trust in the judicial system

3.3 Judicial Efficiency

- More judges = More benches = Higher case disposal capacity
- Each judge hears ~600-800 cases annually; more judges = proportional increase
- Constitution Bench Workload: Requires 5-7 judges for constitutional cases; currently strained

4. KEY FACTS FOR PRELIMS

Aspect	Details
Maximum Sanctioned Strength	38 (1 CJI + 37 Judges)
Appointment Authority	President (on advice of CJI)
Eligibility Criteria	5+ years as advocate or district judge
Retirement Age	65 years (mandatory)
Collegium System	Established by S.P. Gupta case (1981)
Constitutional Article	Article 124
Term of CJI	3 years or until age 65
Jurisdiction	Original, Appellate, Advisory, & Writ

4.1 Important Constitutional Articles

- Article 124: Establishment and composition of SC
- Article 125: Oath and salary of judges
- Article 131: Original jurisdiction
- Article 32: Right to constitutional remedies

5. ANALYTICAL SECTION (MAINS FOCUS)

5.1 PROS of Increasing Judge Strength

1. Increased Disposal Capacity

- More judges = more benches = higher case disposal rate

2. Faster Justice Delivery

- Reduced case pendency directly improves access to justice (Article 21 right)

3. Constitution Bench Strengthening

- Larger benches (5-7 judges) now possible without operational strain

4. Specialization Possibilities

- More judges allow dedicated benches for specific legal areas

5.2 LIMITATIONS: Why Numbers Alone May NOT Solve the Backlog

1. Systemic Issues Beyond Judges

- Lower courts have 50+ million pending cases; SC alone cannot address

2. Infrastructure Constraints

- Courtrooms, staff, and support systems must expand parallel to judges

3. Procedural Delays

- Adjournments, lawyer unavailability not judge-dependent

4. Vacancies & Recruitment Issues

- Currently, positions often vacant; need to fill existing positions first

5.3 International Comparison

Country	Judges	Population	Ratio/Million
India	38 (1 CJI + 37 Judges)	1.4 billion	0.03
USA (SC)	9	330 million	0.03
Germany	16	83 million	0.19
Australia	7	25 million	0.28
Canada	9	38 million	0.24

6. CHALLENGES IN JUDICIARY

6.1 Infrastructure Deficit

- Insufficient courtrooms and judicial chambers
- Lack of modern facilities (e-courts, digital records)
- Budget constraints limiting expansion

6.2 Lower Judiciary Crisis

- 50+ million cases pending in district and high courts
- Vacancies in lower courts (20-30% of sanctioned positions)
- Increasing SC judges without strengthening lower courts incomplete

6.3 Procedural Delays

- Frequent adjournments (40-50% of hearings adjourned)
- Slow government responses and delays
- Overburdened court staff

7. WAY FORWARD

7.1 Judicial Reforms

- Strengthen lower judiciary with more judges and infrastructure
- Implement stricter rules on adjournments
- Fast-track courts for specific categories
- Promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

7.2 Technology Integration

- E-Courts Initiative: Digitalize case filing and judgment delivery
- AI-Powered Tools: Use AI for case categorization
- Virtual Courts: Increase video hearings
- Online document submission

7.3 Institutional & Structural Changes

- Increase budget allocation for infrastructure
- Establish specialized benches
- Focus on recruitment for lower courts
- Regular judicial training and capacity building

8. QUICK REVISION BOX

KEY BULLET POINTS FOR LAST-MINUTE REVISION

- SC judges increased from 34 to 37 via 2024 amendment
- Reason: 70,000+ pending cases; average case takes 4-6 years
- Constitutional basis: Article 124(1); Parliament's power
- Collegium System: Judges appointed by President on CJI advice (S.P. Gupta case, 1981)
- Judges-to-population ratio in India: 0.03 per million (lowest globally)
- Limitations: Numbers alone won't solve backlog without reforms
- Way Forward: E-courts, ADR, stricter adjournment rules, lower court strengthening

9. KEYWORDS & IMPORTANT TERMS

Term	Definition
Collegium System	Judicial appointments by senior judges
Case Pendency	Cases awaiting disposal
Sanctioned Strength	Maximum authorized judges
Access to Justice	Right to justice without delays (Article 21)
Constitutional Bench	5-7 judges for constitutional matters
Writ Jurisdiction	Powers to issue habeas corpus, mandamus, etc.
Original Jurisdiction	SC hears cases directly
Appellate Jurisdiction	SC hears appeals
E-Courts	Digitalization of judiciary
ADR	Mediation, arbitration, negotiation

30 UPSC STANDARD MCQs
INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JUDGES IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA TO 37

Constitutional Law & Judiciary Reforms | UPSC/PCS/SSC Preparation

TYPE A: STANDARD MCQs (10 Questions)

Q1. The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act was passed in which year?

- a) 2022
- b) 2023
- c) 2024
- d) 2025

Answer: c) 2024

Explanation: The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2024 increased the sanctioned strength of judges from 34 to 37. This amendment was passed by Parliament in 2024 and received Presidential assent.

Q2. What is the maximum sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court after the 2024 amendment?

- a) 34 judges
- b) 35 judges
- c) 36 judges
- d) 38 judges (1 CJI + 37)

Answer: d) 38 judges (1 CJI + 37)

Explanation: The 2024 amendment increased the sanctioned strength from 34 to 37 judges. This excludes 1 Chief Justice of India, making a total of 38.

Q3. Which article of the Constitution empowers Parliament to determine the number of Supreme Court judges?

- a) Article 120
- b) Article 124
- c) Article 131
- d) Article 141

Answer: b) Article 124

Explanation: Article 124(1) of the Constitution explicitly states that Parliament may determine the number of judges in the Supreme Court. This provides the constitutional foundation for the 2024 amendment.

Q4. At what age do Supreme Court judges mandatorily retire?

- a) 60 years
- b) 62 years
- c) 65 years
- d) 70 years

Answer: c) 65 years

Explanation: Article 124 provides that judges of the Supreme Court retire at the age of 65 years. The Chief Justice of India serves until age 65 or for 3 years from appointment, whichever is earlier.

Q5. Which system is used for the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court of India?

- a) Electoral System
- b) Merit-based UPSC selection
- c) Collegium System
- d) Direct Cabinet Selection

Answer: c) Collegium System

Explanation: The Collegium System, established by S.P. Gupta v. Union of India (1981), is used for judicial appointments. The Chief Justice of India and senior judges collectively recommend appointments to the President.

Q6. Approximately how many cases are currently pending in the Supreme Court of India?

- a) 40,000 cases
- b) 55,000 cases
- c) 70,000+ cases
- d) 100,000+ cases

Answer: c) 70,000+ cases

Explanation: As of 2024, the Supreme Court has over 70,000 pending cases. This backlog is a primary reason for increasing the number of judges. Additionally, lower courts have 50+ million pending cases.

Q7. What is the average duration for case disposal in the Supreme Court?

- a) 2-3 years
- b) 4-6 years
- c) 8-10 years
- d) 10-12 years

Answer: b) 4-6 years

Explanation: The average duration for case disposal in the Supreme Court is 4-6 years. Some critical cases take even longer - up to a decade or more. This delay violates the citizen's right to speedy justice under Article 21.

Q8. Which of the following is NOT a constitutional provision related to the Supreme Court?

- a) Article 124 - Establishment of SC
- b) Article 125 - Oath and salary
- c) Article 128 - Appointment criteria
- d) Article 131 - Original jurisdiction

Answer: c) Article 128 - Appointment criteria

Explanation: Article 128 deals with ad-hoc judges, not appointment criteria. The correct articles are: 124 (establishment), 125 (oath/salary), 131 (original jurisdiction), and 124(4) covers eligibility/appointment criteria.

Q9. How many cases are pending in India's lower courts (district and high courts combined)?

- a) 20 million
- b) 35 million
- c) 50+ million
- d) 80 million

Answer: c) 50+ million

Explanation: Lower courts have a pending caseload exceeding 50 million. This massive backlog in lower judiciary is a major limitation - increasing Supreme Court judges alone cannot solve this systemic problem.

Q10. In which year was the Collegium system of judicial appointments established?

- a) 1975
- b) 1978
- c) 1981
- d) 1985

Answer: c) 1981

Explanation: The Collegium system was established through the landmark judgment S.P. Gupta v. Union of India in 1981. This system gives judges a say in the appointment of fellow judges, moving away from executive dominance.

TYPE B: STATEMENT-BASED MCQs (10 Questions)

Instructions: Select the correct option based on the accuracy of the given statements

Q11. Statement 1: The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2024 increased judge strength to 37.
Statement 2: The primary reason for this increase was to address the backlog of cases and ensure timely justice.

- a) Both statements are correct, and S2 is the correct reason for S1
- b) Both statements are correct, but S2 is not the reason for S1
- c) Only Statement 1 is correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: a) Both statements are correct, and S2 is the correct reason for S1

Explanation: Both statements are factually accurate. The amendment did increase judges to 37, and the stated reason was to handle 70,000+ pending cases and improve access to justice, which is fundamental to the Article 21 right.

Q12. Statement 1: Increasing the number of judges alone will completely solve India's case backlog problem.
Statement 2: Systemic issues like procedural delays and infrastructure deficits also contribute to case pendency.

- a) Both statements are correct
- b) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect
- c) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: c) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct

Explanation: While increasing judges helps, it is not a complete solution. Lower courts have 50+ million cases, infrastructure is inadequate, and procedural issues (40-50% adjournments) persist. Numbers alone cannot solve these systemic problems.

Q13. Statement 1: The Collegium system was established to make judicial appointments transparent and merit-based.
Statement 2: Article 124 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to determine the number of Supreme Court judges.

- a) Both statements are correct
- b) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect
- c) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: a) Both statements are correct

Explanation: Both statements are accurate. The Collegium system (S.P. Gupta case, 1981) ensures judicial appointments are independent and merit-based. Article 124(1) explicitly allows Parliament to determine judge strength, which was used for the 2024 amendment.

Q14. Statement 1: India has the lowest judge-to-population ratio among major democracies globally.
Statement 2: India's ratio is 0.03 judges per million people, comparable to developed nations like Germany and Australia.

- a) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect
- b) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct
- c) Both statements are correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: a) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect

Explanation: India indeed has the lowest ratio (0.03/million) globally. Statement 2 is incorrect because India's ratio is NOT comparable to others: Germany (0.19), Australia (0.28), and Canada (0.24) all have significantly higher ratios.

Q15. Statement 1: E-courts and AI tools can completely replace the need for additional judges.
Statement 2: Technology should complement judicial reforms, including increasing judge strength and lower court capacity.

- a) Both statements are correct
- b) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect
- c) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: c) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct

Explanation: Technology cannot replace judges; it cannot adjudicate cases or make legal decisions. Technology is complementary. E-courts improve efficiency but more judges are fundamentally needed to handle case volume. Statement 2 correctly identifies the comprehensive reform approach needed.

Q16. Statement 1: The retirement age for Supreme Court judges is the same as civil service officers (60 years).
Statement 2: The Chief Justice of India serves for a fixed tenure of 5 years.

- a) Both statements are correct
- b) Both statements are incorrect
- c) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect
- d) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct

Answer: b) Both statements are incorrect

Explanation: Supreme Court judges retire at 65 years (not 60). The CJI serves for 3 years from appointment or until age 65, whichever is earlier (not 5 years). Both statements contain factual errors.

Q17. Statement 1: Lower courts have fewer pending cases than the Supreme Court.
Statement 2: Judicial reforms must focus on strengthening both lower courts and the Supreme Court.

- a) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct
- b) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect
- c) Both statements are correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: a) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct

Explanation: Lower courts have 50+ million pending cases compared to the Supreme Court's 70,000+. Statement 1 is false. Statement 2 is correct - comprehensive judicial reform must address both levels, not just increase Supreme Court judges.

Q18. Statement 1: Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution includes the right to speedy justice.
Statement 2: Delayed justice adversely affects vulnerable and poor populations more than affluent citizens.

- a) Both statements are correct
- b) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect
- c) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: a) Both statements are correct

Explanation: The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that Article 21 includes the right to speedy justice (delay = denial). Additionally, vulnerable and poor citizens suffer most from prolonged litigation as they cannot afford prolonged legal battles or multiple appeals.

Q19. Statement 1: The 2024 amendment addressed both the increase in judge strength and the infrastructure deficit simultaneously.
Statement 2: Infrastructure and procedural reforms are necessary prerequisites for the effectiveness of increasing judge numbers.

- a) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect
- b) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct

- c) Both statements are correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: b) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct

Explanation: The 2024 amendment only increased judge numbers; it did not address infrastructure or procedural issues. Statement 2 is correct - infrastructure, courtrooms, staff, and procedural reforms are necessary for judicial effectiveness and are interdependent with judge strength.

Q20. Statement 1: The Constitution Bench comprises all judges of the Supreme Court. Statement 2: Constitution Benches comprising 5-7 judges are required for hearing cases involving constitutional interpretation and landmark judgments.

- a) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct
- b) Statement 1 is correct; Statement 2 is incorrect
- c) Both statements are correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Answer: a) Statement 1 is incorrect; Statement 2 is correct

Explanation: Constitution Benches do not comprise all judges - they consist of 5-7 senior judges selected for constitutional matters. Statement 1 is false. Statement 2 is correct - larger benches hear important constitutional cases to ensure diverse judicial perspectives.

TYPE C: MATCH THE FOLLOWING MCQs (10 Questions)

Instructions: Match items in Column A with appropriate items in Column B

Q21. Match the following constitutional terms and concepts:

Column A	Column B
1) Collegium System	a) 70,000+
2) Article 124	b) SC establishment & composition
3) Pending cases (SC)	c) Judicial appointments by senior judges

Answer: 1-c, 2-b, 3-a

Explanation: Collegium System refers to judicial appointments made by senior judges (established via S.P. Gupta case 1981). Article 124 deals with the establishment and composition of the Supreme Court. There are 70,000+ pending cases in the SC. This matching connects constitutional provisions with judicial realities.

Q22. Match judicial reform mechanisms with their primary functions:

Column A	Column B
1) ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)	a) Digital/online case management and automation
2) Fast-Track Courts	b) Expedited resolution of specific case categories
3) E-Courts Initiative	c) Mediation, arbitration, and negotiation processes

Answer: 1-c, 2-b, 3-a

Explanation: ADR encompasses mediation, arbitration, and negotiation as alternatives to formal litigation. Fast-Track Courts handle specific categories of cases with expedited procedures. E-Courts Initiative focuses on digitalization of case filing, management, and judgment delivery. These complementary strategies address different dimensions of judicial pendency.

Q23. Match landmark judicial decisions with their years and significance:

Column A	Column B
1) S.P. Gupta v. Union of India	a) 1973; Established the Basic Structure Doctrine
2) Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala	b) 1981; Established the Collegium System
3) Second Judges Case	c) 1993; Refined and strengthened the Collegium System

Answer: 1-b, 2-a, 3-c

Explanation: S.P. Gupta v. Union (1981) established the Collegium system ensuring judicial independence in appointments. Kesavananda Bharati v. Kerala (1973) established the Basic Structure doctrine as a limitation on constitutional amendments. The Second Judges Case (1993) refined the Collegium system further. These represent the evolution of judicial governance principles in India.

Q24. Match Supreme Court jurisdictional categories with their scope:

Column A	Column B
1) Original Jurisdiction	a) Power to issue habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari (Article 32)
2) Writ Jurisdiction	b) Disputes between states or between state and center (Article 131)
3) Appellate Jurisdiction	c) Hears appeals from lower courts and high courts

Answer: 1-b, 2-a, 3-c

Explanation: Original jurisdiction (Article 131) allows the SC to hear disputes between states/union territories directly. Writ jurisdiction (Article 32) enables the SC to issue constitutional remedies like habeas corpus and mandamus. Appellate jurisdiction covers appeals from lower judicial authorities. Understanding these distinct jurisdictions is critical for SC's functioning and case management.

Q25. Match judicial reform strategies with their primary outcomes:

Column A	Column B
1) Increasing the number of judges	a) Reduces procedural and administrative delays
2) Implementing E-Courts	b) Increases case disposal capacity directly
3) Stricter adjournment regulations	c) Improves case management and reduces paper-based delays

Answer: 1-b, 2-c, 3-a

Explanation: More judges directly increase the disposal capacity as each judge can hear more benches and cases. E-Courts improve administrative efficiency and case management through digitalization. Stricter adjournment rules reduce procedural delays caused by postponements. These reforms address different aspects: structural capacity, administrative efficiency, and procedural discipline respectively.

Q26. Match historical timeline with Supreme Court judge strength evolution:

Column A	Column B
1) 1950 (Establishment)	a) 38 judges (1 CJI + 37)
2) 2006 (Judicial Overload)	b) 31 judges after major expansion
3) 2024 (Latest Amendment)	c) 8 judges (1 CJI + 7)

Answer: 1-c, 2-b, 3-a

Explanation: The Supreme Court was established in 1950 with 8 judges (1 CJI and 7 other judges). In 2006, following recognition of judicial overload, it was increased to 31 judges. The 2024 amendment brought it to 37 judges+ 1CJI. This 74-year evolution demonstrates India's growing judicial demands and the incremental expansion of judicial infrastructure.

Q27. Match countries with their judge-to-population ratios (per million people):

Column A	Column B
1) India	a) 0.28 judges per million (highest among these)
2) Germany	b) 0.19 judges per million (moderate)
3) Australia	c) 0.03 judges per million (lowest globally)

Answer: 1-c, 2-b, 3-a

Explanation: India has 0.03 judges per million people - the lowest ratio globally. This international comparison reveals why increasing SC judges to 37 is justified. Germany has 0.19/million and Australia has 0.28/million. India's ratio being 5-9 times lower than democratic counterparts indicates severe judicial resource constraints, validating the 2024 amendment's rationale.

Q28. Match constitutional articles with their scope and significance:

Column A	Column B
1) Article 21 (Fundamental Right)	a) Right to constitutional remedies including writs against state action
2) Article 124 (Establishment)	b) Establishment and composition of SC; empowers Parliament to determine judge numbers
3) Article 32 (Constitutional Remedies)	c) Right to life and dignity, including the right to speedy justice

Answer: 1-c, 2-b, 3-a

Explanation: Article 21 encompasses the right to life and dignity, which courts have interpreted to include speedy justice. Article 124 establishes the SC and grants Parliament power to determine judge strength - the basis for the 2024 amendment. Article 32 grants citizens the right to file cases directly in SC for constitutional violations and obtain writs. Together these form the foundation of judicial rights in India.

Q29. Match judicial crisis indicators with their quantitative measures:

Column A	Column B
1) Supreme Court case pendency	a) 40-50% of scheduled hearings adjourned
2) Lower court case backlog	b) 70,000+ cases awaiting disposal
3) Adjournment rate at hearings	c) 50+ million cases across all lower courts

Answer: 1-b, 2-c, 3-a

Explanation: The SC has 70,000+ pending cases despite being the apex court. Lower courts collectively have 50+ million pending cases - a massive institutional burden. Additionally, 40-50% of scheduled hearings are adjourned, indicating procedural delays. These interconnected statistics illustrate that India's judicial crisis is multi-dimensional: it involves SC overload, lower court collapse, and procedural inefficiency.

Q30. Match institutional actors with their constitutional roles in judicial governance:

Column A	Column B
1) Chief Justice of India	a) Determines the total number of judges in SC (Article 124)
2) Parliament	b) Recommends names of judges for appointment by the President
3) Collegium (CJI + Senior Judges)	c) Heads the Supreme Court and leads the Collegium

Answer: 1-c, 2-a, 3-b

Explanation: The CJI leads the Supreme Court and heads the Collegium system, making key recommendations. Parliament holds the constitutional power (Article 124) to determine SC judge strength - this power was exercised in the 2024 amendment. The Collegium (CJI + senior judges) recommends judicial appointments to the President. These institutional roles are distinct yet interdependent, creating a balanced system of judicial governance.

SUMMARY

Questions	Type	Focus Area
Q1-Q10	Standard MCQs	Constitutional provisions, statistics, and factual knowledge
Q11-Q20	Statement-Based	Analytical and comparative reasoning
Q21-Q30	Match the Following	Conceptual linkages and comprehensive understanding

TIPS FOR ATTEMPTING THESE MCQs

1. 1. Type A (Q1-Q10): Focus on factual accuracy and direct recall. Requires knowledge of articles, dates, and statistics.
2. 2. Type B (Q11-Q20): Read both statements carefully. One statement may be correct while the reason linking is incorrect.
3. 3. Type C (Q21-Q30): Understand conceptual relationships. Match items based on logical and institutional connections.

EXPECTED SCORE GUIDE

- 25-30 correct: Excellent understanding (Suitable for UPSC mains)
- 20-24 correct: Good understanding (Minor gaps need revision)
- 15-19 correct: Moderate understanding (Requires focused study)
- Below 15: Weak understanding (Comprehensive revision needed)

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY & FURTHER READING

Constitutional & Legal References

- The Constitution of India (Articles 124, 125, 131, 32)
- Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2024
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