

## JUSTICE U.U. LALIT APPOINTED 49TH CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

**Syllabus –General studies 2nd Paper (Indian Polity)**

### Why in news?

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was appointed the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Wednesday after President Droupadi Murmu signed his warrant of appointment.

Justice Lalit will assume charge on August 27, a day after Justice N.V. Ramana demits office as the CJI. Justice Lalit will have a brief tenure as he will demit office on November 8 after holding the charge as the CJI for a little under three months.

Justice Lalit will be the second CJI who was directly elevated to the apex court Bench from the Bar.

Justice S.M. Sikri was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court Bench in March 1964 and went on to become the 13th CJI in January 1971.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court

### Provisions for the appointment of the Supreme court Judge

- Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his/her hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Court in the States as President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of 65 years.
- Supreme Court held that the consultation with Chief Justice is not binding on the President.
- **In Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association vs Union of India 1993**, the Court states that the view of the CJI is binding on the President, the Court also held that while advising the President CJI is expected to consult two of the senior-most Judges.
  - CJI is the sole authority to initiate the process of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court. In case of conflict of opinion between CJI and President, the view expressed by CJI will have a primary.



In July 1998, the President sought the court's opinion on core issues relating to the appointment of Apex Court Judges and transfer of High Court Judges.

The 11th Presidential Reference sought clarification on certain doubts over the consultation process to be adopted by the Chief Justice of India as stipulated in the 1993 case relating to judges appointment and transfer opinion.

### **The crux is as follows:**

- In judicial appointments, it is obligatory for the President to take into account the opinion of the CJI.
- The opinion of the CJI is binding on the Government. The opinion of the CJI must be formed after due consultation with a collegium of at least four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
- Even if two judges give an adverse opinion, then he should not send the recommendation to the Government.

### **Eligibility Criteria for Supreme Court Judge**

The Indian Constitution says in Article 124 [3] that in order to be appointed as a judge in the Supreme Court of India, the person has to fit in the following criteria:

- He/She is a **citizen of India** and
- has been for at least **five years a Judge of a High Court** or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
- has been for at least **ten years an advocate of a High Court** or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
- is, in the **opinion of the President**, a distinguished jurist.

The Constitution of India also provides a set of regulations for the removal of the Supreme Court judge. **Article 124(4)** mentions those Removal regulations of the Supreme court judge.

Once appointed, the judges can hold office until the complete **65 years**. They cannot be removed during their tenure except on **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.

## **PRIVATISATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS**

### **SYLLABUS – General Studies 3rd Paper**

#### **Why in News?**

In the Union Budget for 2021-22, the government announced its intent to take up the privatisation of two PSBs in the year and approved a policy of strategic disinvestment of public sector enterprises.

#### **What is public sector banks?**

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are those banks where the government holds more than 50% ownership

#### **Private Sector Banks -**

**Private sector banks** are those banks where **private individuals or private companies own a major part of the bank's equity**.

## **Pulitzer Prize, 2022**

Bangladesh-born painter and story writer **Fahmida Azim has been selected for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize**. Currently, she is working for Insider, an American online magazine. Fahmida is honored for an illustrated report entitled "How I Escaped a Chinese Internment Camp" along with her winning team members Anthony Del Col, Josh Adams and Insider's Walt Hickey in New York.

#### **What is the Pulitzer Prize?**

- An award that is given for achievements in newspapers, magazines, musical composition, online journalism, and literature.
- This prize was established in the year 1917 by the provisions that were written in the will of Joseph Pulitzer. Columbia University administers this prize.
- These prizes are being given annually in 21 categories. In 20 categories, the winners each receive USD 15,000 and a certificate. The winner in the prize's Public Service Category receives a gold medal.

