

HIGH COURTS IN INDIA

Definition:

A **High Court** is the **highest judicial authority** at the **state or union territory** level in India. It deals with civil, criminal, constitutional, and administrative cases under its jurisdiction.

Key Features:

Constitutional Provisions:

- Mentioned in **Articles 214 to 231** of the Indian Constitution.
- Every state shall have a High Court, or two or more states/UTs may have a **common High Court** (Article 231).

Composition:

- **Chief Justice** (appointed by the President of India)
- **Other Judges** (appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state)

There is no fixed number of judges in a High Court; it varies depending on the workload.

Appointment and Tenure:

- Appointed by: **President of India**
- Tenure: **Till 62 years of age** (can resign or be removed earlier)
- Removal: Only by **President** after **impeachment** by Parliament (same process as for Supreme Court judges)

Powers and Jurisdiction:

1. Original Jurisdiction:

- Enforces Fundamental Rights (under **Article 226**).
- Writ jurisdiction (can issue writs like Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, and Quo Warranto).
- Matters like election disputes, marriage, divorce, etc.

2. Appellate Jurisdiction:

- Hears appeals from subordinate courts in civil and criminal cases.

3. Supervisory Jurisdiction:

- Supervises and controls all subordinate courts in the state under **Article 227**.

4. Advisory Jurisdiction:

- Can advise the Governor on legal matters.

Writ Jurisdiction:

- **Article 226** gives wider powers to High Courts than **Article 32** (Supreme Court) as it can issue writs for not only Fundamental Rights but also **other legal rights**.

Subordinate Judiciary Control:

- High Courts have administrative control over lower courts (district and session courts).

Language of Proceedings:

- Proceedings are in **English**, but the Governor can permit use of **regional languages** with the President's consent.

Examples of High Courts:

High Court	Jurisdiction
Bombay High Court	Maharashtra, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
Madras High Court	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
Delhi High Court	National Capital Territory of Delhi
Allahabad High Court	Uttar Pradesh
Calcutta High Court	West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands