

Competition Cosmos

Prime Minister of India

The Prime Minister of India is the head of the executive branch of the Government of India. His position is distinct from that of the President of India, who is the head of the State. As India follows a parliamentary system of government modelled after the Westminster system, most of the executive powers are exercised by the Prime Minister.

He acts as an advisor to the President and is the leader of the Council of Ministers. The President appoints the Prime Minister of India and on his advice, appoints the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister can be a member of either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIME MINISTER

The roles and responsibilities of the Prime Minister are as follows:

LINK BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:

The Prime Minister is the leader of the Council of Ministers and serves as the channel of communication between the President and the Council of Ministers. It is his duty to communicate to the President all the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers and to provide information regarding administration of the Union or proposals for the legislature as called for by the President.

ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS:

He allocates portfolios among the ministers and distributes work among various ministries and offices. The Prime Minister coordinates work among various ministries and departments through the Cabinet Secretariat.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

To be eligible for the position of the Prime Minister of India, a person should:

- Be a citizen of India.
- Be a member of either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.
- Complete 25 years of age if he is a member of the Lok Sabha or 30 years if he is a member of the Rajya Sabha.

A person cannot be the Prime Minister of India if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India, the government of any state, or any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said governments.

APPOINTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister is appointed by the President, but he does not have his discretion in that appointment.

- Normally the President has to invite leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha to form the government.
- In case no single party gets a clear majority, the President invites the individual commanding the support of two or more parties which make up majority in the Lok Sabha.
- The Prime Minister is usually a leader of the majority party in Lok Sabha. However, there have been cases in past where a member of Rajya Sabha was appointed as the Prime Minister. For example, Mrs. Indira Gandhi was first appointed as Prime Minister in 1966, and Mr. I. K. Gujral in 1997 or when Rajya Sabha member Dr. Manmohan Singh became the Prime Minister in 2004. In 1996 H.D. Deve Gowda was not a member of any House yet he was appointed PM, he later entered the Rajya Sabha.
- The Prime Minister decides portfolios of the Ministers, and can alter these at his will. The Prime Minister presides over the meetings of the Cabinet. The Prime Minister has the authority to reshuffle the portfolios of the Ministers or even ask for their resignation.
- In case of resignation or death of the Prime Minister the entire Council of Ministers also goes out of office. This is because the Council of Ministers is created by the Prime Minister, who also heads it. The entire Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha.

TERM OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Once appointed, the Prime Minister holds office so long as he/she enjoys the support of the majority of members of Lok Sabha. He cannot be removed by the President. If he loses the majority support in the Lok Sabha, he should resign or the President must dismiss him.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER

- The Prime Minister is the most important and powerful functionary of the Union Government.
- The Prime Minister is the head of the Council of Ministers.
- He selects the Ministers to be sworn in by the President. The Ministers are chosen by the Prime Minister and they remain Ministers as long as they enjoy the confidence of the Prime Minister.
- The Prime Minister distributes portfolios among Ministers. He can change the portfolios whenever he desires.

- The Prime Minister can drop a Minister or ask for his/her resignation also.
- The Prime Minister presides over the meetings of the Cabinet and also conducts its proceedings.
- He is the head of the Cabinet, he/she mainly influences the decisions of the Cabinet.
- The Prime Minister also co-ordinates the working of various ministers.
- Prime Minister serves as the link between the President and the Cabinet.
- The decisions of the Cabinet are conveyed to the President by the Prime Minister. He keeps the President informed of all the policies and decisions of the Government.
- In fact, no Minister can meet the President without the permission of the Prime Minister.
- All important appointments are made by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The President summons and prorogues the session of the Parliament and even dissolves the Lok Sabha on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The Prime Minister is the “*principal spokesman*” and *defender of the policies of the Government* in the Parliament. When any Minister is unable to defend his/her actions properly, the Prime Minister comes to the help of that Minister both inside and outside the Parliament.
- The Prime Minister is the leader of the nation. The nation looks to his/her for guidance.
- In fact, at the time of general elections, it is the Prime Minister who seeks the mandate of people.
- The Prime Minister plays an important role in the formulation of domestic and foreign policies. All international agreements and treaties with other countries are done with the consent of the Prime Minister

RESIDENCE OF PRIME MINISTER

The official residence of the Indian Prime Minister is 7, Race Course Road. It is also his main workplace. The official name of the residence is “Panchavati”. It was built in the 1980s. The entire complex spreads over an area of 12 acres and comprises five bungalows. When a person is appointed as the new Prime Minister, his predecessor vacates the residence and the incumbent is advised to move to his official residence at the earliest.

SALARY OF PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

According to Article 75 of the Constitution of India, the salary of the Prime Minister is decided by the Parliament and revised from time to time. He receives sumptuary allowance, free accommodation travel allowance, medical facilities in addition to his salary.

KNOW THIS

- Jawaharlal Nehru was the longest serving Indian Prime Minister, starting from India's independence in 1947 to his death in 1964.

- Gulzari Lal Nanda served twice as the acting Prime Minister of India after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- Indira Gandhi was named “Woman of the Millennium” in a poll organised by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in 1999.
- Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the first woman to receive the Bharat Ratna. She was also awarded Bangladesh’s highest civilian award “Bangladesh Swadhinata Samman” in 2011.
- Morarji Desai was the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India. He was also the first Prime Minister to resign without completing his full term.
- Morarji Desai is the only Indian Prime Minister to be conferred upon the Nishaan-e-Pakistan (Pakistan’s highest civilian award).
- Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Indian Prime Minister; he assumed office at the age of 40.
- Rajiv Gandhi was the first Prime Minister of India to live in 7, Race Course.
- P.V. Narasimha Rao was the first Prime Minister from South India.
- H.D. Deve Gowda was the first Prime Minister of India who was a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- Dr. Manmohan Singh was the longest-serving Prime Minister of India who was a member of the Rajya Sabha (2004-2014).

SSLC FREE STUDY MATERIALS

GET NOW – [CLICK HERE](#)

**ENGLISH MEDIUM / KANNADA MEDIUM / URDU MEDIUM
FREE RESOURCES**



Text Book	Passing Packages	Video Lectures	Question Bank	Revision Notes
Notes	Chapter Wise Solutions	Audio Notes	Power Point Presentations	
Question Papers	Support Materials	Scoring Packages	Multiple Choice Q Bank	

www.amkresourceinfo.com



A M K Resource World

One Site for all FREE Resources

www.amkresourceinfo.com