

**Unit 2 Civics Central Government**

Good morning Students, Today Let us know about Prime Minister

**Prime Minister**

- Article 74 (1) says: There shall be a council of ministers with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President.
- He may direct the council to reconsider their advice, but is bound by the advice given after reconsideration.
- The post of Prime Minister of India has adopted the Westminster (England) model of constitutional democracy.
- The leader of the majority party in Lok Sabha is appointed by the President as the Prime Minister.
- The other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- If no party commands absolute majority in the Lok Sabha, the President can summon the leader of any party who, in his opinion, can manage to form a ministry.
- The President administers to the ministers the oath of office and of secrecy.
- The salaries and allowances of the Prime Minister and the ministers are determined by the Parliament.
- A person who is not a member of the Parliament can be appointed as a minister but he has to get himself elected to the Parliament within six months.
- Ministers are individually as well as collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

**Duties and functions of Prime Minister**

Article 78 mentioned the duties of the Prime Minister: „„

- The Prime Minister decides the rank of his ministers and distributes various departments. „„
- The Prime Minister decides the dates and the agenda of the meeting of the Cabinet which he presides. „„
- The Prime Minister is the Head of the Cabinet and the other ministers are his colleagues.
- The Prime Minister informally consults two or three of his senior colleagues when he does not convene a Cabinet meeting. „„
- The Prime Minister supervises the work of various ministers. „„
- To converse to the President all decisions of the Council of Ministers connecting to the government of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation. „„
- The Prime Minister act as the link between the President and the Council of Ministers. „„
- The Prime Minister is the leader of the nation and chief spokesperson of the country. „„



- As the leader of the nation, the Prime Minister represents our nation at all international conferences like the commonwealth, summit of the non aligned nations and SAARC nations.

**Council of Ministers**

- After the elections, the President of India, on the advice of the Prime Minister, appoints the council of ministers.
- Sometimes a non – member of the Parliament too may be appointed.
- However, he must get elected to either of the Houses of the Parliament within a period of six months.
- The Constitution of India restricts the number of the Council of Ministers including the Prime Minister to fifteen per cent of the total members of the Lok Sabha.

**Categories of the Ministers**

The ministers are classified under three ranks

- Cabinet Ministers
- Ministers of State
- Deputy Ministers.

**Cabinet Ministers**

- The Cabinet is an informal body of senior ministers who form the nucleus of administration.
- Important decisions of the government are taken by the Cabinet, such as defense, finance, external affairs and home.
- The Cabinet recommends to the President to promulgate an ordinance.
- It is instrumental in moving Amendments to the Constitution.
- The Finance bills have their origin in the Cabinet and then they are introduced in the Lok Sabha with the Presidents recommendations.
- The Cabinet decides the foreign policy of the Government approves international treaties and plays a significant role in the appointment of Ambassadors to various countries.

**Ministers of State**

- These ministers belong to the second category of ministers in the council.
- They are also in charge of ministries or departments but they do not participate in the meetings of the cabinet unless invited to do so.

**Deputy Ministers**

- They are the lowest ranked ministers in the cabinet. They assist either the Ministers of Cabinet or State in the performance of the duties entrusted to them.



**List of Prime Ministers of India**

1. Thiru. Jawaharlal Nehru	1947–64
2. Thiru. Lal Bahadur Shastri	1964–66
3. Tmt. Indira Gandhi	1966–77
4. Thiru. Morarji Desai	1977–79
5. Thiru. Charan Singh	1979–80
6. Tmt. Indira Gandhi	1980–84
7. Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi	1984–89
8. Thiru. V.P. Singh	1989–90
9. Thiru. Chandra Shekhar	1990–91
10. Thiru. P.V. Narasimha Rao	1991–96
11. Thiru. Atal Bihari Vajpayee	May 1996
12. Thiru. D. Deve Gowda	1996–97
13. Thiru. I.K. Gujral	1997–98
14. Thiru. Atal Bihari Vajpayee	1998–2004
15. Thiru. Manmohan Singh	2004–14
16. Thiru. Narendra Modi	2014–till now