



**SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
(AUTONOMOUS), COIMBATORE - 35



**COURSE NAME : 19HST103 & INDIAN CONSTITUTION**

**I YEAR/ II SEMESTER**

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**UNIT –II Structure and Functions of Central  
Government**

**Topic: Prime Minister-Cabinet**

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# Prime Minister

**Is Prime Minister of India elected or appointed?**

- President of India appoints a person as the Prime Minister who is either the leader of the party which holds a majority of seats in the Lok Sabha or is a person who is able to win the confidence of the Lok Sabha by gaining the support of other political parties.
- All other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.



## Power and Function of Prime Minister

- **The leader of Country:** The Prime Minister of India is the Head of the Government of India.
- **Portfolio allocation:** The Prime Minister has the authority to assign portfolios to the Ministers.
- **Chairman of the Cabinet:** The Prime Minister is the chairman of the cabinet and presides the meetings of the Cabinet. He can impose his decision if there is a crucial opinion difference among the members.
- **Official Representative of the country:** Prime minister represents the country for high-level international meetings



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- **The link between the President and the Cabinet:** The Prime Minister acts as the link between President and cabinet. He communicates all decisions of the Cabinet to the President which is related to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation.
- **Head:** The Prime Minister is the head of Nuclear Command Authority, NITI Aayog, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- **Chief Advisor:** He acts as the chief advisor to the President



## **Who is eligible to be a Prime Minister?**

- To become an Indian prime minister one has to be
- A citizen of India.
- A member of either Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha
- He should have completed his 30 years if he is a member of the Rajya Sabha or can be 25 years of age if he is a member of the Lok Sabha

## **Relationship between prime Minister and the President**

- Mentions how the Prime Minister and President are both connected with the council of ministers. The Council with PM as head advise President on various issues. 75 Mentions three things:
- President appoints PM and other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the PM.
- Ministers hold their office during the pleasure of the President.
- Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.



## Types of Ministers

- The Indian Constitution does not categorize ministers into ranks, however, in practice seen in India, ministers are of four types:
- **Cabinet Ministers**—He is present and he participates in every meeting of the Cabinet.
- **Minister of State with independent charge**—He is a Minister of State who does not work under a Cabinet Minister.
- **Minister of State**—He is a Minister who does not have independent charge of any Department and works under a Cabinet Minister. The work to such Minister is allotted by his Cabinet Minister.
- **Deputy Minister**—He is a Minister who works under a Cabinet Minister or a Minister of State with independent charge. His work is allotted by the Minister under whom he is working.



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### **Cabinet**

- Cabinet Committees are not mentioned in the Constitution but are still constituted by governments. Recently, the government reconstituted some Cabinet Committees, and hence it is relevant for the IAS Mains.

### **Cabinet Committees**

- Cabinet Committees are extra-constitutional in emergence, which means, they are not mentioned in the Indian Constitution. But, the Rules of Business provide for their formation.
- They are established by the PM as per the exigencies of the time and needs of the situation.
- They are of two types—standing and ad hoc. The former is permanent, while the latter is temporary.
- The ad hoc committees are formed at times to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their job is done.



## Role of Cabinet Committees

- They are an organizational device to lessen the enormous workload of the Cabinet. They facilitate an in-depth examination of policy issues and effective coordination. They are based on the principles of division of labor and effective delegation.
- They not only resolve issues and frame proposals for the Cabinet's consideration, but they also take decisions. The Cabinet can, of course, review their decisions.

### **Difference between Cabinet Committees and Council of Ministers**

- The Council of Ministers is a wider body comprising of 60 to 70 ministers including all 3 categories of ministers, namely, cabinet ministers, ministers of state, and deputy ministers.
- COMs are vested with all powers but only in theory. It implements the decisions taken by the cabinet while Cabinet Committees help the cabinet in decision making.