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Indian Polity – Part 2

LOK SABHA SPEAKER

The Federal Structure of Government in India

The federal structure of the Indian system of governance is a three-tiered system, each tier having executive functions. According to the Constitution of India, the Union or the Central Government is the highest executive body of India. It delineates some of its powers to its constituent political units which are comprised of the State Governments in each state. This is the second tier in the structure. In other words, each state is vested with exclusive executive powers, managed by the ruling governments in each state. The third tier in the federal structure, is the local-level governance of the Panchayats and Municipalities.

Role of the Speaker

Since the Indian system of government follows the Westminster Model, the Parliamentary proceedings of the country are headed by a presiding officer who is called a Speaker. In other words, the Speaker of the two houses of the Parliament is responsible for ensuring the smooth functioning of the House. The Lok Sabha or the Lower House of the People in India, which is the highest legislative body in the country, chooses its Speaker who presides over the day-to-day functioning of the House. In the Rajya Sabha, the role of the Speaker is carried out by the Vice President of the country. His role is similar to that of the Lok Sabha Speaker, although the nomenclature is varied. Thus, the Speaker plays the crucial role of ensuring that the Parliament carries forward its role of legislation peacefully, maintaining harmony in the Houses of Parliament and taking crucial procedural decisions of the House. The Speaker is thus, in every sense, considered the true guardian of the Indian Parliamentary democracy, holding the complete authority of the Lok Sabha

Powers of the Speaker

According to the Constitution of India, a Speaker is vested with immense administrative and discretionary powers, some of which are enumerated below.

- The Speaker presides over the meetings in the House. In other words, the business in the House is conducted by the Speaker, ensuring discipline and decorum amongst its members. He/she guards the rights and privileges of the members of the two Houses, deciding who should speak at what time, the questions to be asked, the order of proceedings to be followed, among others.
- A Speaker uses his/her power to vote, in order to resolve a deadlock. That is, when the House initiates a voting procedure, he does not cast a vote in the first instance. However, when the two sides receive equal number of votes, the Speaker's vote is used to resolve the deadlock, making his position as impartial as in the English system of democracy.
- In the absence of a quorum in the House, it is the duty of the Speaker to adjourn the House or to suspend any meeting, until the quorum is met. The Speaker decides the agenda that must be discussed in a meeting of the Members of the Parliament.
- The Speaker is invested with the immense powers of interpreting the Rules of Procedure. That is, since he/she is the member of the House as well as the Presiding Officer at the same time, he ensures the discipline of the House. The Speaker ensures that MPs are punished for unruly behaviour. A Speaker can also disqualify a Member of Parliament from the House on grounds of defection. It is in the power of a Speaker, to permit the various parliamentary procedures such as the motion of adjournment, the motion of no confidence, the motion of censure, among others.
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.
- Once a Money Bill is transmitted from the Lower House to the Upper House, the Speaker is solely responsible for endorsing his or her certificate on the Bill. In other words, he/she is given the pivotal power to decide whether any Bill is a Money Bill. This decision is considered final, and all procedures henceforth, must be carried along accordingly.
- The Speaker has under his or her jurisdiction, a number of Parliamentary Committees such as the Rules Committee, the Business Advisory Committee and the General Purposes Committee. The Speaker nominates the various Chairmen of these Committees, as well as looks into the procedural hindrances of the workings of these Committees, if any.
- Besides heading the Lok Sabha, the Speaker is also the 'ex-officio' President of the Indian Parliamentary Group. He/she also acts in the capacity of Chairman of the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India.

- As part of the Speaker's administrative role, he or she is the head of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, maintaining absolute security surveillance in the Parliament.

Eligibility Criteria of a Speaker

Since the Speaker is a Member of the Parliament, the eligibility criteria for the position are same as that of the other members in the House. They are as follows:

- He or she must be a citizen of India.
- He or she must not be less than 25 years of age.
- He or she should not hold any office of profit under the Government of India, or the Government of any other state.
- He or she should not be of unsound mind.

Salary of the Speaker

Since, a Speaker is also a member of the Parliament, he or she comes under the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Parliament Act of 1954, which was amended in December 2010. According to this particular Act, the salary of the Speaker is Rs 50,000 per month, along with a Constituency allowance of Rs 40,000 per month. The Speaker is also entitled to a Daily Allowance of Rs 2,000 while he/she attends a parliamentary session or other committee meetings, for the whole of the term.

Facilities availed by a Speaker

Being a member of the Parliament, the Speaker is entitled to many facilities which are given to other Members of the Parliament too. These are:

- The Speaker and his or her family is entitled to travelling allowances equal to that of the Cabinet of the House. Irrespective of whether the Speaker is travelling within the country or making foreign tours, the facilities accorded to the Speaker include free lodging, free transport and free boarding.
- The Speaker is also entitled to rent-free furnished residence provided by the Government of India, throughout the term of his or her tenure. This also includes provisions for free electricity, free phone calls upto a certain limit, free servants who work in the house, free staff and other buildings appurtenant.
- The Speaker and his or her family is entitled to free medical amenities as well as a repayable motor car advance not exceeding Rs one lakh.

Selection Process of the Speaker

The Speaker is one of the members of the Lok Sabha. On the very first meeting of a newly-constituted Lok Sabha, the Speaker is elected from among the members. The process of election is a simple majority of the members present and voting. Usually the ruling party or the ruling alliance chooses one of its members to be elected as the Speaker, after consultations with other leaders of other political parties. The Prime Minister announces the name of the person to be elected. The political parties conduct a simple voting process. Once the Speaker-elect is chosen, he or she is felicitated by the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and other political leaders to the chair.

Duty Term of the Speaker

The Speaker holds office during the life of the House, and once the House is dissolved, the Speaker's term of office ends. However, the Speaker can be re-elected to the post. The Speaker's office may however, terminate earlier than the expiry of the House due to the following reasons:

- When the Speaker ceases to be a Member of the House.
- When the Speaker resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker.
- When the Speaker is removed from office by a resolution which is passed by a majority of all the members of the House. While such a process is underway, the Speaker cannot preside over the House, but can take part in the proceedings of the House.

Pension of the Speaker

As the Speaker is a Member of the Parliament, he or she is paid a monthly pension of Rs 20,000 according to the Salaries, Allowances and Pensions of Members of Parliament Bill of 2010. An extra allowance of Rs 1,500 is given in addition to the pension.

Residence of the Speaker

The Speaker is entitled to a rent-free, well-furnished residence in Delhi, during the term of his or her office.

Interesting Facts about Speakers of India

- The first woman Speaker in the history of the Indian Parliament is Meira Kumar, who presided over the 15th Lok Sabha session beginning in 2009.
- The first Speaker in India was G V Mavlankar, who presided over the Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1956. He is known as the Father of Lok Sabha, for his immense

contribution in redesigning the country's parliamentary proceedings with intricate impartiality.

- The only Speaker to have presided over the Parliament in two consecutive terms, for the full five-year periods was Balram Jakhar.
- Speaker Rabi Ray is popularly called the Son of Soil, due to his immense straightforwardness and eye for detail in the workings of the Parliament.
- One of the most eloquent Speakers in the history of the Indian Parliament to this day is, P A Sangma.

List of Lok Sabha Speakers

Speakers	From year	To year
Smt. Sumitra Mahajan	06/06/2014	
Smt. Meira Kumar	04/06/2009	04/06/2014
Shri Somnath Chatterjee	04/06/2004	31/05/2009
Sh. Manohar Joshi	10/05/2002	02/06/2004
Sh. G.M.C. Balyogi	24/03/1998	19/10/1999
	22/10/1999	03/03/2002
Sh. P.A. Sangma	23/05/1996	23/03/1998
	10/07/1991	22/05/1996
Sh. Shivraj V Patil	10/07/1991	22/05/1996
Sh. Rabi Ray	19/12/1989	09/07/1991
	22/01/1980	15/01/1985
Sh. Bal Ram Jakhar	16/01/1985	18/12/1989
	21/07/1977	21/01/1980
Sh. K.S. Hegde	21/07/1977	21/01/1980
Sh. Bali Ram Bhagat	15/01/1976	25/03/1977
Sh. G.S. Dhillon	08/08/1969	17/03/1971
	22/03/1971	01/12/1975
Sh. N. Sanjiva Reddy	17/03/1967	19/07/1969
	26/03/1977	13/07/1977
Sardar Hukam Singh	17/04/1962	16/03/1967
Sh. M. A. Ayyangar	08/03/1956	10/05/1957
	11/05/1957	16/04/1962
Sh. G.V. Mavalankar	15/05/1952	27/02/1956

CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER OF INDIA**About Election Commission of India**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body responsible for administering elections in India according to the rules and regulations mentioned in the Constitution of India. It was established on January 25, 1950 with an aim to define and control the process for elections conducted at various levels: Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice President of India. In other words, the ECI ensures smooth and successful functioning of the democracy.

Role of Election Commission of India

In its assigned role, the most crucial challenge before the Election Commission of India is to implement norms and the Model Code of Conduct to ensure free and fair elections in the country. Its existence and independence are necessitated by history, which has shown that democratic elections are not free from sabotage. Towards this end, it has been empowered to oversee political parties and candidates and take appropriate action in case of violations.

Structure

The secretariat of the Commission has 300 officials, and is located in New Delhi. The Deputy Election Commissioners and Director Generals are the senior-most officers in the secretariat. The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner, who serves for six years and must retire at the age of 65. The Commissioner is generally a member of the Civil Services, and more often, of the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) or the Indian Revenue Services (IRS). He can be removed from his office through the process of impeachment, which needs to be carried out in the Parliament. The President of India can remove the other officers on the Chief Commissioner's recommendation.

Functions and Powers

The main functions of the ECI are as follows:

- The Election Commission of India is considered the custodian of free and fair elections.
- It issues the Model Code of Conduct in every election for political parties and candidates so that the dignity of democracy is maintained.
- It regulates political parties and registers them for being eligible to contest elections.
- It publishes the allowed limits of campaign expenditure per candidate to all the political parties, and also monitors the same.
- The political parties must submit their annual reports to the ECI for getting tax benefit on contributions.

- It ensures that all the political parties regularly submit their audited financial reports.

Some of the powers wielded by the ECI are as follows.

- The Commission can suppress the results of opinion polls if it deems such an action fit for the cause of democracy.
- The Commission can advise for disqualification of members after the elections if it thinks they have violated certain guidelines.
- In case, a candidate is found guilty of corrupt practices during the elections, the Supreme Court and High Courts consult the Commission.
- The Commission can suspend candidates who fail to submit their election expense accounts timely.

New Initiatives taken by Election Commission

In order to bring about various improvements and reforms in the election procedure, the ECI has taken numerous steps. Some of them are as follows.

- Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were introduced to improve reliability and efficiency. With the help of EVMs, chances of any discrepancies in terms of counting of ballots are almost nil. Moreover, the introduction of technology has just made a quick verdict possible as it just takes three to four days to declare the results.
- The website of the ECI was launched on February 28, 1998 to provide accurate information and instant results of the elections.
- Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) were issued in 1993 to prevent electoral fraud. From the 2004 elections, these were made mandatory.

A few more initiatives taken in recent years by the ECI are.

- New guidelines for broadcasting on State-owned electronic media.
- Inspection of instances of criminalisation in politics.
- Computerised electoral rolls.
- Simplification of account maintenance and filing.
- Measures for better enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct.
- An additional Model Code of Conduct, applicable only to news media, is yet to be formulated to ensure free, fair and unbiased media coverage of elections in India.

Budget & Expenses

The Election Commission of India and the Union Finance Ministry finalise the budget for the former's Secretariat, which is liable for an independent budget. The recommendations of the Election Commission are generally upheld by the Ministry of Finance. The concerned states and the Union Territories have to manage the expenses of elections being held, but it is the Union Government who bears the expenses of the Lok Sabha (parliamentary) elections entirely. In case of the legislative assembly elections, the concerned State bears the expenses. If the Lok Sabha (Parliamentary) and the assembly elections are taking place at the same time, the gross expenditure is equally shared amongst the Union Government and the concerned state(s).

Address and Contact details**Election Commission of India**

Nirvachan Sadan

Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001

Tel. 011-23717391

Fax. 011-23713412

Email. feedbackeci@gmail.com

List of Chief Election Commissioners of India

S.No.	Name	Tenure
1	Dr. S. Nasim Zaidi	Apr 19, 2015 to Jul 12, 2017
2	H. S. Brahma	Jan 15, 2015 to Apr 18, 2015
3	V. S. Sampath	Jun 10, 2012 to Jan 15, 2015
4	S. Y. Quraishi	Jul 30, 2010 to Jun 10, 2012
5	Navin Chawla	Apr 21, 2009 to Jul 29, 2010
6	N. Gopalaswami	Jun 30, 2006 to Apr 20, 2009
7	B. B. Tandon	May 16, 2005 to Jun 29, 2006
8	T. S. Krishnamurthy	Feb 8, 2004 to May 15, 2005
9	J. M. Lyngdoh	Jun 14, 2001 to Feb 7, 2004
10	M. S. Gill	Dec 12, 1996 to Jun 13, 2001

11	T. N. Seshan	Dec 12, 1990 to Dec 11, 1996
12	V. S. Ramadevi	Nov 26, 1990 to Dec 11, 1990
13	R. V. S. Peri Sastri	Jan 1, 1986 to Nov 25, 1990
14	R. K. Trivedi	Jun 18, 1982 to Dec 31, 1985
15	S. L. Shakhdar	Jun 18, 1977 to Jun 17, 1982
16	T. Swaminathan	Feb 7, 1973 to Jun 17, 1977
17	Nagendra Singh	Oct 1, 1972 to Feb 6, 1973
18	S. P. Sen Verma	Oct 1, 1967 to Sep 30, 1972
19	Kalyan Sundaram	Dec 20, 1958 to Sep 30, 1967
20	Sukumar Sen	Mar 21, 1950 to Dec 19, 1958

GOVERNORS IN INDIA

Role of Governor of India

The Governor is the head of a state just like the President is the head of the republic. The Governor is the nominal head of a state, while the Chief Minister is the executive head.

All executive actions of the state are taken in the name of the Governor. However, in reality he merely gives his consent to the various executive actions. He or she is devoid of taking any major decisions. The real powers in the executive dealings of a state rest with the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers.

According to an amendment in the Constitution of India, brought about in 1956, the same person can be the Governor of two or more states. Apart from the governors in the states, Lieutenant governors are appointed in Union Territories of Delhi, Andaman Nicobar Island and Pudducherry. All other union-territories are governed by an Administrative Head (an IAS officer). The only exception is Chandigarh. The governor of Punjab is also the lieutenant governor of Chandigarh.

The powers of the Lieutenant Governor of a union-territory are equivalent to the powers of a Governor of a state in India. Both are appointed by the President of India for a term of 5 years.

Powers of the Governor

Like the President of India, the Governor of a state has certain executive, legislative and judicial powers. He or she also possesses certain discretionary or emergency powers. But, unlike the President, the Governor does not have any diplomatic or military powers.

Executive powers

- The Governor has the power to appoint the Council of Ministers including the Chief Minister of the state, the Advocate General and the members of the State Public Service Commission. However, the Governor cannot remove the members of the State Public Service Commission as they can only be removed by an order of the President.
- The Governor is consulted by the President in the appointment of the Judges of the state High Court.
- The Governor appoints Judges of the District Courts.
- In case the Governor feels that the Anglo-Indian community has not been adequately represented in the Vidhan Sabha, he or she can nominate one member of the community to the Legislative Assembly of the state.
- In all the states where a bicameral legislature is present, the Governor has a right to nominate the members, who are “persons having special knowledge or practical experience in matters such as literature, science, art, co-operative movement and social service”, to the Legislative Council.

Legislative Powers

- As the Governor is said to be a part of the State Legislature, he has the right of addressing and sending messages, summoning, deferring and dissolving the State Legislature, just like the President has, in respect to the Parliament. Although these are formal powers, in reality, the Governor must be guided by the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers before making such decisions.
- The Governor inaugurates the state legislature and the first session of each year, by addressing the Assembly, outlining the new administrative policies of the ruling government.
- The Governor lays before the State Legislature, the annual financial statement and also makes demands for grants and recommendation of ‘Money Bills’.

- The Governor constitutes the State Finance Commission. He also holds the power to make advances out of the Contingency Fund of the State in the case of any unforeseen circumstances
- All bills passed by the Legislative Assembly become a law, only after the Governor approves them. In case it is not a money bill, the Governor holds the right to send it back to the Vidhan Sabha for reconsideration. But if the Vidhan Sabha sends back the Bill to the Governor the second time, then he has to sign it.
- The Governor has the power to promulgate an ordinance when the Legislative Assembly is not in session, and a law has to be brought into effect immediately. However, the ordinance is presented in the state legislature in the next session, and remains operative for a total of six weeks, unless it is approved by the legislature.

Judicial Powers

- The Governor can grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remission of punishments. He can also suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of an offence against the law.
- The Governor is consulted by the President in the appointment of the Chief Justice to the High Court of that particular state.

Emergency Powers

- In case no political party bags a majority in the Vidhan Sabha of the state, the Governor holds the power to use his discretion to select the Chief Minister.
- The Governor informs the President in an official report, of a particular emergency arisen in the state, and imposes 'President's Rule' on the behalf of the President. The Governor, in such circumstances, overrides the advice or functions of the Council of Ministers, and directs upon himself, the workings of the state.

Eligibility Criteria

As per the Constitution of India, the following are the eligibility criteria for the appointment of the Governor in a particular state.

- He or she must be a citizen of India.
 - He or she must have completed 35 years of age.
 - He or she must not hold any other office of profit.
 - He or she must not be a member of the Legislature of the Union or of any other state.
- There is no bar to the selection of a Governor from amongst the members of the Legislature, provided that on appointment, he or she immediately ceases to be a Member of the Legislature.

Salary of the Governor

The monthly salary of a Governor is Rs 1,10,000, as specified in the Governor's (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act of 1982. The Governor is also entitled to certain benefits and allowances, which shall not be diminished during his office term of five years.

Facilities for the Governor

In addition to the monthly salary, the Governor is entitled to a number of special facilities such as medical facilities, residence facilities, traveling facilities, reimbursement of phone and electricity bills, and many other allowances. The Governor is provided an official residence free of rent. The Governor and his or her family is also provided free medical attendance for life. A fixed amount of money is also allotted as the Governor's traveling expenses across the country.

Selection Process of the Governor

The Governor is not elected by the process of direct or indirect voting (like the Chief Minister, the Prime Minister or the President). The Governor of a particular state is appointed directly by the President of India, for a period of five years. The Governor must meet all the eligibility criteria enumerated above, to be appointed by the President.

Duty Term of the Governor

A governor of a state in India holds office for a period of five years, but it is subject to termination earlier if:

- The Governor is dismissed by the President, at whose pleasure he holds the office. In reality, the President is advised by the Prime Minister of the country, who decides the dismissal of the Governor of a state, usually on the grounds of gross delinquency namely corruption, bribery and violation of the Constitution.
- The Governor resigns from his post. There is no retirement age of the Governor, as he or she stays in office for a fixed term. There is no provision for a Governor to be impeached from office, unlike that of a President.

Pension of the Governor

A Governor of a particular state is entitled to a fixed pension, as per the Constitution of India. In August 2013, a Bill for hike in pension for the Governor was initiated. Besides a fixed pension, a Governor is also entitled to emoluments such as secretarial allowances and medical benefits for life.

The Residence of the Governor

As the Governor is the nominal head of a particular state in India, he or she is entitled to reside in the Raj Bhavan of that state, during his or her term of office. Like the President of India who resides in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi, each state has a Raj Bhavan, which is allotted to the Governor and his family. The Governor must vacate the Raj Bhavan on the expiry of his or her term of office

Interesting Facts

The first woman to become a Governor of a state in India was Sarojini Naidu. She was the Governor of Uttar Pradesh from 15 August 1947 till her demise on 2 March 1949.

CHIEF MINISTER

About Chief Minister

According to the Indian Constitution, the elected head of the council of ministers in a state is the Chief Minister (CM). Although, the Governor is the official 'head of the state', yet it is the Chief Minister who is vested with the 'de facto' executive powers.

Chief Minister is the real head of a state, unlike the Governor, who is the ceremonial head. Since India has adopted the Westminster Model of constitutional democracy, it is the CM who oversees the day-to-day functioning of the state government.

According to the Indian Constitution, in the everyday administration, the CM is assisted by the council of ministers, which consists of cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and others. The CM is appointed by and sworn in by the Governor.

Power and Authority of Chief Minister

The powers and functions enjoyed by the Chief Minister are similar to those of the Prime Minister of India, within a restricted jurisdiction of a state. Some of these are mentioned below:

- The CM holds the executive powers of state government. He/she has the power to form his council of ministers, choosing members of his party for particular ministries within the working of the state. The core council of ministers is called the Cabinet, members of which are decided by the Chief Minister. The various departments are allotted to various ministers by the CM. Ministers are removed from their portfolios if the CM does not like his/her performance.

- The CM is the link between the Governor and the council of ministers. He is required to communicate to the Governor the workings of the various wings of the government. Similarly, the advice and suggestions of the Governor are communicated to the council of ministers by the CM.
- The CM has a pivotal role in the financial matters of a state, including the budget, basic infrastructural and developmental priorities of the state, financial planning and economic growth of the state and others.
- The Chief Minister is the chief spokesperson of the government of a state. With the help of media, the CM communicates all policies and decisions to the people of the state. The CM holds regular or periodic press conferences wherein he/she makes the citizens of a state aware of the functioning of the government.

All major decisions in the state are taken by the CM with the support of the council of ministers. Since the CM is the 'executive' head of the state, the technological, infrastructural and socio-economic development rests solely within his/her duty and jurisdiction. The state government is financially aided by the Centre, in terms of resources and materials.

Salary of Chief Minister

The salary of Chief Minister of a state in India, like that of the prime minister of the country, is accompanied by a number of other allowances, besides the basic pay, such as constituency allowances, sumptuary allowances (tax free) and daily allowances.

The salary of the CM is decided by the respective state legislatures in the country, as per Article 164 of the Indian Constitution. Thus it varies from one state to another.

Facilities availed by the Chief Minister

The facilities given to the Chief Minister of a state can include medical facilities, residential facilities, reimbursement of electricity and phone charges, traveling facilities and many more. The amount allotted for each of these facilities to the Chief Minister varies from one state to another, as these are specifically detailed in the respective state legislatures of the country.

- **Medical facilities.** In accordance with the Medical Attendance Rules, the Chief Minister is entitled to avail free medical treatment, reimbursement and free accommodation in all hospitals run by the Government and other referral hospitals declared by the government.
- **Residence facilities.** The Chief Minister is entitled to a rent-free and well furnished residence. The amount, however, can vary in different states. In case, the Chief Minister decides to stay in his or her own house, the value of the house rental is paid to the Chief Minister.

- **Reimbursement of electricity and phone charges.** The Chief Minister is entitled to a fixed amount of money as reimbursement against phone call charges made in a month. A fixed quantity of electricity units are allotted free of cost to the Chief Minister, for the monthly consumption of electricity.
- **Travelling facilities.** The Chief Minister is allotted a fixed amount of money for his or her traveling expenses within the jurisdiction of the country, in a year. This amount also varies, as outlined in Article 164 of the Indian Constitution. The Chief Minister's family members are also entitled to a certain amount for free traveling in a year.

Selection Process of Chief Minister

The appointing authority is the governor, who suggests a vote of confidence procedurally in the state legislature, to establish the selection of the Chief Minister.

According to the Westminster model of parliamentary system that India follows, the Chief Minister is not elected directly by the people of a state. The people only elect particular representatives from various constituencies in a state, as members of the state legislature or the Vidhan Sabha (MLAs). These representatives, especially from the majority party which forms the government, then choose the Chief Minister from among them. The tenure of the Chief Minister is for a period of five years, when the state legislative assembly is dissolved and fresh elections are held. However, the tenure of the Chief Minister can be terminated by the governor before the period of five years, when the majority party loses the confidence vote in the state legislative assembly.

Term of Office and Retirement Age

The tenure of CM is for five years, when the state legislative assembly is dissolved and fresh elections are held in the Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly). However, the tenure of the Chief Minister can be terminated by the governor before the period of five years, when the majority party/alliance loses the confidence vote in the state legislative assembly. The Chief Minister can also resign from his or her post before the completion of the term.

There is no age for the retirement of the Chief Minister. Although, the minimum age for becoming the Chief Minister is 25 years, there is no upper age limit till when he or she can serve the post of a Chief Minister.

Pension of Chief Minister

According to the Constitution of India, the Chief Minister of a state is entitled to a certain amount of pension after his or her retirement. However, the amount varies in the respective state legislatures. In the case of death of the Chief Minister, his or her spouse is entitled to pension too.

Interesting Facts about Chief Ministers

- The first woman Chief Minister in the history of independent India was Sucheta Kriplani of the Indian National Congress (INC). She served the post of the CM of Uttar Pradesh from 1963 to 1967. Closely following her was Nandini Satpathy who governed Odisha as the CM from 1972 to 1976.
- The first Dalit Chief Minister of any Indian state was Mayawati of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Mayawati also had a significant record of being one of the longest-serving Chief Ministers of UP, being in office for a total of 2554 days.
- Jyoti Basu of the CPI (M) is the longest-serving Chief Minister of any state in India. He remained the CM of West Bengal from 1977 to 2000, being in power for 8539 days. It was under his regime that the historic land reform movement 'Operation Barga' was carried out throughout rural West Bengal, a model soon replicated in other parts of the country.
- Nadendla Bhaskara Rao has served the shortest-term as a Chief Minister. He remained the CM of Andhra Pradesh for a very brief period of only 31 days in 1984.
- In a more recent instance, Arvind Kejriwal of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) functioned as CM of Delhi only for 49 days, after which he resigned over the non-passage of anti-graft legislation, the Jan Lokpal Bill.
- The only female Chief Minister to lead her government for three consecutive terms in any state of independent India is Sheila Dikshit of the INC. Dikshit remained the CM of Delhi for a continuous term from 1998 to 2013.
- The only Chief Minister of a state in India to have been blamed for not taking decisive action against communal riots in the country is Narendra Modi, the former Chief Minister of Gujarat and the incumbent Prime Minister of India. Though, he was given a clean chit by the Special Investigative Team (SIT) in 2007.
- The first Chief Minister who died in office was C N Annadurai from Tamil Nadu.
- Janaki Ramachandran of AIADMK is the only woman Chief Minister to have remained in office for a mere term of 23 days.
- J Jayalalitha of the AIADMK, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, was a popular actress in the film industry, before she joined politics.
- Mamata Banerjee, the present CM of West Bengal and the TMC supremo, is the only leader who could oust the 34 years of Left Front rule in the state. She remains, to this day, one of the consistent critics of the Left Front.
- The first Muslim woman to become the Chief Minister of any state in India is Syeda Anwara Taimur. A Congress leader, she remained CM of the north-eastern state of Assam, from December 1980 to June 1981.

LIST OF CABINET MINISTERS OF INDIA

The incumbent Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet is a little smaller than that of his predecessor Manmohan Singh's 77, with 66 ministers. This includes 28 cabinet ministers, the Prime Minister, 38 Ministers of State & Minister of State (Independent charge) combined. The top ministers in his cabinet include Rajnath Singh who has got Home Ministry, Sushma Swaraj who has been handed External Affairs Ministry, Arun Jaitley with Finance & additional charge of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA**Role of the Vice President**

According to the Constitution of India, the office of the Vice President is the second highest constitutional post in independent India. The Vice President is the 'ex-officio' Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. The office of the Vice President in India is complementary to that of the President, in that, the Vice President takes over the role of the President in the latter's absence. In other words, the role of the Vice President is to assist the President in being the nominal head of the Republic of India. However, one must remember that the office of the President and the Vice President cannot be combined in one person, as per the Constitution of India.

Powers and Functions of the Vice President

The Vice President of India, after the President, is the highest dignitary of India, and certain powers are attached to the office of the Vice President. These are:

- The Vice President shall discharge the functions of the President during the temporary absence of the President due to illness or any other cause due to which the President is unable to carry out his functions.
- The Vice President shall act as the President, in case of any vacancy in the office of the President by reason of his death, resignation, removal through impeachment or otherwise. The Vice President shall take over the duties of the President until a new President is elected and resumes office.
- The Vice President is the ex-officio Chairman of the Council of States.
- When the Vice President acts as, or discharges the functions of the President, he or she immediately ceases to perform the normal functions of being the Chairman of the Council of States.

Eligibility Criteria

The qualifications needed to become a Vice President of India are the following:

- He or she must be a citizen of India.
- He or she must be over 35 years of age.
- He or she must not hold any office of profit.
- He or she must be qualified for election as a Member of the Rajya Sabha or the Council of States.

Salary of the Vice President

The Vice President is entitled to receiving the salary of the Chairman of the Council of States, which presently amounts to Rs 1,25,000 per month. However, when the Vice President performs the functions of the President or discharges the duties of the President, in the latter's temporary absence, he is entitled to the salary as well as special privileges of the President

Facilities for the Vice President

The Vice President, unlike the President, is not entitled to any special emoluments and privileges during his term of office. However, when he discharges the duties of the President in the latter's absence, the Vice President enjoys all the benefits that are enjoyed by the President, during that tenure.

Selection Process of the Vice President

Like the election of the President, the election of the Vice President is indirect and in accordance with the system of proportional representation, through the concept of a single transferable vote by secret ballot. The electoral college, which consists of members of both houses of the Parliament, cast their votes to elect the Vice President. However, there is a slight difference in the election of the Vice President and that of the President. The members of the State Legislatures have no role to play in the election of the Vice President, unlike that of the President.

The Election Commission of India, which holds elections in the country, is responsible for ensuring that free and fair elections to the post of a Vice President are held in the following steps:

- A Returning Officer who is appointed for the elections, sends out public notices issuing the date of election to the office of the Vice President. The elections for the same must be held within a period of 60 days of the expiry of the term of office of the previous Vice President.

- The nomination of candidates to the office of a Vice President must be affirmed by 20 electors (Members of Parliament) who act as proposers, and 20 electors who act as seconders.
- Each candidate must deposit a total of Rs 15,000 to the Reserve Bank of India, as part of the nomination process.
- The Returning Officer carefully scrutinises and adds to the ballot, the names of all eligible candidates.
- The elections are then held by proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The nominated candidates can also cast their votes.
- The Returning Officer declares the results to the electoral college, the Central Government and the Election Commission of India, respectively. The name of the Vice President is then officially announced by the Central Government.

Duty Term or Period of the Vice President

The office of the Vice President is for a period of five years. There is no fixed retirement age to the Vice President, as he or she can remain in the post for five years. However, he or she can be re-elected as the Vice President for any number of times. The office of the Vice President can also terminate earlier before the fixed five-year term, either by resignation or by removal by the President. There is no formal process of impeachment for the removal of the Vice President, and a removal proceeding can be initiated when members of the Rajya Sabha vote against the Vice President in an effective majority and members of Lok Sabha agree to this decision in a simple majority. A total of 14 days advance notice must be given prior to the initiation of the removal proceedings of the Vice President. In such cases, when a temporary vacancy in the office of the Vice President is created, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha takes over the role of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Pension of the Vice President

Although there is no particular fixed pension in the Constitution for the Vice President of India, according to the Vice President's Pension Act of 1997, the pension of the Vice President is half of the salary that he/she is entitled to, during his term of office.

Residence of the Vice President

Unlike the President, the Vice President is not allotted any special residential privileges while in office. While the President of India stays in the Rastrapati Bhavan, the Vice President is not subject to any such benefits during his or her tenure as the Vice President.

Interesting Facts

- Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was the first Vice President of independent India, elected to the office in 1952.
- The only Vice President to be re-elected for a second term was Dr. S Radhakrishnan, who again became the Vice President in the year 1957.
- No Vice President, in the history of independent India, has had to face removal proceedings before the expiry of the term of office.
- K R Narayanan, Shankar Dayal Sharma, R Venkataraman, V V Giri, Zakir Hussain and Dr. S Radhakrishnan, each of whom was a President of India at different points in time, remained Vice Presidents before they were elected as Presidents.
- The present Vice President of India, Mohammad Hamid Ansari, has served as an ambassador to many countries across the world, such as U.A.E, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Iran and others.

List of Vice Presidents of India

Vice President	From	To	President
Mohammad Hamid Ansari	Aug 11, 2007	Incumbent	Pratibha Patil
			Pranab Mukherjee
Bhairon Singh Shekhawat	Aug 19, 2002	Jul 21, 2007	A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
Krishan Kant	Aug 21, 1992	Jul 24, 1997	Kocheril Raman Narayanan
	Aug 21, 1997	Jul 27, 2002	A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
Kocheril Raman Narayanan	Sep 3, 1987	Jul 24, 1992	Shankar Dayal Sharma
Shankar Dayal Sharma	Sep 3, 1987	Jul 24, 1992	Ramaswamy Venkataraman
Ramaswamy Venkataraman	Aug 31, 1984	Jul 24, 1987	Giani Zail Singh
Justice Muhammad Hidayatullah	Aug 31, 1979	Aug 30, 1984	Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy

Basappa Danappa Jatti	Aug 31, 1974	Aug 30, 1979	Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
Gopal Swarup Pathak	Aug 31, 1969	Aug 30, 1974	Sh. Varahagiri Venkata Giri
Sh. Varahagiri Venkata Giri	May 13, 1967	May 3, 1969	Dr. Zakir Hussain
Dr. Zakir Hussain	May 13, 1962	May 12, 1967	Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	May 13, 1952	May 12, 1962	Dr. Rajendra Prasad

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

About Municipal Corporation in India

The urban local government which works for the development of any Metropolitan City with a population of more than one million is known as the Municipal Corporation in India. The members of the Municipal Corporation are directly elected by the people and are called Councillors.

Who are the members of a Municipal Corporation

The Municipal Corporation consists of a committee which includes a Mayor with Councillors. The Corporations provide necessary community services to the Metropolitan Cities and are formed under the Corporation Act of 1835 of Panchayati Raj system. The Mayor heads the Municipal Corporation. The corporation remains under the charge of Municipal Commissioner. The Executive Officers along with the Mayor and Councillors monitor and implement the programs related to planning the development of the corporation. The number of Councillors also depends upon the area and population of the city. In India, the four metropolitan cities; Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, have the largest corporations.

Who conducts Municipal Corporation Elections

The elections to the Municipal Corporations are conducted under the guidance, direction, superintendence and control of the State Election Commission. The corporations fall under the State government jurisdiction, therefore there are no uniform provisions for the election of the municipal bodies. In some States, the elections are organised by the state governments, while in some states, the Executive Officers arrange the same.

How are Municipal Corporation Elections conducted?

The members of the Municipal Corporation are elected by the people through direct elections. The elections are held for a particular ward in the city. The electoral roll of a particular ward elects the representative or Councillor for their ward. The electoral roll for each ward is divided into one or several parts depending upon the area within the ward where the voters of each part reside. This means that the voters included in each part belong to a street or a road or a named area within that ward. The voters from all the parts together form the electoral roll of a particular ward.

Qualification for contesting Municipal Corporation elections

A person can contest elections for Municipal Corporation if he/she fulfills the following criteria:

- She/he must be a citizen of India
- She/he must have attained the age of 21 years
- His/her name is registered in the Electoral Roll of a ward
- She/he is not earlier disqualified for contesting Municipal Corporation elections.
- She/he must not be an employee of any Municipal Corporation in India

There are few seats which are reserved for scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, backward classes and women. Every candidate's nomination form should have a declaration stating the class, caste, or tribe that she/he belongs to. There should be a declaration that the candidate is a woman, in case the seat is reserved for a women candidate.

The Term of a Municipal Corporation

The office of Municipal Corporation runs for a period of five years since the beginning of its first meeting. It is subject to dissolution under various circumstances:

- If the State finds the Corporation lagging in its duties
- If the State finds the corporation exceeding or abusing its power
- Declaration of the Municipal elections in the State as void, or withdrawal of the entire area of the ward from the municipal operations.

Functions of Municipal Corporation

The Municipal Corporation looks after providing the essential services to the people of that district/area which includes:

- Hospitals
- Water Supply
- Drainage

- Market places
- Fire Brigades
- Roads
- Over Bridge
- Solid Waste
- Street Lightning
- Parks
- Education
- Birth and Death Records in the Area

Roles and Duties of a Councillor

The Councillors under the Municipal Corporations perform the following duties:

- To work towards the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole.
- To participate in the council meetings, council committee meetings and meetings of other related bodies.
- To participate in developing and evaluating the programs and policies of the municipality
- To keep the privately discussed matters in council meetings in confidence.
- To get all the information from the chief administrative officer about the operation and administration of the municipality.
- To perform any other similar or necessary duties.

ABOUT ANGLO INDIAN MPS OF INDIA

The Parliament of India, which is the highest legislative body in the country, is a representative of the different sections of the country. In other words, the members who are elected to the different seats in the Parliament, represent the concerns of specific geographic constituencies, as well as the different sections of the population such as the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and others.

One such community which is represented in the Parliament of India is the Anglo-Indian community.

According to the Constitution of India, a person from the Anglo-Indian community is defined as, “a person whose father or any of whose other male progenitors in the male line is or was of European descent; but who is domiciled within the territory of India, and is or was born within such territory of parents habitually resident therein and not established there for temporary purposes only.”

Clearly, within the demographic structure of India, the Anglo-Indian community is a minority population and holds a peculiar position in the country. Because of its sparse numbers, at oft times, the community is not adequately represented in the two Houses of Parliament, namely the Lok Sabha or the Lower House and the Rajya Sabha or the Upper House. Since India follows a bicameral legislature where members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people of the country, it has been seen that members from the Anglo-Indian community, are mostly not elected. In such cases, the President of India nominates two members from this community as MPs in the Lok Sabha, when it is felt that the community is not represented.

In other words, out of the maximum total strength of the Lok Sabha, which is 552 members in all, upto 550 members are elected and not more than two members are nominated by the President of India. The current strength of the House is 545 members. Therefore, in the upcoming elections to the sixteenth Lok Sabha tenure, elections will be held to 543 constituencies of India, while two seats are reserved for nominations from the Anglo-Indian community.

Role of the Anglo-Indian MPs

The basic premise for the nomination of the Anglo-Indian Members of Parliament to the 'House of the People' or the Lok Sabha, in case they are not adequately elected, is to have these members represent the concerns of their community in the Parliament. We must note in this regard, that for minority sections such as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and women, reservations to specific constituencies have been guaranteed by the Constitution of India. But for other minority sections, foremost of whom is the Anglo-Indian community, no reservations have been guaranteed. Therefore, in the Parliamentary System of Government that India follows, it is essential that two members from this particular community, voice the opinions and concerns of the entire community. The role of the Anglo-Indian MPs therefore, is primarily, to safeguard the community and its vibrant presence within the jurisdiction of India.

Power of the Anglo-Indian MPs

Once nominated to the Indian Parliament, the two Anglo-Indian MPs can exercise their powers and functions equivalent to the other MPs in the House. Some of the powers enjoyed by the Anglo-Indian MPs are:

Law-making Powers : The most important function of the MPs is law-making. Since the Parliament is the highest legislative body in the country, the Members of Parliament of both

the Houses can legislate on any matter included in the Union List and the Concurrent List of the Constitution. When an ordinary Bill is initiated in the Parliament, both Houses of Parliament must pass the Bill for it to become a Law.

- The MPs can also legislate on items included in the State List in special circumstances such as:
- When an Emergency is promulgated under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution,
- A resolution is passed by the Rajya Sabha with special majority, thereby asking to make a law for the state in the national interest, which can remain valid for one year,
- A resolution by two or three states urging upon the Parliament to make law for them on certain items of the State list, and
- If any international treaty or agreement is to be executed.

Control over the Executive .Since India follows a Parliamentary form of Government, the executive is directly responsible to the Parliament. In other words, the MPs can keep a watch on the everyday activities of the Executive, question them, expose them and remove a ruling Cabinet from power, by passing the vote of no confidence. Any serious administrative lapses may be brought to the fore by adjournment motions, cut motions, censure motions and debates by the MPs. The Indian Parliament holds the MPs individually and collectively, and a Council of Ministers remains in power so long as it enjoys the confidence of the Lok Sabha. This is a critical function of the Lower House.

Financial Powers . One of the foremost functions of the Anglo-Indian MPs, like other MPs, is their financial powers. Through the presentation of the Annual Budget, the presence of the two Standing Committees, and the legislation over the Money Bills, the Parliament enjoys supreme authority over the financial deliberations of the Executive.

Judicial Powers . The MPs can impeach the President, the Vice President and other high Federal Officers, from their post. The MPs can also enjoy certain punitive powers to punish its members as well as non-members for acting against the Constitution of India.

Amending Powers . The MPs of both the Houses can amend the Constitution of India.

Electoral Powers . The MPs enjoy certain special electoral powers such as electing the President and the Vice President of the country.

Eligibility Criteria

The qualifications for members of the Anglo-Indian community to be nominated to the Parliament are:

- He or she must be a citizen of India.
- He or she must not be less than 25 years of age.
- He or she should not hold any office of profit under the Government of India, or the Government of any other state.
- He or she should not be of unsound mind.

Salary of the Anglo-Indian MPs

According to the Salaries, Allowances and Pensions of Members of Parliament Bill of 2010, the salary of a Member of Parliament is Rs 50,000 along with an allowance of Rs 2,000

Facilities for the Anglo-Indian MPs

According to the Salaries, Allowances and Pensions of Members of Parliament Bill of 2010, the MPs are given residential and travelling allowances, besides other perks such as use of free electricity upto a fixed number of units, free phone bills and other reimbursements.

Selection Process

After a general election which elects the MPs from different constituencies, if the President feels that sufficient members from the Anglo-Indian community have not been elected to the Parliament, then the President nominates not more than two members from this community to the House of the People.

Duty Term of the Anglo-Indian MPs

The term of the Lok Sabha is five years. Like other MPs, the Anglo-Indian MPs vacate their office every five years before fresh elections are held to decide the next tenure of the Lok Sabha. There is no retirement age of the MPs. It is permissible for the same MP from the Anglo-Indian community to be re-nominated to the Parliament in successive Parliamentary sessions.

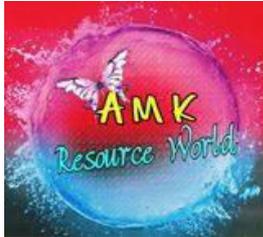
Pension

According to the Salaries, Allowances and Pensions of Members of Parliament Bill of 2010, the MPs are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs 20,000 and an extra allowance of Rs 1,500.

Residence

The Anglo-Indian MPs are provided rent-free residential quarters in New Delhi.

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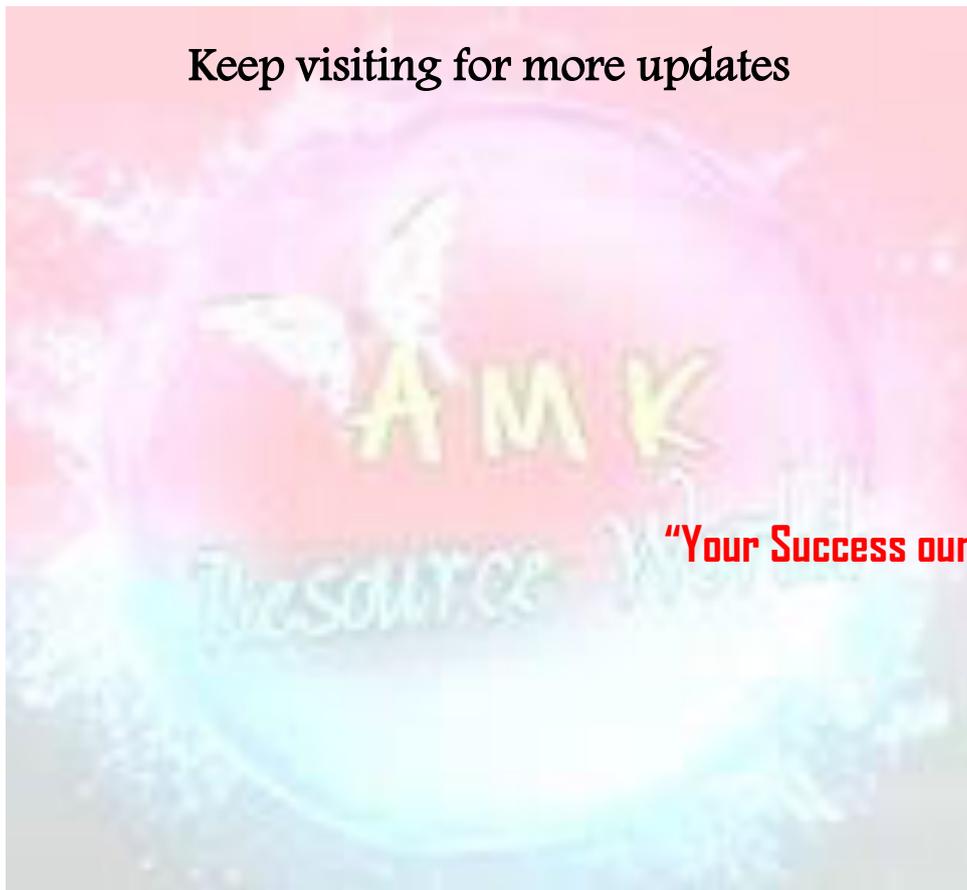
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