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Indian Polity – Part 1

INDIAN PARLIAMENT

Parliament is the supreme legislative body of India. The Indian Parliament comprises of the President and the two Houses – Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and Lok Sabha (House of the People). The President has the power to summon and prorogue either House of Parliament or to dissolve Lok Sabha. The Constitution of India came into force on January 26, 1950. The first general elections under the new Constitution were held during the year 1951–52 and the first elected Parliament came into existence in April, 1952, the Second Lok Sabha in April, 1957, the Third Lok Sabha in April, 1962, the Fourth Lok Sabha in March, 1967, the Fifth Lok Sabha in March, 1971, the Sixth Lok Sabha in March, 1977, the Seventh Lok Sabha in January, 1980, the Eighth Lok Sabha in December, 1984, the Ninth Lok Sabha in December, 1989, the Tenth Lok Sabha in June, 1991, the Eleventh Lok Sabha in May, 1996, the Twelfth Lok Sabha in March, 1998, Thirteenth Lok Sabha in October, 1999, Fourteenth Lok Sabha in May, 2004 and Fifteenth Lok Sabha in April, 2009.

RAJYA SABHA – AN INTRODUCTION

Background

The ‘Council of States’ which is also known as Rajya Sabha, a nomenclature that was announced by the chair in the House on the 23rd August, 1954 has its own distinctive features. The origin of the second Chamber can be traced to the Montague-Chelmsford Report of 1918. The Government of India Act, 1919 provided for the creation of a ‘Council of State’ as a second chamber of the then legislature with a restricted franchise which actually came into existence in 1921. The Governor-General was the ex-officio President of the then Council of State. The Government of India Act, 1935, hardly made any changes in its composition.

The Constituent Assembly, which first met on 9 December 1946, also acted as the Central Legislature till 1950, when it was converted as 'Provisional Parliament'. During this period, the Central Legislature which was known as Constituent Assembly (Legislative) and later Provisional Parliament was unicameral till the first elections were held in 1952.

Extensive debate took place in the Constituent Assembly regarding the utility or otherwise of a Second Chamber in Independent India and ultimately, it was decided to have a bicameral legislature for independent India mainly because a federal system was considered to be most feasible form of Government for such a vast country with immense diversities. A single directly elected House, in fact, was considered inadequate to meet the challenges before free India. A second chamber known as the 'Council of States', therefore, was created with altogether different composition and method of election from that of the directly elected House of the People. It was conceived as another Chamber, with smaller membership than the Lok Sabha (House of the People). It was meant to be the federal chamber *i.e.*, a House elected by the elected members of Assemblies of the States and two Union Territories in which States were not given equal representation. Apart from the elected members, provision was also made for the nomination of twelve members to the House by the President. The minimum age of thirty years was fixed for membership as against twenty-five years for the Lower House. The element of dignity and prestige was added to the Council of State House by making the Vice-President of India *ex-officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha who presides over its sittings.

Constitutional Provisions relating to Rajya Sabha

Composition/Strength

Article 80 of the Constitution lays down the maximum strength of Rajya Sabha as 250, out of which 12 members are nominated by the President and 238 are representatives of the States and of the two Union Territories. The present strength of Rajya Sabha, however, is 245, out of which 233 are representatives of the States and Union territories of Delhi and Puducherry and 12 are nominated by the President. The members nominated by the President are persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service.

Allocation of Seats

The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha. The allocation of seats is made on the basis of the population of each State. Consequent on the reorganization of States and formation of new

States, the number of elected seats in the Rajya Sabha allotted to States and Union Territories has changed from time to time since 1952.

Eligibility

Qualifications

Article 84 of the Constitution lays down the qualifications for membership of Parliament. A person to be qualified for the membership of the Rajya Sabha should possess the following qualifications:

1. he must be a citizen of India and make and subscribe before some person authorized in that behalf by the Election Commission an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule to the Constitution;
2. he must be not less than 30 years of age;
3. he must possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed in that behalf by or under any law made by Parliament.

Disqualifications

Article 102 of the Constitution lays down that a person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament –

1. if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder;
2. if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;
3. if he is an undischarged insolvent;
4. if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgement of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State;
5. if he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.

Explanation– For the purpose of this clause a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State by reason only that he is a Minister either for the Union or for such State.

Besides, the Tenth Schedule to Constitution provides for disqualification of the members on ground of defection. As per the provisions of the Tenth Schedule, a member may be

disqualified as a member, if he voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party; or if he votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction issued by the political party to which he belongs, unless such voting or abstention has been condoned by the political party within fifteen days. A member elected as an independent candidate shall be disqualified if he joins any political party after his election.

A member nominated to the House by the President, however, is allowed to join a political party if he/she does so within the first six months of taking seat in the House.

A member shall not be disqualified on this account, if he voluntarily leaves the membership of his political party after he is elected Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

Process for Election/Nomination

Electoral College.

The representatives of the States and of the Union Territories in the Rajya Sabha are elected by the method of indirect election. The representatives of each State and two Union territories are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of that State and by the members of the Electoral College for that Union Territory, as the case may be, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The Electoral College for the National Capital Territory of Delhi consists of the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, and that for Puducherry consists of the elected members of the Puducherry Legislative Assembly.

Biennial/Bye-election

Rajya Sabha is a permanent House and is not subject to dissolution. However, one-third Members of Rajya Sabha retire after every second year. A member who is elected for a full term serves for a period of six years. The election held to fill a vacancy arising otherwise than by retirement of a member on the expiration of his term of office is called 'Bye-election'. A member elected in a bye-election remains member for the remainder of the term of the member who had resigned or died or disqualified to be member of the House under the Tenth Schedule.

Presiding Officers – Chairman and Deputy Chairman

The Presiding Officers of Rajya Sabha have the responsibility to conduct the proceedings of the House. The Vice-President of India is *ex-officio* Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha

also chooses from amongst its members, a Deputy Chairman. There is also a Panel of Vice-Chairmen in Rajya Sabha, the members of which are nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. In the absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, a member from the Panel of Vice-Chairmen presides over the proceedings of the House.

Secretary-General

The Secretary-General is appointed by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha and holds rank equivalent to the highest civil servant of the Union. The Secretary-General works with anonymity and is readily available to the Presiding Officers for rendering advice on parliamentary matters. The Secretary-General is also the administrative head of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the custodian of the records of the House. He works under the direction and control of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

Relation between the two Houses

Under article 75(3) of the Constitution, the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha which means Rajya Sabha cannot make or unmake the Government. It can, however, exercise control over the Government and this function becomes quite prominent, particularly when the Government does not enjoy majority in Rajya Sabha.

To resolve a deadlock between the two Houses, in case of an ordinary legislation, the Constitution provides for the joint sitting of both Houses. In fact, there have been three occasions in the past when the Houses of Parliament had met in joint sitting to resolve differences between them. Issues in joint sitting are decided by a majority of the total number of members of both Houses present and voting. The joint sitting is held in the Central Hall of Parliament House presided over by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. However, in the case of a Money Bill, there is no provision in the Constitution for a joint sitting of both Houses as Lok Sabha clearly enjoys pre-eminence over Rajya Sabha in financial matters. As regards a Constitution amendment Bill, it has been provided in the Constitution that such a Bill has to be passed by the specific majority, as prescribed under article 368 of the Constitution, by both Houses. There is, therefore, no provision for resolving a deadlock between the two Houses in regard to a Constitution amendment Bill.

Ministers may belong to either House of Parliament. The Constitution does not make any distinction between the Houses in this regard. Every Minister has the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House but he is entitled to vote only in the House of which he is a member.

Similarly, with regard to powers, privileges and immunities of the Houses of Parliament, their members and committees thereof, the two Houses are placed absolutely on equal footing by the Constitution.

Other important matters in respect of which both Houses enjoy equal powers are election and impeachment of the President, election of the Vice-President, approving the Proclamation of Emergency, the proclamation regarding failure of constitutional machinery in States and financial emergency. In respect of receiving reports and papers from various statutory authorities, etc., both Houses have equal powers.

It is thus clear that except in the case of collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers and certain financial matters, which fall in the domain of Lok Sabha only, both Houses enjoy equal powers.

Special Powers of Rajya Sabha

Rajya Sabha being a federal chamber enjoys certain special powers under the Constitution. All the subjects/areas regarding legislation have been divided into three Lists - Union List, State List and concurrent List. Union and State Lists are mutually exclusive - one cannot legislate on a matter placed in the sphere of the other. However, if Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members present and voting saying that it is "necessary or expedient in the national interest" that Parliament should make a law on a matter enumerated in the State List, Parliament becomes empowered to make a law on the subject specified in the resolution, for the whole or any part of the territory of India. Such a resolution remains in force for a maximum period of one year but this period can be extended by one year at a time by passing a similar resolution further.

If Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting declaring that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest to create one or more All India Services common to the Union and the States, Parliament becomes empowered to create by law such services.

Under the Constitution, the President is empowered to issue Proclamations in the event of national emergency, in the event of failure of constitutional machinery in a State, or in the case of financial emergency. Every such proclamation has to be approved by both Houses of Parliament within a stipulated period. Under certain circumstances, however, Rajya Sabha enjoys special powers in this regard. If a Proclamation is issued at a time when Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of Lok Sabha takes place within the period allowed for its approval, then the proclamation remains effective, if the resolution

approving it is passed by Rajya Sabha within the period specified in the Constitution under articles 352, 356 and 360.

Rajya Sabha in Financial Matters

A Money Bill can be introduced only in Lok Sabha. After it is passed by that House, it is transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its concurrence or recommendation. The power of Rajya Sabha in respect of such a Bill is limited. Rajya Sabha has to return such a Bill to Lok Sabha within a period of fourteen days from its receipt. If it is not returned to Lok Sabha within that time, the Bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses at the expiration of the said period in the form in which it was passed by Lok Sabha. Again, Rajya Sabha cannot amend a Money Bill; it can only recommend amendments and Lok Sabha may either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations made by Rajya Sabha.

Apart from a Money Bill, certain other categories of Financial Bills also cannot be introduced in Rajya Sabha. There are, however, some other types of Financial Bills on which there is no limitation on the powers of the Rajya Sabha. These Bills may be initiated in either House and Rajya Sabha has powers to reject or amend such Financial Bills like any other Bill. Of course, such Bills cannot be passed by either House of Parliament unless the President has recommended to that House the consideration thereof.

From all this, however, it does not follow that Rajya Sabha has nothing to do in matters relating to finance. The Budget of the Government of India is laid every year before Rajya Sabha also and its members discuss it. Though Rajya Sabha does not vote on Demands for Grants of various Ministries – a matter exclusively reserved for Lok Sabha – no money, however, can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India unless the Appropriation Bill has been passed by both the Houses. Similarly, the Finance Bill is also brought before Rajya Sabha. Besides, the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees that examine the annual Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments are joint committees having ten members from Rajya Sabha.

Leader of the House

Apart from the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, Leader of the House is another functionary who plays important role in the efficient and smooth conduct of the business in the House. The Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha is normally the Prime Minister, if he is its member or any Minister who is a member of the House and is nominated by him to so function. His primary responsibility is to maintain coordination amongst all sections of the House for a harmonious and meaningful debate in the House. For this purpose, he remains

in close contact not only with the Government but also with the Opposition, individual ministers and the Presiding Officer. He occupies the first seat in the Chamber in first row at right the side of the Chair so that he is easily available to the Presiding Officer for consultation. Under the rules, the Leader of the House is consulted by the Chairman in regard to the arrangement of Government business in the House, allotment of days or allocation of time for discussion on the President's Address, Private Members' business on any day other than Friday, discussion on No Day-Yet-Named Motions, Short Duration Discussions and consideration and return of a Money Bill. He is also consulted by the Chairman in the matter of adjournment or otherwise of the House for the day in case of death of an outstanding personality, national leader or international dignitary. In the era of coalition governments, his task has become more challenging. He ensures that all possible and reasonable facilities are made available to the House for a meaningful discussion on any matter that is brought before it. He works as the spokesperson of the House in expressing sense of the House and represents it on ceremonial or formal occasions. The following members have been the Leaders of the House in the Rajya Sabha.

SNo.	Name	From	To
1.	Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar	May 1952	Feb. 1953
2.	Shri Charu Chandra Biswas	Feb. 1953	Nov. 1954
3.	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri	Nov. 1954	March 1955
4.	Shri Govind Ballabh Pant	March 1955	Feb. 1961
5.	Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim	Feb. 1961	Aug. 1963
6.	Shri Yashwantrao Balwantrao Chavan	Aug. 1963	Dec. 1963
7.	Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi	Feb. 1964	March 1964
8.	Shri Mahomadali Currim Chagla	March 1964	Nov. 1967
9.	Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi	Nov. 1967	Nov. 1969
10.	Shri Kodradas Kalidas Shah	Nov. 1969	May 1971
11.	Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit	May 1971	Dec. 1975
12.	Shri Kamalapati Tripathi	Dec. 1975	March 1977
13.	Shri Lal K. Advani	March 1977	Aug. 1979
14.	Shri K.C. Pant	Aug. 1979	Jan. 1980
15.	Shri Pranab Mukherjee	Jan. 1980 Aug. 1981	July 1981 and Dec. 1984
16.	Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh	Dec. 1984	April 1987
17.	Shri N.D. Tiwari	April 1987	June 1988
18.	Shri P. Shiv Shanker	July 1988	Dec. 1989
19.	Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy	Dec. 1989	Nov. 1990

20.	Shri Yashwant Sinha	Dec. 1990	June 1991
21.	Shri S.B. Chavan	July 1991	April 1996
22.	Shri Sikander Bakht	20th May 1996	31st May 1996
23.	Shri Inder Kumar Gujral	June 1996	Nov. 1996
24.	Shri H.D. Deve Gowda	Nov. 1996	April 1997
25.	Shri Inder Kumar Gujral	April 1997	March 1998
26.	Shri Sikander Bakht	March 1998	Oct. 1999
27.	Shri Jaswant Singh	Oct. 1999	May 2004
28.	Dr. Manmohan Singh	June 2004	18 May 2009
		29 May 2009	26 May 2014
29.	Shri Arun Jaitley	2 June, 2014	

Leader of the Opposition (LOP)

The office of the Leader of the Opposition in a legislature is of great public importance. Its importance emanates from the central role accorded to the Opposition in a parliamentary democracy. The role of the Leader of the Opposition, in fact, is more difficult as he has to criticize, find fault and present alternative proposals/policies with no power to implement them. He has, thus, to perform a special responsibility to Parliament and to the nation.

In Rajya Sabha until 1969, there was no Leader of the Opposition in real sense of the term. Till then, the practice was to call the Leader of the party in Opposition having the largest number of the members as the Leader of the Opposition, without according him any formal recognition, status or privilege. The office of Leader of the Opposition was given official recognition through the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of the Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977. This Act defines the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, as a member of the Council of States who is, for the time being, the Leader in that House of the party in opposition to the Government constituting the greatest numerical strength and recognized as such by the Chairman of the Council of States. Thus, the Leader of the Opposition should satisfy three conditions, namely, (i) he should be a member of the House (ii) the Leader in Rajya Sabha of the party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and (iii) be recognized as such by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. The following members have been the Leaders of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha:

SNo.	Name	From	To
1	Shri Shyam Nandan Mishra	December 1969	March 1971
2	Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy	March 1971	April 1972
3	Shri Mamlapati Tripathi	30.3.1977	15.2.1978

4	Shri Bhola Paswan Shastri	24.2.1978	23.3.1978
5	Shri Kamalapati Tripathi	23.3.1978 18.4.1978	2.4.1978 and 8.1.1980
6	Shri Lal K. Advani	21.1.1980	7.4.1980
7	Shri P. Shiv Shanker	18.12.1989	2.1.1991
8	Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy	28.6.1991	21.7.1991
9	Shri. S. Jaipal Reddy	22.7.1991	29.6.1992
10	Shri Sikander Bakht	7.7.1992 10.4.1996	10.4.1996 and 23.5.1996
11	Shri S. B. Chavan	23.5.1996	1.6.1996
12	Shri Sikander Bakht	1.6.1996	19.3.1998
13	Dr. Manmohan Singh	21.3.1998 3.6.2004	21.5.2004 4.7.2004
14	Shri Jaswant Singh	5.7.2004	16.5.2009
15	Shri. Arun Jaitley	3.6.2009 3.4.2012	2.4.2012 26.5.2014
16	Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	8.6.2014	

Rajya Sabha has played a constructive and effective role in our polity. Its performance in the legislative field and in influencing the Government policies has been quite significant. Rajya Sabha has, in fact, worked in a spirit of cooperation with Lok Sabha as per the Constitutional mandate. Rajya Sabha has prevented hasty legislation and has served as dignified chamber representing the federal principle. As a federal chamber, it has worked for the unity and integrity of the nation and has reinforced the faith of the people in parliamentary democracy.

IMPORTANT PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

- (1) "*Act*"--A Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President.
- (2) "*Ad hoc Committee*"- A Committee constituted by the House or by the Chairman or by the presiding officers of both the Houses jointly to consider and report on specific matter and becomes *functus officio* as soon as the task is completed.
- (3) "*Adjournment of Debate*"--Adjournment on a motion adopted by the House, of the debate on a Motion/Resolution/Bill on which the House is then engaged until a future day or sine die as specified in the motion.

(4) "*Adjournment of the sitting of the House*"- Termination of the sitting of the House which meets again at the time appointed for the next sitting.

(5) "*Adjournment sine die*"-Termination of a sitting of the House without any definite date being fixed for the next sitting.

(6) "*Appropriation Bill*"- A Money Bill passed annually (or at various times of the year) providing for the withdrawal or appropriation from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India, of moneys, voted by Lok Sabha and moneys charged on the Consolidated Fund for the services of a financial year or a part of a financial year.

(7) "*Ballot*"- A process to determine *inter se* priority of more than one notice through a draw of lot.

(8) "*Bill*"--The draft of a legislative proposal put in the proper form which, when passed by both Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President becomes an Act.

(9) "*Budget*"-Annual financial statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India in respect of a financial year. The Budget is laid in Rajya Sabha in two parts *viz.*, the Railway Budget and the General Budget.

(10) "*Bulletin*"-Bulletin means the Bulletin of Rajya Sabha. It is published in two parts. Part I contains a brief record of the proceedings of the House at each of its sittings; and Part II contains information on any matter relating to or connected with the business of the House or Committees or other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman may be included therein.

(11) "*Calendar of Sittings*"- A calendar showing the provisional days on which Rajya Sabha is to sit and the nature of business to be transacted by it on those days.

(12) "*Calling Attention*" – A procedure whereby a Member calls the attention of a Minister to a matter of urgent public importance, the Minister makes a brief statement thereon and thereafter the Members seek clarifications.

(13) "*Casting Vote*"-The vote cast by the Chairman, or a Member acting as such in the House and by the Chairman or a Member acting as such in a Committee, in the case of an equality of votes on a matter.

(14) "*Crossing the floor*"--Passing between the member addressing the House and the Chair which is considered breach of Parliamentary etiquette.

(15) "*Demand for Grants*"-Earmarking of budgetary allocation for meeting the plan and non-plan expenditure of a Ministry/Department.

(16) "*Division*"-The mode of arriving at a decision on a proposed measure or question before the House by recording votes for or against it.

(17) "*Draw of lot*" - A method applied to determine the relative precedence of private members' Bills and Resolutions, notices of questions, half-an-hour discussions or any other notice given by more than one member simultaneously for being taken up on the same day.

(18) "*Expunction*"-Deletion of words, phrases or expressions from the proceedings or records of Rajya Sabha by an order of the Chairman for being defamatory or indecent or unparliamentary or undignified.

(19) "*Finance Bill*"-A Bill ordinarily introduced every year to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government of India for the following financial year and includes a Bill to give effect to supplementary financial proposals for any period.

(20) "*Financial Business*" - The financial business of the House consists of the laying of the Railway and General Budgets and statements of supplementary Demands for Grants on the Table after they are presented to the Lok Sabha, general discussion on the General and Railway Budgets, consideration and return of connected Appropriate Bills and Finance Bills, laying of Budgets, etc. of States which are under the President's Rule.

(21) "*Gazette*"-The Gazette of India.

(22) "*Half-an-Hour Discussion*"-A Member with the permission of the Chairman may raise a discussion on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent oral or written question and the answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact.

(23) "*Leader of the Council*"-The Prime Minister, if he is a member of the Council or a Minister who is a member of the Council and is nominated by the Prime Minister to

function as the Leader of the Council.

(24) "*Leader of the Opposition*"-A Member of the House, who is, for the time being, the leader in that House of the Party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Chairman.

(25) "*Leave of absence*"-A member wishing to obtain permission of the House for remaining absent from its sittings is required to make an application stating the reasons and the period for which he may be permitted to be absent from the sittings of the House.

(26) "*Legislative Business*" – Introduction, consideration and passing of a bill, piloted by a Minister or a Private Member, in the House.

(27) "*List of Business*"- A list of items of business scheduled to be taken up in Rajya Sabha on a particular day of the sittings in the order in which they stand on it.

(28) "*Lobby*"-The covered corridor immediately adjoining the Chamber and co-terminus with it.

(29) "*Maiden Speech*"-The first speech of a member after his election/nomination to the Rajya Sabha in the House.

(30) "*Matters raised with permission*"- Immediately after the Question Hour and laying of papers, a Member may raise an issue of urgent public importance with the prior permission of the Chairman.

(31) "*Member in charge of the Bill*"-The Minister/Private Member who has introduced the government/Private Members' Bill.

(32) "*Memorandum of business*" – It is meant for the use of the Chair to help him while calling the items listed in the Agenda paper of the day.

(33) "*Message*"-A communication from the President to a House or Houses of Parliament under articles 86(2) and 111 of the Constitution and a communication sent from one House of Parliament to the other House.

(34) "*Motion*"-A formal proposal made to the House by a Minister or a member that the House do something, order something to be done or express an opinion with regard to some

matter, and is so phrased that, if adopted, it will purport to express the judgment or will of the House.

(35) "*Motion of Thanks*"-A formal motion moved in the House, expressing its gratitude to the President for the Address delivered by him/her under article 87(1) of the Constitution to both Houses of Parliament assembled together.

(36) "*Naming a Member*"-The drawing of attention of the House by the Chairman to the conduct of a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the Rules of the House by persistently and willfully obstructing the business thereof, with a view to action being taken to suspend him from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.

(37) "*Ordinance*"-A law made by the President in exercise of the powers vested in him under article 123 of the Constitution.

(38) "*Panel of Vice-Chairmen*"- A panel of six members of Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman, any one of whom may preside over the House in the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman when so requested by the Chairman, or in his absence, by the Deputy Chairman.

(39) "*Papers laid on the Table*"-The papers or documents laid on the Table of the House for purpose of bringing them on the record of the House by a Minister or by a private member or by the Secretary-General with the permission of the Chairman in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure of Rajya Sabha or an Act of Parliament and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

(40) "*Personal explanation*" - A Member or a Minister against whom comments or criticism of a personal nature are made on the floor of the House is entitled to make, with the consent of the Chairman, personal explanation in his defence.

(41) "*Point of Order*"- A point relating to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of Procedure or such articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the House raised in the House and submitted for the decision of the Chair.

(42) "*Precincts of Rajya Sabha*"-This includes the Chamber, the Lobbies, the Galleries and such other places as the Chairman may from time to time specify.

(43) "*Private Members' Resolution*"- A resolution, on a matter of general public interest, a Member, other than a Minister, on a day allotted for Private Members Resolutions which is in the form of a declaration of opinion by the House or in such other form as the Chairman may consider appropriate.

(44) "*Prorogation*"-The termination of a session of Rajya Sabha by an order made by the President under article 85(2)(a) of the Constitution.

(45) "*Putting the Question*"-When debate on a question is closed, the Chairman, rising from the Chair, states or reads the question to the House, beginning with "The question is, that".

(46) "*Question Chart*"-A chart circulated to members, along with the Summons for a Session, which indicates the dates for answering questions and the last date for receiving notices of questions pertaining to various Ministries/ Departments.

(47) "*Question Hour*"-The first hour of a sitting of the House allotted for asking and answering of questions.

(48) "*Question of Privilege*"-A question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House or of a Committee thereof or a contempt of the House.

(49) "*Quorum*"-The minimum number of members required to be present at a sitting of the House or a Committee for valid transaction of its business, which is one-tenth of the total number of members of the House, as provided under article 100(3) of the Constitution.

(50) "*Rajya Sabha debate*" – A verbatim record of everything said in the House is reported by the official Reporter for each of the sittings of the Rajya Sabha, except certain words, phrases and expression, if any, ordered by the Chair to be expunged or ordered by the Chairman not to be recorded, when Members speak without his permissions.

(51) "*Roll of Members*"-A register in which newly elected members sign, after making and subscribing the oath or affirmation and before taking their seats for the first time in the House.

(52) "*Sessior*"-A session of Rajya Sabha comprises the period commencing from the date and time mentioned in the order of the President summoning Rajya Sabha and ending with

the day on which the President prorogues Rajya Sabha.

(53) "*Short Duration Discussion*"-For raising a discussion on a matter of urgent public importance for which a notice has to be given by a Member supported by two other Members specifying clearly and precisely the matter to be raised.

(54) "*Short Notice Question*"-A question relating to a matter of urgent public importance asked for oral answer by a Member with shorter notice than fifteen clear days by giving the reasons for asking the question with short notice.

(55) "*Sitting of the House*"-A sitting of the House is duly constituted when it is presided over by the Chairman or a member competent to preside over a sitting of the House under the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure of Rajya Sabha.

(56) "*Special Mention*"-A procedure available to a Member who wishes to mention a matter of public importance in the House by reading out from the text not exceeding 250 words.

(57) "*Standing Committee*"- Committee constituted by election by the House or nomination by the Chairman every year or from time to time which are permanent in nature.

(58) "*Starred Question*"-A question to which a member wishes to have an oral answer on the floor of the House and which is distinguished by an asterisk.

(59) "*Statutory Resolution*"-A resolution in pursuance of a provision in the Constitution or an Act of Parliament.

(60) "*Subordinate Legislation*"--Rules, regulations, orders, schemes, bye-laws, etc. having the force of law, framed by the Executive or other subordinate authority in pursuance of the power conferred on it by the Constitution or delegated to it by an Act of Parliament.

(61) "*Summons*"--An official communication issued by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha under the orders of the President to the Members of Rajya Sabha informing them of the place, date and time of the commencement of a session of Rajya Sabha.

(62) "*Supplementary question*" – A Question asked by any member when called by the Chairman for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an

answer has been given during the question hour.

(63) "*Table of the House*"--The Table just in front of the desk of the Secretary-General below the Chairman's Chair, on which papers which are required to be laid on the Table of the House, are deemed to be placed.

(64) "*Unstarred Question*"--A question which is not called for oral answer in the House and the written answer to such a question is deemed to have been laid on the Table.

(65) "*Valedictory remarks*"--It is customary in every Session for the Chair to make the Valedictory remarks at the end of Session thanking Members and leaders of parties and groups for their cooperation in the conduct of business of the House.

(66) "*Whips*" – Members drawn from the party in power and the parties/groups in opposition to perform specified functions and form vital links in the internal organization of a party inside Parliament.

INTRODUCTION TO LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha is composed of representative of the people chosen by direct election on the basis of adult suffrage. The maximum strength of the House envisaged by the Constitution is 552, upto 530 members to represent the States, up to 20 members to represent the Union Territories and not more than two members of the Anglo-Indian Community to be nominated by the President, if, in his opinion, that community is not adequately represented in the House. The total elective membership is distributed among the States in such a way that the ratio between the number of seats allotted to each State and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States. The number is divided among the 28 States and the 7 Union Territories as follows:

States

- (1) Andhra Pradesh-- 42
- (2) Arunachal Pradesh --2
- (3) Assam --14
- (4) Bihar-- 40
- (5) Chhattisgarh - 11
- (6) Goa-- 2
- (7) Gujarat-- 26

- (8) Haryana-- 10
- (9) Himachal Pradesh --4
- (10) Jammu & Kashmir --6
- (11) Jharkhand - 14
- (12) Karnataka --28
- (13) Kerala --20
- (14) Madhya Pradesh --29
- (15) Maharashtra --48
- (16) Manipur --2
- (17) Meghalaya --2
- (18) Mizoram --1
- (19) Nagaland --1
- (20) Orissa --21
- (21) Punjab --13
- (22) Rajasthan --25
- (23) Sikkim --1
- (24) Tamil Nadu --39
- (25) Tripura --2
- (26) Uttar Pradesh --80
- (27) Uttarakhand - 5
- (28) West Bengal --42

Union Territories

- (1) Andaman & Nicobar Islands --1
- (2) Chandigarh --1
- (3) Dadra & Nagar Haveli --1
- (4) Daman & Diu --1
- (5) Delhi --7
- (6) Lakshadweep --1
- (7) Pondicherry --1

Anglo-Indians (if nominated 2 by the President under Article 331 of the Constitution)

The qualifying age for membership of Lok Sabha is 25 years. The Lok Sabha at present consists of 545 members including the Speaker and two nominated members.

Lok Sabha, unless sooner dissolved, continues for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and the expiration of the period of five years operates as dissolution of the

House. However, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, this period may be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending, in any case, beyond a period of six months after the proclamation has ceased to operate.

The Constitution of India came into force on January 26, 1950. The first general elections under the new Constitution were held during the year 1951-52 and the first elected Parliament came into being in April, 1952, the Second Lok Sabha in April, 1957, the Third Lok Sabha in April, 1962, the Fourth Lok Sabha in March, 1967, the Fifth Lok Sabha in March, 1971, the Sixth Lok Sabha in March, 1977, the Seventh Lok Sabha in January, 1980, the Eighth Lok Sabha in December, 1984, the Ninth Lok Sabha in December, 1989, the Tenth Lok Sabha in June, 1991, the Eleventh Lok Sabha in May, 1996, the Twelfth Lok Sabha in March, 1998, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha in October, 1999, the Fourteenth Lok Sabha in May, 2004 and the Fifteenth Lok Sabha in May, 2009.

Presiding Officers

Lok Sabha elects one of its own members as its Presiding Officer and he is called the Speaker. He is assisted by the Deputy Speaker who is also elected by Lok Sabha. The conduct of business in Lok Sabha is the responsibility of the Speaker.

Procedure in the House

The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and Directions issued by the Speaker from time to time thereunder regulate the procedure in Lok Sabha.

The items of business, notice of which is received from the Ministers/ Private Members and admitted by the Speaker, are included in the daily List of Business which is printed and circulated to members in advance.

For various items of business to be taken up in the House the time is allotted by the House on the recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee.

Time of Sittings

When in session, Lok Sabha holds its sittings usually from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 2 P.M. to 6 P.M. On some days the sittings are continuously held without observing lunch break and are also extended beyond 6 P.M. depending upon the business before the House. Lok Sabha does not ordinarily sit on Saturdays and Sundays and other closed holidays.

Commencement of a Sittings

At the time fixed for the commencement of a sitting the Marshal of the House after ascertaining that 55 members are present in the House which number including the Speaker is required to from the quorum, announces *Hon'ble Members, Hon'ble the Speaker*

The Speaker then reaches his seat from his Chamber and the members rise in their seats. After bowing or doing *namaskar* with folded hands to all sides of the House which is reciprocated by members bowing or folding hands towards the Chair, the Speaker takes his seat. Thereafter the members take their seats and the business of the House starts.

Before the business entered in the order paper is taken up, a new member who has not yet made and subscribed an oath or affirmation does so. In the case of death of a sitting or an ex-member or a leading personality, obituary references are made and this item is also taken up before Questions.

Question Hour

The first hour of every sitting of Lok Sabha is called the Question hour. Asking of questions in Parliament is the free and unfettered right of members. It is during the Question hour that they may ask questions on different aspects of administration and Government policy in the national as well as international spheres. Every Minister whose turn it is to answer to questions has to stand up and answer for his Ministry's acts of omission or commission.

Questions are of three types – Starred, Unstarred and Short Notice. A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer in the House and which is distinguished by an asterisk mark. An unstarred Question is one which is not called for oral answer in the house and on which no supplementary questions can consequently be asked. An answer to such a question is given in writing. Minimum period of notice for starred/ unstarred question is 10 clear days.

If the questions given notice of are admitted by the Speaker, they are listed and printed for answer on the dates allotted to the Ministries to which the subject matter of the question pertains.

The normal period of notice does not apply to Short Notice Questions which relate to matters of urgent public importance. However, a Short Notice Question may only be answered on short notice if so permitted by the Speaker and the Minister concerned is

prepared to answer it at shorter notice. A Short Notice Question is taken up for answer immediately after the Question Hour.

Business after Question Hour

After the Question Hour, the House takes up miscellaneous items of work before proceeding to the main business of the day. These may consist of one or more of the following:-

Adjournment Motions, Questions involving breaches of Privileges, Papers to be laid on the Table, Communication of any messages from Rajya Sabha, Intimations regarding President's assent to Bills, Calling Attention Notices, Matters under Rule 377, Presentation of Reports of Parliamentary Committee, Presentation of Petitions, – miscellaneous statements by Ministers, Motions regarding elections to Committees, Bills to be withdrawn or introduced.

Main Business

The main business of the day may be consideration of a Bill or financial business or consideration of a resolution or a motion.

Legislative Business

Legislative proposals in the form of a Bill can be brought forward either by a Minister or by a private member. In the former case it is known as Government Bill and in the latter case it is known as a Private Members' Bill. Every Bill passes through three stages – called three readings – before it is passed. To become law it must be passed by both the Houses of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and then assented to by the President.

Financial Business

The presentation of the annual Budgets – General and Railways – their discussion and voting on the various demands for grants followed by passing of Appropriation Bill and Finance Bill, which is long drawn process, take up a major part of the time of the House during its Budget Session every year.

Motions and Resolutions

Among the other kinds of business which come up before the House are resolutions and motions. Resolutions and motions may be brought forward by Government or by private members. Government may move a resolution or a motion for obtaining the sanction to a scheme or opinion of the House on an important matter of policy or on a grave situation.

Similarly, a private member may move a resolution or motion in order to draw the attention of the House and of the Government to a particular problem.

The last Two and Half hours of sitting on every Friday are generally allotted for transaction of private members' business. While private members' bills are taken up on one Friday, private members' resolutions are taken up on the succeeding Friday, and so on.

Half-an-Hour Discussion.

A Half-an-Hour Discussion can be raised on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent question in Lok Sabha irrespective of the fact whether the question was answered orally or the answer was laid on the Table of the House and the answer which needs elucidation on a matter of fact. Normally not more than half an hour is allowed for such a discussion.

Usually, half-an-hour discussion is listed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only, In one session, a member is allowed to raise not more than two half-an-hour discussions.

During the discussion, the member who has given notice makes a short statement and not more than four members who have intimated earlier and have secured one of the four places in the ballot are permitted to ask a question each for further elucidating any matter of fact. Thereafter, the Minister concerned replies. There is no formal motion before the House nor voting.

Discussion on Matters of Urgent Public Importance

Members may raise discussions on matters of urgent public importance with the permission of the Speaker. Such discussions may take place on two days in a week.

No formal motion is moved in the House nor is there any voting on such a discussion.

Debate in the House

After the member who initiates discussion on an item of business has spoken, other members can speak on that item of business in such order as the Speaker may call upon them. Only one member can speak at a time and all speeches are directed to the Chair. A matter requiring the decision of the House is decided by means of a question put by the Speaker on a motion made by a member.

Division

A division is one of the forms in which the decision of the House is ascertained. Normally, when a motion is put to the House members for and against it indicate their opinion by saying "Aye" or "No" from their seats. The Chair goes by the voices and declares that the motion is either accepted or negated by the House. If a member challenges the decision, the Chair orders that the lobbies be cleared. Then the division bell is rung and an entire network of bells installed in the various parts and rooms in Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe rings continuously for three and a half minutes. Members and Ministers rush to the Chamber from all sides. After the bell stops, all the doors to the Chamber are closed and nobody can enter or leave the Chamber till the division is over. Then the Chair puts the question for second time and declares whether in its opinion the "Ayes" or the "Noes", have it. If the opinion so declared is again challenged, the Chair asks the votes to be recorded by operating the Automatic Vote Recording Equipment.

Automatic Vote Recording System

With the announcement of the Speaker for recording the votes, the Secretary- General presses the button of a key board. Then a gong sounds serving as a signal to members for casting their votes. For casting a vote each member present in the Chamber has to press a switch and then operate one of the three push buttons fixed in his seat. The push switch must be kept pressed simultaneously until the gong sounds for the second time after 10 seconds.

There are two Indicator Boards installed in the wall on either side of the Speaker's Chair in the Chamber. Each vote cast by a member is flashed here. Immediately after the votes are cast, they are totalled mechanically and the details of the results are flashed on the Result Indicator Boards installed in the railings of the Speaker's and Diplomatic Galleries.

Divisions are normally held with the aid of the Automatic Vote Recording Equipment. Where so directed by the Speaker in terms of relevant provision in the Rules of Procedure etc. in Lok Sabha, Divisions may be held either by distribution of 'Aye'/'No' and 'Abstention' slips to members in the House or by the members recording their votes by going into the lobbies.

There is an Indicator Board in the machine room showing the name of each member. The result of Division and vote cast by each member with the aid of Automatic Vote Recording Equipment appear on this Board also. Immediately a photograph of the Indicator Board is taken. Later the Photograph is enlarged and the names of members who voted 'Ayes' and for

'Noes' are determined with the help of the photograph and incorporated in Lok Sabha Debates.

Publication of Debates

Three versions of Lok Sabha Debates are prepared viz., the Hindi version, the English version and the Original version. Only the Hindi and English versions are printed. The Original version, in cyclostyled form, is kept in the Parliament Library for record and reference.

The Hindi version comprises all Questions asked and Answers given thereto in Hindi and the speeches made in Hindi as also verbatim Hindi translation of Questions and Answers and of speeches made in English or in regional languages.

The English version contains Lok Sabha proceedings in English and the English translation of the proceedings which take place in Hindi or in any regional language.

The Original version, however, contains proceedings in Hindi or in English as they actually take place in the House and also the English/Hindi translation of speeches made in regional languages.

FACTS ABOUT THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT

- The Parliament of India is circular which represents "Continuity"
- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are horse shoe in shape.
- Lok Sabha carpet is green in color which represents that India is an Agriculture land and the people here are elected from grass root level, Rajya Sabha carpet is red in color which denotes royalty and also tells about the sacrifice done by the freedom fighters.
- The library in the Indian Parliament is the second largest in India.
- Circumference of Parliament is 1/3rd of a mile i.e. 536.33m
- The first hour (i.e. between 11 to 12 noon) is known as the Question Hour. During this MPs put forward questions about the policies, government and different bills.
- Around 12 noon MPs can discuss any important topic with prior notice to the Speaker. This is known as Zero Hour.
- President's office is in Room number 13 of Parliament (13 no. is not so unlucky in this case).
- Parliament canteen is the cheapest in the country with 3 course veg meal in 61 Rs and Chicken Biryani for Rs. 51 (Highest amount in the list)

- Voting in Parliament is done electronically for the questions asked, amendments, new bills etc. There is a voting console, a system with colored buttons, green for a Yes, Red for No and Yellow for abstain.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA

The President of India is the head of the executive, legislature and judiciary of the country. Article 52 of the Constitution of India says that there should be a President of India. Article 53 says that all the executive powers of the Union shall be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him.

Election of the President

Article 54 of the Indian Constitution discusses the election of the President. It says that the President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college, which consists of the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament, and the Legislative Assemblies of the States and the two Union Territories, namely Delhi and Puducherry. The election of the President is held in accordance with a system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. He can be re-elected to the office of the President. The oath of the President is administered by the Chief Justice of India, and in his absence, by the most senior judge of the Supreme Court.

Eligibility

Article 58 of the Indian Constitution says that the presidential candidate must:

- Be a citizen of India.
- Have completed the age of thirty-five years.
- Be qualified for elections as a member of the Lok Sabha.
- Not hold any office of profit under the Union or any State government, or any local or other authority.

Term of office

Article 56 of the Indian Constitution says that the President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date he takes up his post. He may resign from his office by writing his resignation to the Vice-President of India. But, he will continue to hold his office, in spite of tendering his resignation, until his successor takes up his office. And, before his office gets vacated, an election should be held for the same.

Article 61 provides for the manner in which he can be impeached on the violation of the Constitution. The Vice-President acts as his substitute in case his office falls vacant on the

grounds of his death, resignation or impeachment or otherwise. Such a vacancy should be filled by an election necessarily taking place within six months of his office falling vacant.

Impeachment of President

Impeachment is the process to remove the President of India from his office before his term expires. The Impeachment can be carried out if the Constitution of India is violated by the President and the proceedings can be initiated in either of the two houses of the Parliament. Two-thirds majority is required to pass the resolution in the House. Thereafter, a notice signed by a quarter of the members of the House and containing the charges is sent to the President. After 14 days the charges are taken into consideration by the other House and in the meantime the President can defend himself. If the charges are approved by the second House also then the President is said to have been impeached. He has to leave his office.

Powers of President

The President of India is vested with the Executive, Legislative, Emergency, Diplomatic, Judicial and Military powers.

Executive powers

All the executive powers of the Union shall be vested in him. These powers should be exercised by him in accordance with the Constitution of India. He appoints the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. He also appoints the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts in the states, besides appointing the Attorney General and Comptroller and auditor General of India. Among other critical powers, he enjoys the pardoning power, whereby he can pardon the death sentence awarded to a convict.

Legislative powers

He can dissolve the Lok Sabha and end a session of the Parliament. He can also address the Parliament in its first session every year. He can nominate 12 members to the Rajya Sabha. These members must have extra ordinary accomplishments in the fields of science, art, literature and social service. He can also nominate 2 members to the Lok Sabha from the Anglo-Indian Community. When a bill is passed by the Parliament, the President can give or withhold his assent to it. He can also return it to the Parliament, unless it's a Money Bill or a Constitutional Amendment Bill.

Emergency powers

He can declare national, state and financial emergency. National emergency can be declared on the grounds of war, external aggression or armed rebellion in the country. This can be done on the written request of the Cabinet Ministers after the proclamation has been

approved by the Parliament. State emergency can be imposed in a state if it fails to run constitutionally. Financial emergency can be proclaimed if there is a likelihood of the financial instability in the country.

Financial powers

Only when the President recommends can a money bill be introduced in the Parliament. He lays the Union budget before the Parliament and makes advances out of the Contingency Fund.

Diplomatic, Military and Judicial powers

He appoints ambassadors and high commissioners to other countries. All international treaties are signed on his behalf. Under Military powers, he can declare war and conclude peace. He appoints Chief of Army, Navy and Air Force. He can dismiss judges if two-third majority of the members present of the two Houses of the Parliament pass the resolution to that effect.

Salary and residence of President of India

The salary and allowances of the President are fixed by the Parliament of India. The current salary of the President is Rs 150000 per month. His official residence is Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

LIST OF PRESIDENTS OF INDIA

	Name	Took office	Left office	Profiles
1	Pranab Mukherjee (born on 1935)	25th July 2012	Incumbent	Thirteenth President of India and a senior leader of the Indian National Congress.
2	Pratibha Patil	25th July 2007	25th July 2012	Twelfth President of India and the first women to hold the post.
3	Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam (born on 1931)	25th July 2002	25th July 2007	Eleventh President of India and an extremely talented scientist who has worked in organizations such as DRDO and ISRO.
4	Kocheril Raman	25th July	25th July 2002	Tenth President of the Republic of India and one of "the best diplomat of the

	Narayanan (1920-2005)	1997		country".
5	Shankar Dayal Sharma (1918-1999)	25th July 1992	25th July 1997	Ninth President of the Republic of India and a member of the Indian National Congress.
6	Ramaswamy Venkataraman (1910-2009)	25th July 1987	25th July 1992	Eighth President of India and an indian lawyer and politician by profession.
7	Giani Zail Singh (1916-1994)	25th July 1982	25th July 1987	Seventh President of India and a member of the Indian National Congress and a sikh by religion.
8	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy (1913-1996)	25th July 1977	25th July 1982	Sixth President of India and the only person to be elected as the president of India unopposed.
9	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed (1905-1977)	24th August 1974	11th February 1977	Fifth President of the Republic of India and an active member of the Indian National Congress.
	Basappa Danappa Jatti (1912-2002)	11th February 1977	25th July 1977	Jatti was sworn in as Acting President of India upon Ahmed's death. He earlier was the Chief Minister for the State of Mysore.
10	Varahagiri Venkata Giri (1894-1980)	24th August 1969	24th August 1974	Fourth President of India belonging to a Telugu Brahmin family residing in Andhra Pradesh.
11	Mohammad Hidayatullah (1905-	July 20, 1969	August 24, 1969	Hidayatullah served as Acting President of India until the election of Giri as the President of India.

	1992)			
	Varahagiri Venkata Giri (1894-1980)	May 3, 1969	July 20, 1969	Giri was the Acting President of India following the death of Hussain. However he resigned in a few months to take part in the presidential elections.
	Dr. Zakir Hussain (1897-1969)	May 13, 1967	May 3, 1969	Third President of India and the country's first Muslim President.
12	Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1888-1975)	13th May 1962	13th May 1967	Second President of India and the reason why Teacher's Day is celebrated every year on 5th September.
13	Dr. Rajendra Prasad (1884-1963)	26th January 1950	13th May 1962	First President of the Republic of India and a member of the Indian National Congress.

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

About 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.

Prime Minister also retains certain portfolios that are not allocated to other ministers. He is generally in charge of the following ministries/departments:

- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- Ministry of Planning
- Department of Atomic Energy
- Department of Space
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

Leader of the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister summons and presides over meetings of the cabinet and determines what business shall be transacted in these meetings.

Link between the Parliament and the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister is also the link between the cabinet and the Parliament. He is the chief spokesperson of the government in the Parliament, along with the leader of the party in majority in the Lok Sabha. It is his responsibility to announce important policy decisions. The Prime Minister can also intervene in debates of general importance in the Parliament to clarify the government's stand or policy.

Official Representative.

The Prime Minister represents India in various delegations, high-level meetings and international organisations and also addresses the nation on various occasions of national importance.

Powers/Authorities of Prime Minister

The various powers and authorities enjoyed by the Prime Minister are as follows.

Head of the Government:

The Prime Minister of India is the head of the Government. Though the President is the head of the State, most of the executive decisions are taken by the Prime Minister. All the important decision-making bodies in India, like the Union Cabinet and the Planning Commission, run under his supervision.

Leader of the Council of Ministers:

As far as the Prime Minister's relation to the Council of Ministers is concerned, his position is that of "First among Equals". In the case of death or resignation of the Prime Minister, the entire Council of Ministers has to resign. The ministers directly report to the Prime Minister. He can also remove a minister by asking for his resignation or having him dismissed by the President. If any difference of opinion arises between the Prime Minister and any other minister, the opinion of the Prime Minister prevails

Leader of the Parliament:

The Prime Minister is the Leader of the House to which he belongs. He can also take part in debates in the House of which he is not a member. He can also advise the President to dissolve the Lok Sabha

Representative of the Country:

In international affairs, he is the spokesperson of the country. The Prime Minister plays a major role in directing India's foreign policy

Facilities offered to Prime Minister

Some of the amenities provided to the Indian Prime Minister are:

- Official residence: 7, Race Course Road or "Panchavati"
- Personal staff Special Protection Group (SPG) who is responsible for his security
- Prime Ministerial car (currently BMW 750i)
- Exclusive aircraft (Air India One)

Selection Process of Prime Minister

The Constitution states that the President of India should appoint the leader of the party or alliance which is in majority in the Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister of India. In case no party or alliance enjoys majority, the President appoints the leader of the largest party or alliance as the Prime Minister. But he has to win the confidence vote in the Lower House of the Parliament as early as possible. A member of either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha can be appointed as the Prime Minister. If he is not a member of either House of the

Parliament then he has to be elected to either House within six months of his appointment. As the Prime Minister, he is the Leader of the House of which he is a member.

Term and Retirement Age of Prime Minister

Unlike the President, the Prime Minister does not have a fixed tenure. The full term of the Prime Minister is five years, which coincides with the normal life of the Lok Sabha. However, the term can end sooner if he loses the vote of confidence in the Lower House. So, it can be said that he remains in power as long as he enjoys the confidence of the Lok Sabha. The Prime Minister can also resign by writing to the President.

There are no term limits on the office of the Prime Minister. There is also no official retirement age.

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.

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. As on 31 July 2012 the monthly pay and allowances of the Prime Minister of India was Rs. 1,60,000 (US \$2,600).

Pay and Allowance of the Prime Minister on 31 July 2012 (in rupees)

Pay	50000
Sumptuary Allowance	3000
Daily Allowance	62,000 (@ 2,000 per day)
Constituency Allowance	45000
Gross	1,60,000

Pension

Former Prime Ministers of India are provided with.

- Rent-free accommodation for lifetime.
- Medical facilities, 14 secretarial staff, office expenses against actual expenditure, six domestic executive-class flight tickets, and unlimited
- free train travels for first five years.
- SPG cover for one year.
- After five years: One personal assistant and peon, free air and train tickets and Rs. 6,000 for office expenses

Where does the Prime Minister Live?

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.

Interesting Facts about Indian Prime Ministers

- 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).

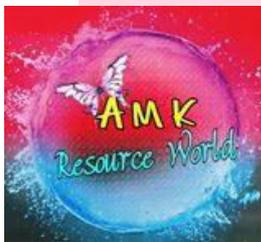
List of Prime Ministers of India

Since independence in 1947, India has had 15 different Prime Ministers till now. There have been many outstanding leaders from different political parties who held India's top post. Some of them served a complete five-year term while others governed the nation for more than five years. With Narendra Modi as the present Prime Minister, let's take a look at the legacy left behind by the Prime Ministers of India since 1947.

Name	Took office	Left office	Party
Shri. Narendra Modi	May 26, 2014	Incumbent	Bharatiya Janata Party
Dr. Manmohan Singh	May 22, 2004	May 26, 2014	Indian National Congress
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Mar 19, 1998	May 22, 2004	Bharatiya Janata Party
Shri Inder Kumar Gujral	Apr 21, 1997	Mar 19, 1998	Janata Dal
Shri H. D. Deve Gowda	Jun 1, 1996	Apr 21, 1997	Janata Dal
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	May 16, 1996	Jun 1, 1996	Bharatiya Janata Party
Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao	Jun 21, 1991	May 16, 1996	Congress (I)
Shri Chandra Shekhar	Nov 10, 1990	Jun 21, 1991	Janata Dal (S)
Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh	Dec 2, 1989	Nov 10, 1990	Janata Dal
Shri Rajiv Gandhi	Oct 31, 1984	Dec 2, 1989	Congress (I)
Smt. Indira Gandhi	Jan 14, 1980	Oct 31, 1984	Congress (I)
Shri Charan Singh	Jul 28, 1979	Jan 14, 1980	Janata Party
Shri Morarji Desai	Mar 24, 1977	Jul 28, 1979	Janata Party

Smt. Indira Gandhi	Jan 24, 1966	Mar 24, 1977	Congress
Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda	Jan 11, 1966	Jan 24, 1966	Congress
Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri	Jun 9, 1964	Jan 11, 1966	Congress
Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda	May 27, 1964	Jun 9, 1964	Congress
Shri Jawaharlal Nehru	Aug 15, 1947	May 27, 1964	Congress

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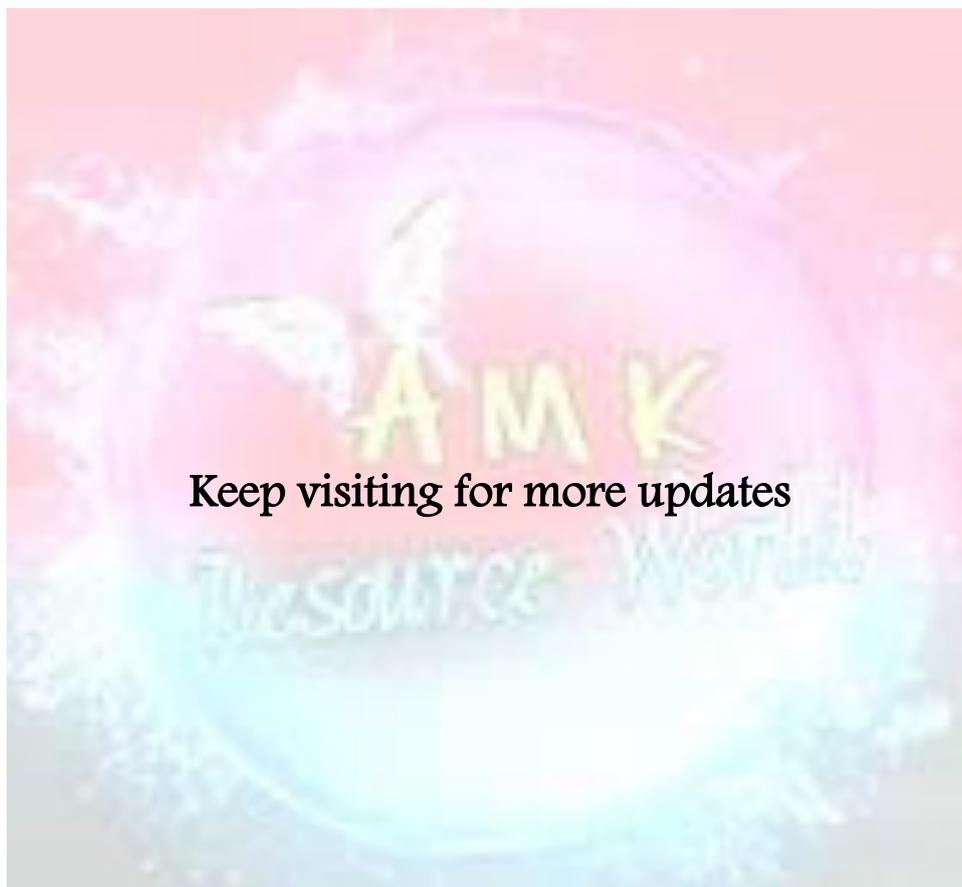
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